

Marriage Is Not Heaven

There is nothing worse than a bad marriage and nothing better than a good one. Scripture speaks to our conduct in marriage, but not as completely as sometimes we might wish. In practice the greatest manual on marriage is the Bible itself. To be a devoted Christian, a true follower of Jesus is the best advice we could receive. Many popular books will tell you the mechanics of a relationship: communicate, forgive, serve each other, fight fairly, share interests, work together. Couples mostly know this already. Information is not the problem, motivation is. Here is where the Bible shines. Not like an instant magical incantation, but the living Word of God, read, understood, taken to heart, and prayerfully practiced. Even in marriages where one partner will not follow Christ, you can let the Lord change you. Your change, in turn, will change the marriage. Not to human perfection or even our complete satisfaction, but whatever good that can happen, will happen when even one is committed to Christ. No marriage can reach the astronomically high expectations our culture has placed on it for romance, passion, and ultimate meaning. Marriage wasn't designed to take the place of God.

Your Creator made you, made your spouse, made us male and female, and made marriage. Apart from him I can offer you no hope of getting it right. He is the source. Ephesians 5 says the keys to marriage are submission, sacrificial love, and respect. Without that you may hobble along for one generation, but the generations that follow you will have trouble. Ephesians 5 ends by saying the spiritual roots of marriage are a "profound mystery." It's not that Christ and the church are an illustration of marriage, but the other way around. Marriage is a living illustration of Christ and the church. Modern sensibilities aside, a marriage that bucks that heavenly way will not, cannot prosper. Any more than Christ and the church could eliminate submission, sacrificial love, and respect. At its best, marriage is only a dim shadow of the glory of God's ultimate oneness of himself and his people, the church.

Two suggestions: (1) Be a genuine Christian in your marriage, (2) Lower your expectations of cosmic fulfillment in marriage. It's a human relationship instituted by God, but still a human relationship. You will need abundant forgiveness, grace, and love to make it. God is your only source.

Mark

Congratulations! Elisha & Kamal Were Married Yesterday!

Melissa Hogan and Sam Ken Will Be Married This Friday, April 22nd! Keep them in prayer as they soon begin their new life together.

Sign-Up Sheets for:

Our Camp Manatawny Church Retreat

***On May 20-22** are posted on the Bulletin board in the hallway for choosing your overnight accommodations.*

VBS: July 17-20. The Youth Group from Sylvan Hills Church of Christ in Arkansas will be helping us. *We will need to house and feed the team for the 5 days they are with us.*

Cathedral Kitchen: Serving dinner to the poor. April 26th, 3:30-5:30

The Children's Church Teaching Schedule is on a yellow sheet available out in the church lobby.



Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Welcome & Scripture: Tony Ceraso Jr. (Psalm 148:1-14)

Opening Prayer: Carl Smith

Lord's Supper: Dan Swinehart, Jess Nitla, Chet, John Corbett

Scripture Before Message: Logan McEntire (Rev. 19:1-5)

Announcements & Prayer: Rick Boyle

Nursery: Kristin & Karen Next Week- Tina & Hoa

Yellow Cleaning Team: April 20-23 **Norma** coordinates

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn – Preacher

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876

Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276

Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Worship 146

Bible Class 85

Wed. PM..... 54

Contribution..... \$3,756

Budget Goal \$4,260

Daily Bible Readers: 35

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Katherine's Wedding

