

Investing in Marriage

29 January 2022



1. God's purpose in marriage: you are a showcase

Ephesians 1:10; 3:10

Ephesians 5:31–32

Reflection:

How does God's purpose in and for marriage excite you with regard to your marriage?

Can you identify an area in which you have made progress in your marriage?

Can you identify one area in which you would love your marriage to be better?

2. God's provision for marriage: you are a powerhouse

Ephesians 1:19–20; 2:1–10. His power has made us alive

Ephesians 3:7; 3:14–20. His power has opened our eyes

Ephesians 3:20. His power is 'at work within us'...

'Walk therefore...' (4:1, 17; 5:1, 5:15)

Reflection:

Are there any areas where you feel that you are 'stuck' in patterns of behaviour that you know are ungodly?

What is Paul's answer to this?

Do you need help from others outside of your marriage? What are you going to do about it?

3. God's pattern for marriage: you are a sanctuary

5:18 be filled by the Spirit... addressing, singing, giving thanks, submitting...

- a) the Spirit-filled wife will 'submit to one another' by submitting to her husband

Reflection:

Identify one area where you find it hard to submit. Why does this matter?

Are there any expectations you have (eg standard of living, housing, education) that make it hard for your husband to fulfil his role?

Is there any aspect of your physical relationship that you want to discuss?

- b) the Spirit-filled husband will 'submit to one another' by loving/leading his wife

Reflection:

In what areas could you be more sacrificial. How can you demonstrate this tangibly?

How can you be as proactive and thoughtful in future planning for your marriage as you are in other things you care about?

In what ways can you nurture and cherish your wife more? (make sure you include both spiritual and temporal...prayer, Bible study, her needs and desires)

In what ways do you make it more difficult for your wife to fulfil her role?

Are there any aspects of your physical relationship that you want to discuss?