

FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE (PART I)

MARRIAGE

COLOSSIANS 3:18, 19

BACKGROUND: “In the ultimate sense, your marriage has nothing to do with your spouse. It has everything to do with your relationship to Jesus Christ.” Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love and Respect*, p. 444. (Please read the introduction before beginning.)

A GIFT FROM GOD—There is a loneliness in mankind that God satisfies with the gift of marriage, giving evidence of His mercy, grace, and love. In every corner of the world we fall in love, we romance, and in sync with the eternal plan of God, we marry.

(Genesis 2:18-24, fn 2:18-24, fn 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, fn 19:3-12) *If you are married or have been married, what attracted you to your spouse?*

FOR TWO BROKEN PEOPLE—God uses marriage to show us how broken we are and to get to issues in our lives that need to be addressed. There are “folks who know that they need to change and those who expect everyone else to change. We have great hope for the first group. The second bunch are choosing ignorance; the damage they are doing is almost unforgivable.” John and Stasi Eldredge, *Love and War*, p. 55. **(Matthew 8:1-3, fn 8:2, 3, Matthew 7:1-5, fn 7:1,2, II Corinthians 13:5, I Corinthians 7:28b)** *Using Psalms 139:23, 24, fn 139: 23, 24, ask God to reveal changes you need to make for yourself in your marriage.*

WITH POWER TO CHANGE—“... his [God’s] grace [power] is always what’s behind a good marriage...” Eldredge, p.80. By grace we make choices to show love and respect to one another. **(Hebrews 12:15, fn 12:15, II Peter 1:3, fn 1:3,4, Galatians 5:14-16, fn 5:16-18, Titus 2:11-14, Ephesians 5:18, fn 5:18)** *Why is it important to remember that you always need to change and you need the Holy Spirit’s power (grace) to change you?*

Pray briefly with your spouse for each other at bedtime!

