

# **Finding God In Your Marriage**

If we so choose we can enter our marriage consciously as a path toward holiness. But we must choose to do so—*and that choice is not always easy.*

- It is the **Challenges** of our life that make the platform for growth. An athlete doesn't look for the easiest way—He looks for the one that challenges him the most.
- Marriage is full of **Challenges** that when met head on in our marriages can nurture our spiritual lives in enriching ways.

*“Sometimes what is hard to take in the first years of marriage is not what we find out about our partner but what we find out about ourselves.”*

Kathleen & Thomas Hart

The first thing we need to do is to confront the prevailing attitude of the society in which we live. It is the Great American Myth that life is supposed to make us happy – that happiness is the end goal we are striving for.

- ï **Happiness is not the \_\_\_\_\_ – not even here on earth!**
- ï **Happiness is the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of a life properly lived.**

Examine the “beatitudes” in Matthew chapter 5.  
This is equally true in marriage!

There is a “deeper” question that needs to be asked – beyond...

- ï How do I improve my marriage?
- ï How do I make my marriage easier?

What if God did not design marriage to be “easier”? Or, what if the end goal was not just happiness?

**What if God designed marriage to make us \_\_\_\_\_ more than to make us \_\_\_\_\_?**

If this sounds like a radically different view of marriage...

...It is important to remember that \_\_\_\_\_ is a relatively modern pursuit in marriage.

**No marriage can endure on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ alone.**

- Romantic love has no \_\_\_\_\_ to it! The kind of mature love that is needed to sustain a good marriage – must \_\_\_\_\_ – because marriage is the union of two flawed partners.

**When we strive for happiness – we strive for the \_\_\_\_\_ !**

- The goal then instead of seeking to find happiness in our marriage might be better defined as seeking to find God in our marriage.

**When we strive for happiness from our spouse – we strive for the \_\_\_\_\_ and from the \_\_\_\_\_ !**

- We need to remind ourselves of the foolishness of striving to gain something from humans that only God can provide!

*Marriage is the merciless revealer, the great white searchlight turned on the darkest places of human nature.”*  
Katherine Anne Porter

**Marital Analogies Teach Us \_\_\_\_\_ About God!**

A giant thread runs throughout scripture—comparing God’s relationship to His people with the human institution of marriage.

**It Is The Picture Of Divine Relationship**

**Hosea leads us into a startling reality...**

→ God views His people as a **husband** views his **wife**.  
(Hosea 2:16, 19a)

**Isaiah uses marital imagery to stress how...**

- God **rejoices** in His people:  
(Isaiah 62:5b)

**Jesus also uses this imagery, referring to...**

- Himself as the “**bridegroom**”  
(Matthew 9:5) and
- The kingdom of heaven as a “**wedding banquet**”  
(Matthew 22:1-14)

**The converse is true as well.**

- The prophet Jeremiah likened Israel’s idolatry to adultery. (Jeremiah 3:8)
- Jesus called the people of His day an “adulterous generation” (Mark 8:38)

**Marriage: The Picture Of \_\_\_\_\_**

Marriage is a window through which we should be able to see God. Ephesians 5:22-33.

*In a man-centered view the focus and the strength of our marriages is based on our comforts, desires, and expectations.*

*In a God-centered view our marriages exist and endure for the purpose of bringing glory to God and pointing a sinful world to a reconciling Creator.*

Not what will **make** me **happy** but what will **make** God **happy**!

**The goal in marriage, as in all life, is to \_\_\_\_\_!**  
(2 Corinthians 5:9)

**The Challenge Is Utterly Selfless!**

*If my marriage contradicts my message,  
I have sabotaged the goal of my life!*