

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 September 22, 2024

The Great Potential of Marriage

by Bryan Gibson

Marriage cannot reach its full potential unless it mirrors or reflects the relationship between Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:22-33), and that can't happen unless both husband and wife are already married to Christ. To help us see just how beautiful this God designed relationship can truly be, let's look at a few passages and make a few points of application.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, ESV). What would our marriages look like if both husband and wife could truthfully say the same?

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4, ESV). Think we might have some-

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thing really nice, if we could each do this for the other?

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32, NAS). Rid the marriage of ugly things and replace them with beautiful things—wouldn’t we all love to see the result?

“Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; **even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do**” (Colossians 3:12-13, NKJ). That last phrase is significant—just imagine if we could just treat each other the way the Lord treats us?

What if we search for truth TOGETHER, encourage fellow-Christians TOGETHER, seek the lost TOGETHER, in general work in the kingdom TOGETHER? We might just become clones of Aquila and Priscilla, and TOGETHER they did beautiful work in the kingdom (Acts 18:24-26; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19).

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy” (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, NKJ). What if our foremost concern was that our spouse be “in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming”? Completely committed to helping each other get to heaven—that will always be a key ingredient to a beautiful marriage.

“Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him re-

buke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it” (Psalms 141:5, ESV). What if we were bold enough to correct each other when needed, and humble enough to receive that correction? What kind of love do we really have, if we’re not willing to do this for each other? On the flip side...

“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:9-10, NAS). Correction is vital, but so is sincere encouragement and praise, especially when it keeps us from growing weary. Find the right balance with each other and there’s no doubt we’ll love the result.

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7, NKJ). Husbands, what if we did show this understanding? What if we did provide loving and delicate care for this “weaker vessel”? And wives, what if you adored your husbands for providing such care?

To those of us already married, it looks like we’ve got work to do. No, we have not reached our full potential, but as we grow and get closer and closer to God’s design, it will not only be a blessing to us, but a blessing to our children, too. Don’t you think our children might just flourish in this kind of home? Bringing them into such a spiritually rich environment will no doubt be a tremendous boost to their own spiritual growth.

