

# How to Damage Your Marriage

*The Steps Needed to Restore a Declining Relationship, Part I* Chris Mueller 10-16-2022

**Introduction:**

**Matthew 13**

**2 Timothy 1:6** For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands

**Revelation 2:4** 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. **5** Therefore **remember** from where you have fallen, and **repent** and **do the deeds** you did at first

**Ephesians 5:22** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. **24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** 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. **28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; **29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, **30** because we are members of His body. **31** 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. **32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. **33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

**Ephesians 1:5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace **9** the mystery of His will **11** the counsel of His will **12** to the praise of His glory **14** to the praise of His glory.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**Chapter 1: \_\_\_\_\_ God's sovereign purpose for your marriage**

**Chapter 2: \_\_\_\_\_ your sinfulness and your desperate need for God's grace**

**Ephesians 2:1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

**Chapter 3: \_\_\_\_\_ the incredible love of God to fill your life**

**Ephesians 3:16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

## Chapter 4: \_\_\_\_\_ your interconnectedness to the church family

**Ephesians 4:1** ...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, **3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Ephesians 4:11** And He gave ...some as pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

**Ephesians 4:15** ...we are to grow up in all aspects into Him... **16** ...according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

**Titus 2:3-4** Older women likewise are to encourage the young women to love their husbands...

## Chapter 5: \_\_\_\_\_ your children over your marriage

**Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### Take Home

**A. Marriage will not work biblically if you ignore the \_\_\_\_\_ of the NT**

**B. Marriage will not work biblically when a spouse \_\_\_\_\_ for their mate to obey the bible**

**1 Peter 3:1-7** **1** In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, **7** You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way

**C. Marriage will not work biblically when Christ is not first over \_\_\_\_\_**

**Revelation 2:4** 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

**Matthew 6:33** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Luke 9:23** If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

**D. Marriage will not work biblically unless you follow God's Word as a \_\_\_\_\_**

**E. Marriage will not work biblically unless you are in \_\_\_\_\_**

### Questions for Growth in Christ

1. Why is marriage so important to Christ? Try to come up with 10 solid answers.
2. What are some of the most obvious attacks against marriage today? What are the more subtle attacks Christians may not see?
3. Anything God commands, Christians have the power to obey; why don't we follow His Word concerning marriage?
4. Name the most common mistakes well-taught believers make concerning their marriages?
5. What does it mean to continually work on your marriage? Describe what it might be like to work on marriage in each decade of marriage, up to 5 decades? What does working on marriage look like in decade 1, then 2, 3, 4, and 5...?
6. Of the 5 points in today's study from 5 chapters of Ephesians, which one is the most important to you and why?
7. What steps will you take to be a biblical spouse toward your mate, or a more biblical single towards friends?

