**(PETER’S) LAST COMMAND, OUR FIRST PRIORITY IN MARRIAGE**

**I. There are no books and few texts on marriage in Scripture.**

So, what do we actually find?

Teaching: Examples:

Principles:

All the texts on marriage combined do not equal the Genealogies of 2 Chronicles 1-9!!!

Is this because we don’t have marital problems? Or, maybe genealogical problems are more important?

**II. There are no\* marital problems only maturity problems!**

\* I’m sure there must be one exception…!

**Problems show up in marriage.**

**Couples have problems in marriage.**

**The same problems they have everywhere else!**

**Only intensified!**

**Only magnified!**

**Only localized 🡪 so they are hard to escape!**

**III. Marriage problems can only be (re)solved via maturity!**

**2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

**[Marriage problems are rarely (re)solved by going after marriage!]**

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| **Friends** | **Church** | **Marriage** | **Community** | **Children** |

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| --- |
| **You** |

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| **Work / career**  | **Education / vocational growth** | **Ministry through the local church** | **Witness to the word** |

**Only common denominator is you!!!**

**Start anywhere, benefit everywhere!**

**Start one place, benefit every place!**

**1. Forgiveness &/ rooting out bitterness &/ resolving problems:**

**Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:** **Ephesians 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.

**Hebrews 12:15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;**

**Acts 21:11** And when he was come unto us, he took Paul’s girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. **Acts 21:12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.**  **Acts 21:13** Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. **Acts 21:14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.**  **Acts 21:15** And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem.

**2. Getting to yes!**

**Whatsoever not whatever!**

**John 2:5** His mother saith unto the servants, **Whatsoever he saith unto you, do *it*.**

**1 Samuel 14:6** And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: **it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there is* no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few. 1 Samuel 14:7** And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that *is* in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I *am* with thee according to thy heart.

**3. Self-control: ability to control one’s emotions, impulses, instincts**

**Proverbs 16:32** *He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

**Proverbs 25:28** He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down, *and* without walls.

That’s just the way I am! Is this an excuse?

**4. Going well-layered**

**Colossians 3:12 Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **Colossians 3:13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. **Colossians 3:14 And above all these things** *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

**5. In / under church discipline &/ in sharpening relationships**

**Proverbs 27:17** Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

**Proverbs 13:20** He that **walketh** with wise *men* shall be wise: but a **companion** of fools shall be destroyed.

**Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**

**Hebrews 10:25 Not** forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; **but exhorting** *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

You will be the same five years from today except for the books you read and people you meet!

**6. Preach to yourself, don’t listen to yourself!**

**(Take yourself / you internal conversation in hand)**

**1 Samuel 27:1 And David said in his heart,** I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

**1 Samuel 30:6** And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**

**Psalm 42:5 Why** art thou cast down, O my soul? and***why*** art thou disquieted in me? **hope thou in God:** for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance.

**Psalm 42:11 Why** art thou cast down, O my soul? and **why** art thou disquieted within me? **hope thou in God:** for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.

**Psalm 43:5 Why** art thou cast down, O my soul? and **why** art thou disquieted within me? **hope in God**: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.

**7. Flexibility / contentment**

**Philippians 4:11** Not that I speak in respect of want: **for I have learned**, **in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. Philippians 4:12** I know **both** **how to be abased**, and I know **how to abound**: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

**Proverbs 30:7** Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die:

**Proverbs 30:8** Remove far from me vanity and lies: **give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Proverbs 30:9** Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.