

## Harmony In Marriage

1 Peter 3:8-11

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

KJV

### Finally, be ye all of one mind

Being of one mind means having the same understanding. The Greek Word is Homophon from which we derive our word harmonious.

It was God's intention that the relationship between a husband and a wife be harmonious. His plan was for them to be of one mind or have the same understanding. When this occurs between a man and a woman, their relationship is like a melodious song. It is a great blessing to others, especially to their children, but it also brings the harmonious couple great happiness. A man and a woman become one flesh the moment they consummate their marriage. But their souls and their spirit become one as they develop harmony in the following ways.

- **Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of your roles and a willingness to submit to one another.** (I Peter 3:1-7).
- **Having compassion one of another** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of what hurts and a willingness to show sympathy to one another.
- **Love as brethren** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of your needs and a willingness to sacrifice yourself to serve one another.
- **Be pitiful** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of your human limitations and a willingness to believe the best about one another.
- **Be courteous** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of your need for wisdom and a willingness to learn from one another.
- **Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of your sinful condition and a willingness to forgive one another.

- **But contrariwise blessing** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of your need for blessing and a willingness to speak well of one another.
- **Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of evil words and a willingness to avoid those words with one another.

Peter brings special attention to evil words of guile. Guile means deceptive. Evil words would also include words that are judgmental, slanderous, and gossip.

- **Let him eschew evil, and do good** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of evil and a willingness to shun evil for one another.
- **Let him seek peace, and ensue it** - Harmony in marriage comes from having the same understanding of what brings peace and a willingness to sacrifice personal preferences for one another.

To have the same understanding there must be the same authority!

To have a Christian marriage that authority must be the Lord Jesus and His commands!

For those who are married there is absolutely nothing like the harmony and happiness that two people can experience when Jesus is the Lord of their lives. Couples can experience a measure of harmony and happiness by sharing some other authority other than Jesus. But it does not compare to what two people can experience in Jesus. The reason for this is that we are not just living souls. We are spiritual beings. Those who are not in Christ are dead in their transgressions and sins. Being dead, they cannot relate to the one true God or to one another the way God intended. They cannot have the mind of God or share the mind of God. And there are sins that they just cannot overcome that damage the harmony of their relationship.

When a man and a woman share the same authority, understanding, and commitments the harmony and happiness in their relationship is the closest thing on earth to what we will experience in heaven. They have the same longing to be with one another that the saints have to be with Jesus. This is what makes death so painful.

If you are not married, wait to get married until the Lord brings the right person into your life. One of the ways you will know who they are is that their authority will be the Lord Jesus and His commands.

But there are some who got married before they became a Christian. This means not every Christian will have a Christian marriage. Not every Christian will experience the harmony and happiness in marriage that God originally planned.

If you are already married to someone who does not have the Lord Jesus as their authority, then I am sorry. I cannot promise you that if you do the right thing that your

circumstance will change. The Lord Jesus wants you to be faithful to your unbelieving spouse as a testimony of His power in your life. He will give you whatever you need spiritually and emotionally. Perhaps your testimony will contribute to their everlasting salvation. I believe the Lord will give you an even greater harmony with Him that will replace what you are missing in marriage.

But for those of you who are married who claim to be Christians, are you experiencing what the Lord intends for you? Are you experiencing the harmony and happiness that God has planned for you? Is your relationship a testimony to the promises of God's Word?

**If it is not, don't give up!**

Based on what I said today, is there some way that you are rejecting the authority of Jesus for your relationship. You don't have the same understanding because one or both of you is resisting the mind of Christ either because of ignorance, unbelief or pride. Perhaps you have some fleshly desire that is keeping you from yielding to the mind of Christ and it is affecting your conduct?

If this true of you, repent today! Let Christ make your relationship all that He intends for it to be. Let others say, we want to know Christ because of the difference we can see that He is making in your relationship to one another.