

The Preeminence of Christ in Our Lives

Matthew 10:34-39

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

The key to marriage oneness is ultimately summed up in the necessity of making Christ the preeminent love and focus of life. When He is the all-consuming passion, a husband cannot help but love his wife, and a wife cannot help but respect her husband. Christ is their point of connection.

The sad reality is that spouses often look to appearance, performance, and status as the key to oneness with their spouse. Instead of finding lasting approval, they are met with disappointment, disillusionment, and conflict. Notice the wrong focuses defined:

- **Appearance**—finding approval from my spouse based on how I look.
- **Performance**—finding approval from my spouse based on what I do.
- **Status**—finding approval from my spouse by titles, positions of significance, and achievements.

Because Christ is the perfect summation of every good thing, He has the ability to meet needs in our lives that no other human can fully and consistently meet. The following is a list of needs that Christ is free to meet as we make Him preeminent in our lives:

- **Life**—He is the source of abundant life in Christ (John 10:10).
- **Joy**—He came that our joy might be full (John 15:9-12).
- **Identity**—We are in Christ (Ephesians 1:18-20).
- **Acceptance**—We are accepted in Christ (Ephesians 1:5, Colossians 2:10).
- **Security**—We are secure in Christ (Romans 8:35-39).
- **Significance**—We are significant in Christ (Philippians 4:13, John 15:16).

God works in our lives primarily through committed relationships (marriage, family, church, friends, etc.). It is through these relationships that we give and receive love and through conflicts in these relationships that our maturity will be tested and challenged to grow in Christ.

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