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## Marriage...Why Bother?

**1 Corinthians 7:28:** (NASB) *But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.*



Friday was the day to celebrate love! **Valentine's day!** From the little candy hearts that say "**Be Mine**" to the big box of chocolates, from the gifts and the cards to the dinners out and the special time together, it was a day of appreciation, a day of expression and a day to be perhaps more vulnerable than normal - not to mention a day that retailers live for! So, what is love? What is marriage? Do they still go together like a...you know... So, how are we doing these days with love - not just with one day of celebrating, but also with our everyday living in love?

### **1960 and now statistics, *Who Needs Marriage, Full Circle Program***

- In 1960, the year before Princess Diana was born, nearly 70 percent of American adults were married - 70 percent married. Now only about half are. Eight times as many children are born out of wedlock. Well, I think that's largely because the taboos around that have really lessened - let's be totally honest. I mean the article even states the fact that it's not so taboo for people to be cohabitating before they're married. It's not so taboo particularly in the west - I don't know about other cultures - it's not as taboo to bring a child into the world out of wedlock.*

Is this alarming or a relief? Are people finally shedding all of those old-fashioned stereotypes or are they heading down a path to destruction? **2 Timothy 3:1-5:** There are movements everywhere that will tell you that marriage in the most traditional sense is simply a relic - something to look back upon but not to look forward to. But marriage has been a core value throughout human history. The Men's Rights Movement ("MRM") is a growing worldwide movement that seems to exist to counteract the feminist movement.

### **He didn't listen, *Marriage Goes South, Man Up MRM***

- This is one of these people who claims that he got into this movement and he did so before he was married and was warned thoroughly by the repository of information on what a bad deal marriage is for men that exists on the internet in the Manosphere in the men's movement. He was thoroughly warned and decided to go ahead and get married anyway. So, this was one of those guys who was like "Oh, men going their own way means men going their own way so, you can't tell me not to get married, which I can." I don't tell anybody - I don't try to demand anybody not get married but I am certainly doling out advice that you can take which you also can refuse to take, and this is one of those people who refused to take the advice of not getting married and went ahead with it anyway.*

The other side of the picture: **Genesis 2:20-24**



**Observations regarding the first marriage:**

- The noticeable absence of the woman revealed the emptiness man had without her;
- God's creation of woman from man gives a sense of equality and companionship;
- This is AT LAST, *bone of my bone*, etc... Adam's companionship desire is now fulfilled;
- Therefore a man leaves his home and clings* - Implies a lifelong devotion - not just for a moment or until you get tired;
- They become one flesh, inseparable and united in every way.

**Are men justified in their negativity towards marriage?**

We KNOW men and women are wired differently and as a result we are shown different roles: **Ephesians 5:21-24:** What does this command, *be subject to your own husbands*, mean? Notice how simple this command is without a lot of explanation.

### **Wants a bailout, *Marriage Goes South, Man Up MRM***

- And you know, surprise, surprise, his little cupcake decided to act on her hypergamous instincts and is now divorcing him and cheating on him. He messaged me and he was coming on this tone like, "Well, what does the men's movement do for men like me who are in this situation now that can use help? Will the men's movement help me*

*out, help men out, when they really need it in the middle of divorce court or are you guys just going to make a bunch of more videos saying how marriage is bad, etc., etc." So, this is a person who came into this movement who knew the risks of marriage, who was instructed not to get married and now he believes it's now the men's movement responsibility to now dig into their pockets and come to the rescue and bail this guy out.*

In principle, this next text seems to be describing the MRM. But with a bitter heart as a foundation, what else would one expect but failure? [Hebrews 12:15-17](#)

Remember how simple the command to wives was? Now let's look at the command to the husbands: [Ephesians 5:25-31](#): (NASB) <sup>25</sup>*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>so that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>that he might present to himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; <sup>29</sup>for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*

But what have you done to avoid failure in marriage before it happens?



**Observations about the commands to each party:**

- **Women** - LOVE and be subject
- **Men** - LOVE and give yourself up for her
- **Men** - LOVE and care for her as your own body
- **Men** - Your love for her becomes your way of self-preservation
- **Men** - Cherish her
- **Men** - Leave all other ties for her sake

To be "manly" is to rise above selfishness and become self-less. [Philippians 2:3-4](#)

**So, what is the real strength of a man in the marriage relationship?**

[Proverbs 18:22](#) However, this does not mean there is no thinking before the finding: [Luke 14:28](#): A diligent man puts his thinking into his planning and then builds on that foundation. Marriage is not based on a whim or a feeling. True love is a life-driving principle of how you act and what you do.

 **The Ox, Mark Gungor, A Tale of Two Brains**

- *Now, I want to show one other verse to you. Now you don't have the deep theological training that I have so you might have a hard time understanding this verse. But I'll try and explain it to you. This is found in Proverbs and it goes like this: "Where no oxen are the manger is clean." Let me explain that to you. Okay? What does that mean? What it means is that if you're gonna have an ox, you're going to have ox poo. All right? Now, if you don't like poo - and most of us are not real big fans of poo - if you don't like poo, the temptation is to get rid of the ox!*

**JEWEL'S NOTES: HOW JONATHAN CONTRIBUTES TO OUR MARRIAGE:** 1. He always looks for God's direction in our lives; 2. He thanks the Lord for all of our experiences; 3. He shares responsibilities; 4. He supports me daily; 5. He finds ways for us to work together to serve the Lord; 6. He doesn't go out looking to entertain himself elsewhere. We are together in partnership as best friends.

What kind of things in life can be "poo" in a man? [Proverbs 26:21](#) [Proverbs 6:6-11](#)

 **The Ox, Mark Gungor, A Tale of Two Brains**

- *So, why would you keep the ox around? Because he goes to the second half of the verse and says, "Because much increase comes by the strength of the ox." Well now, there's the catch 22. On the one hand we all love the benefit of the ox, but nobody likes the poo! And what he's trying to tell us here is you cannot have one without the other. There is no such thing as a poo-free marriage. It just doesn't exist, unless you shoot the ox but that leads to other problems.*

"...no such thing as a poo-free marriage..." There is no perfect marriage anywhere! It is a matter of deciding that this is the road you will both walk on together. Proverbs 14:4

Characteristics of a strong Christian husband include: intensity, optimism, having respectable mentors, goal-oriented, of good moral character, fair, honest, having integrity, able to easily forgive, equally yoked, matched in personality and self-sacrificing.

**What about the strength of the man? Determination and vision:** Genesis 2:24: To be joined means cling or adhere; figuratively, to catch by pursuit. Another use of the word joined (above) Joshua 22:5 **Endurance:** 2 Corinthians 4:7-11 Ecclesiastes 9:9

**TRISH'S NOTES: HOW RICK CONTRIBUTES TO OUR MARRIAGE:** 1. Passion, enthusiasm and energy for God and walking together in Christ; 2. He is all that I am not - he really does "complete me;" 3. Understanding, acceptance and commitment to who I really am; 4. 100% support, companionship and friendship; 5. Knowing we are on this road together, forever.

Proverbs 21:19: (NASB) *It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and vexing woman.* **Women are instinctive givers, generally without thought to their personal cost:** Luke 8:1-3

**Whether you are a romantic or not - finding a woman of excellence is life's greatest discovery!** Proverbs 31:10-13

 **Finding a soul mate and other questions, A Tale of Two Brains, Mark Gungor**

- *What is the key to a successful relationship? It's not about finding the right person. A successful relationship is based on two people doing the right things, and if you'll do the right things you'll succeed. It's that simple. If you don't, you'll fail and that's just equally as simple. The reason why people are struggling so hard today is not because they haven't found the right person, it's because they are doing all the wrong things. So, I think that whole emphasis of trying to find that special cosmic person is a big mistake. That's not to say that single people shouldn't be thoughtful in the process. You wanna find a good person, I mean, don't marry an idiot. People do that all the time. Particularly women.*

Ask any great athlete how many hours they put into that one game or performance. For them, the thousands of hours of work for that performance are worth it. That is the same with marriage. The work is worth the blessing! Do the right things - put your spouse first: John 13:14-15 Part of a woman's strength is in her maturity and experience: Proverbs 31:25-27 Part of a woman's strength is in her example: Proverbs 31:28-29 Part of a woman's strength is in the depth of the beauty of her soul: Proverbs 31:30-31 The secret for both men and women: Love in its highest form! 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

**What are some of the problem areas of married life and what are the solutions?**

 **Male misinformation 1, Hill Harper, Male Misconceptions**

- *If you think about it, there's a lot of misinformation that we men spread amongst each other and let's break down a couple of them. #1: It's not that cool for the happily married guys - if you break it down percentage wise - guys, if you just do factors of happiness and factors of achievement, etc. are happier in marriage than not. But most guys - if you polled single men and asked them that question, they would say the exact opposite. Why? Because it's not that cool for guys who are married - they don't show up at the corner, having a beer saying, "My wife is treating me so good today." Right? They just keep quiet about it. But the guys, the small percentage that are unhappy, they're very vocal, "Oh she's on my back." "Oh, never get married." "Don't do it." Right? And so a lot of single guys get this misinformation about what marriage really is. They think it's just a woman on your back the whole time.*

James 5:12 **Holding grudges and constant complaining are never good things (and often based on misinformation):** Proverbs 19:11-13: We need to overcome the weaknesses of both sexes. Letting anger or resentment fester - that's going to hurt tomorrow! (And anger and resentment are often based on misinformation.) Ephesians 4:25-27



 **Hard work not cosmic connection, A Tale of Two Brains, Mark Gungor**

- *The reason people are expecting marriage to be easy is because of this ridiculous thinking of a "soul mate." The concept is if you'll find the right person, then it's easy. Then they'll automatically know what you need in life and you'll be on the same cosmic wavelength meeting each other's needs which is just ridiculous. If you want someone to meet your needs you need to communicate those needs to someone. Don't sit around thinking, "Gee, if he really loved me then I wouldn't have to tell him." Of course you have to tell him. Nobody can tell. Nobody's walking around with ESP in their brains. Particularly men. You know, marriage is hard. It's always been hard. The Bible is clear about it. It's not like the Bible is holding out on us.*

JONATHAN'S NOTES: HOW JEWEL CONTRIBUTES TO OUR MARRIAGE: 1. She gives me strength; 2. Her understanding of me is inspiring; 3. She keeps me on track; 4. Her respect and trust for me, even when I'm down, gives me confidence that I can be better; 5. Her mothering care and concern for others; 6. She makes up for my weaknesses and helps me so that I don't look weak.

**Generally it is pride and ego that is behind our destructive behavior in a marriage:**

Proverbs 16:18-19 Here is a Scriptural principle that applies to the marriage union:

1 Corinthians 8:1-3: This is the selfless, benevolent 'agape' (in the Greek) form of love that we need to have in our marriages.

1 Corinthians 13:4: Love is **patient** <3114>

**Patient:** Strongs #3114 makrothumeo to be long-spirited, i.e. (objectively) forbearing or (subjectively) patient:

Colossians 3:12-13 1 Corinthians 13:4: (NRSV) ...Love is **kind** <5541>

**Kind:** Strongs #5541 chresteuomai (khraste-yoo'-om-ahée); to show oneself useful, i.e. act benevolently:

Is LOVE really the answer? That depends on how you spell it! Love is spelled C-O-M-M-I-T-M-E-N-T. If you have commitment, you have the ingredient for success. There is no commitment in living together outside of marriage.

1 Corinthians 13:4: (NRSV) ...Love is not **envious** <2206>

**Envious:** Strongs #2206 zeloo (dzay-lo'-o) to have warmth of feeling for or against

 **Longevity for men, A Tale of Two Brains, Mark Gungor**

- *And statistically speaking, married people live longer than single people. This is particularly true for men. Statistically speaking, one of the most dangerous things a man can do in America today is remain single. It is the equivalent of smoking two and a half cigarettes a day. It's true. They found if you take someone who has two and a half cigarettes a day and the health problems, and the shortness of life, and all these difficulties and a single guy are pretty much the same. I guess the worse would be a single guy who smokes two and half cigarettes a day!*

RICK'S NOTES: HOW TRISH CONTRIBUTES TO OUR MARRIAGE: 1. She is stable and balances us; 2. She has taught me what to listen for - it magnifies my ability to listen; 3. CQ takes an enormous amount of (all unpaid!) work - she accepts and embraces these efforts; 4. We are co-equal working together; 5. She would help me focus on our children in the right ways when they were younger.

When two people have the same goal, direction and COMMITMENT to one another and to God, there is an incredible power that is unleashed! Who are we to minimize such a thing?

Ecclesiastes 4:12: (NIV) *Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

The marriage vow, according to Scripture, is a covenant made before God. When we intertwine God into our commitment with one another, blessings happens.

**So, marriage, why bother?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!**