

I've Been Thinking about . . . Marriage from a Husband's Perspective

by Pastor Chris

On the day of this writing, Rhonda and I celebrate our thirty-first wedding anniversary. Why is our marriage not only surviving, but thriving, after thirty-one years? I offer a few reflections from a husband's perspective. In the August *Cornerstone*, Rhonda will offer some reflections from a wife's perspective.

A marriage thrives when both husband and wife follow God's design for their relationship. Ephesians 5:18-33 uncovers profound insight into God's design for marriage. Part of that passage says:

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, in which is reckless living, but be filled with the Spirit . . . ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ to make her holy, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ and to present to himself the church as glorious, not having stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So also husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This mystery is great, but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself. . . .

"Be filled with the Spirit . . ." (Eph 5:18). God has designed marriage to be a Spirit-filled relationship. So marriage is a relationship among three persons: husband, wife, and Holy Spirit. Marriage is like a braid of hair. A braid of hair looks like two strands, but it is impossible to create a braid with only two strands. If two strands could be braided at all, the braid would quickly unravel. What looks like two strands requires a third. The third strand is not evident, but it keeps the braid tightly woven. In Christian marriage, the Holy Spirit is the invisible third strand in the marriage braid that holds the two strands of husband and wife together.

"Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph 5:21). God calls Christians to live out Spirit-filled mutual submission in all their relationships with one another, including marriage. Thus, God calls me to serve my wife out of reverence for Christ, who "came not to be served but to serve" (Mk 10:45).

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . ." (Eph 5:25). God calls the Christian husband to Christlike character, exemplified by cross-like love for his wife.

Thus, the husband's goal is not his happiness, but God's glory through a changing character increasingly conformed to the image of Christ. His wife is God's chisel; through the hammering and friction of her needs against his selfishness, God chips away the husband's self-centered ego, sculpting his heart into the image of the Servant. As a servant in the image of the Servant, the husband focuses not on his expectations of his wife but on his Christlikeness toward her, not on his convenience but on her need.

Marriage is the school of love. There, the husband learns to love others as Christ loved us (John 13:34-35). It has been noted:

If a man can't learn to love his wife, he will be defective in loving anyone else. If you can't love: (1) the one you chose, (2) the one to whom you owe the most on earth, (3) the one who loves you the most, (4) the one whom you are commanded to love, and (5) the one who in pain bore your children, you are probably too selfish to love anyone else with purity and honesty and power.

Death is the expression of love. On the cross, Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Likewise, the husband loves his wife by crucifying himself for her. Remembering that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,

“The Church”

Associate Pastor of Ministry Advancement & Adult Ministries

Howard Lundeen

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42-47)

Jeff Jones, in his article about the church, entitled “*Getting with the Program*” says, “Most of us will never become the CEO of a multinational corporation. You and I will probably not be the ones to discover the cure for cancer or AIDS. National magazines probably aren’t going to place our picture on their covers. Yet God has opened to you and me an opportunity far more significant than any of these...God is at work and his work changes the world. His program alone can claim cosmic significance. He has opened the door of opportunity for you to be involved.” God’s design is to use his church to change the world.

On Friday mornings our group of Journey Men is studying a series of lessons entitled, “Discovering Your Role in God’s Family”. We were challenged by Jeff Jones’ article which made all of us think in new ways regarding our significance as members of God’s family, the church. God is using us to help transform lives and ultimately change the world. How exciting it is to realize that each of us, as part of the church, have unlimited power and authority available in Christ to represent Him and make the message of his reconciliation and rule known! My prayer is that we, as the early church, will devote ourselves to knowing truth – God & his Word, enjoying fellowship with one another, and to prayer.

Newcomer/Membership Classes: On Wednesday evenings, July 13 and 20, we will have our next series of two classes designed to introduce people to Christ Community Church and the Evangelical Free Church movement. Classes will run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM each evening. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at the information desk.

Praise God! Our Family Care Fund is the benevolent fund for our church. The FCF Committee recently agreed to help administer the “Tim Voigt Care Fund”, which is providing financial help for Tim. We praise God and want to say a special thanks to each of you who have contributed so generously. The following is a summary of receipts & expenditures as of June 20th:

Tim Voigt Care Fund – ledger record

Receipts	\$7,413.00
Expenses Paid	\$4,199.17
Remaining Balance	\$3,213.83

Special Vacation: Carol and I were blessed by being able to take two weeks vacation at the end of May. We went to Denver, Colorado and helped Scott & Melanie prepare for their move into an apartment that is owned and used by the Issachar ministry, a branch of Mile High Ministry. Scott & Melanie will serve as resident directors for the Issachar community; thus, their need to be on-site. The Issachar Ministry provides housing and discipleship/leadership training for young people, predominantly from low-income, urban communities, who have demonstrated leadership potential and who are attending colleges in the Denver area. Scott & Melanie’s apartment required significant renovation; so, we worked long and hard over the two weeks to help them prepare to move in. Carol had the blessed challenge of baby-sitting for our granddaughter, Scotia, while the rest of us were busy at our work projects.

Pastor Howard

H.T.C. Heart Thoughts for Cornerstone

By: Pastor Zach Marino

Here is a brief summary of how our Student Ministries are going here at CCC.

Summer ministry: Our summer ministry has officially kicked off and I am proud to say the first two weeks of SUSTAIN, have seen success! We have had Katie Kiesler and Jordan Prins come and share from Colossians 2:6-7 on what it means to SUSTAIN our faith. Brock Nelson and Paul Wunderlich have led our students in worship and we have enjoyed the beautiful weather by hanging outside and playing some games. I have been shocked at the number of students who have shown up these past two weeks, 20-25 on each time! I am praying God will continue to use this ministry to help students SUSTAIN their faith over the summer and become more passionate about Him. We have some special events planned for the students such as a Campfire and Games night at the Krause house and then a Lake party planned at the end of July; so fun balanced with Spiritual growth.

Sunday School: In place of Sunday School, we have attempted to give our graduated Seniors a 6-week DVD-driven series preparing them for college but that has actually seen only one student show up for it. Thus, we are cancelling it; with hopes of re-trying next year. Our second option for students to develop their passion for the Lord has been a 1 hour study on evangelism training. We saw only three students show up for that and now with New Orleans and Fourth of July weekend, we face some tough decisions of cancelling that or trying it out another time. On a more positive note, our Youth Commission met and some members are in the process of researching material for our upcoming Sunday School year starting in the fall. So our goal to be better planned is starting to be met.

Special Events: As I type this, I am two days away from heading south with 12 students and 2 other adult leaders for our one-week missions trip to New Orleans. Our students are extremely excited for the trip along with our leaders. We have had training before hand and had the students work through 18 days of devotions to prep them mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Our Commission, along with many others, has been covering them in prayer and as you read this, please take a minute to pray as we will probably be on the road or serving in the hot weather. Other than New Orleans, it's pretty relaxed over the summer for events.

God is good. We are excited to see how God changes lives on this missions trip and what the summer will hold for our ministry. It's been awesome to see the building moving forward and the plans finalized for the upstairs youth space. I am confident God is going to use our ministry to reach people we have never even considered reaching; all for His Kingdom and His Glory.

For Kingdom Impact,
Pastor Zach Marino

Waterpark Outreach



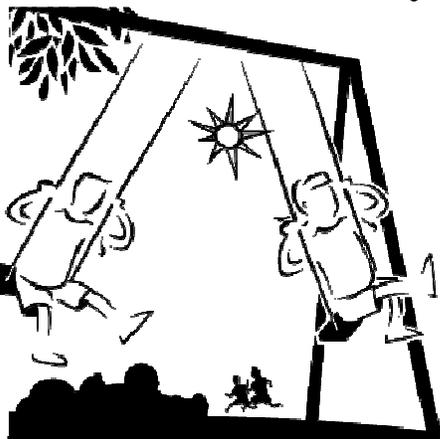
The church has reserved the Waterpark for Sunday, July 10th from 6:30-8:30pm. This is an outreach event that we have invited our friends from Vista Villa to. Families from our church are welcome to invite friends or neighbors, that may not have a church home, to join us for this fun evening. Our hope is that through enjoying fellowship with our church family these guests may be interested in attending other events at our church.

MAKS (*Moms And Kids*)

ALL MOMS WELCOME!!

Please join us in the park this summer for MAKS!

MAKS in the Park!



June - August
1st & 3rd Tuesdays

10:00 am

Southview Park, Waseca
Bring a picnic lunch

Questions: Stacy Dufault 833-2325

Invite a friend!!



2200 4th Street NE - Waseca, MN 56093

PHONE: (507) 835-2235

FAX: (507) 833-8857

E-MAIL: ccc@ccecfca.com

Website: www.ccecfca.com

PRAYER REQUESTS: prayer@ccecfca.com

A heart for God and you

Sunday Worship Events



Summer Schedule through Sept. 4th

Worship Service: 9:30am

Prayer Meeting: 5:00 - 6:00pm

Staffed Office Hours

	<u>Volunteer</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday:	=====	Noon - 5:00 pm
Tuesday:	=====	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday:	9:30 am - Noon	Noon - 5:00 pm
Thursday:	=====	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday:	=====	9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Christ Community Church Mission Statement

As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.





WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Share your gifts and talents serving with Women's Ministry!

Saturday Studies * Fundraisers * Bible Studies * Fellowship * Retreats * Media/Marketing
& Events held outside of church

Contact Sara Stensrud if interested in further details.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Come for fun & fellowship!
Watch for further details in the bulletin

Kings & Prophets Bible Study "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

Monday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 - Starts September 12, 2011
Must register by August 28th Open to Men... Women... Couples

FALL RETREAT at CAMP VICTORY!

September 30 - October 1

Women of Faith October 21 - 22

Continued from page 1

I've Been Thinking about . . . Marriage from a Husband's Perspective

the Christian husband neither complains of his wife's imperfections nor grumbles about her weaknesses, but rather gives himself up for her in the abandonment of love.

In seeking to serve rather than to be served, to be patient rather than to demand, to die to self rather than to indulge ego, to sacrifice rather than to acquire, to be holy rather than to be happy, the Christian husband obtains a happiness far greater than that which eludes self-seeking men: the rich joy of a Christlike character.

"This mystery is great, but I am talking about Christ and the church" (Eph 5:32). God has designed marriage to echo the relationship of Christ and the church. A husband is to his wife as Christ is to the church. Thus, a husband preaches the relationship of Christ and the church in the way he treats his wife. A husband who loves his wife preaches that Christ loves the church and gave himself up for her. A husband who cares for his wife preaches that Christ cares for the church. A husband who is unfaithful to his wife preaches that Christ is unfaithful to the church. A husband who abandons his wife preaches that Christ abandons the church.

Husbands, what are you preaching?

JULY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	2
3 <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	4 <u>6:30pm</u> Outreach Comm. <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN 	5 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS in the Park <u>6:30pm</u> Women's Min. <u>7:00pm</u> Congr. Care <u>7:00pm</u> Property Comm.	6 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults	7 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	8 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	9 <u>6:00-7:30am</u> Journey Men Leaders
10 <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> 21 Laws <u>6:30pm</u> WaterPark	11 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN	12	13 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults <u>7:00pm</u> Newcomer- Membership Class	14 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	15 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	16
17 <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer	18 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN	19 <u>10:00am</u> MAKS in the Park <u>6:30pm</u> Elder Board Meeting	20 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults <u>7:00pm</u> Newcomer- Membership Class	21 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	22 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	23
24 <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer <u>6:00pm</u> 21 Laws	25 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> SUSTAIN	26 <u>7:00pm</u> Adult Disciple- ship Comm.	27 <u>6:30-8:00pm</u> Young Adults	28 <u>12:00-1:15pm</u> Men's Study <u>6:15-8:30pm</u> Worship Team	29 <u>6:15-7:30am</u> Men's Group	30 <u>8:00am</u> Joint Commissioner Meeting
31 <u>9:30-11:00am</u> Worship Service <u>11:00</u> 20.20 Focus <u>11:00</u> Concert of Prayer <u>5:00pm</u> Prayer						