

**Session Three
Acceptance
Joy Unspeakable
Relationship Conference
Living Waters Church
Prescott Valley, AZ**



“How come you never married?”

“It was like this. I kept looking for the ideal woman.”

“And you never found her?”

“Oh sure, but just my luck she was looking for the ideal man!”

Mose: “Who introduced you to your wife?”

Jose: “We just happened to meet. I don’t blame nobody.”

May: “How did you meet your husband?”

June: “At a Travel Bureau. I was looking for a vacation and he was the last resort?”

“How do you manage to get money from your husband?”

“It’s easy. I just say I’m going home to Mother and he hands me the fare.”

According to 1 Corinthians, love is the most important attribute we can have!

I Corinthians 13:1-8:

1. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. 2. Though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3. Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity it profiteth my nothing. 4. Charity suffereth long and is kind; Charity envieth not; Charity vaunth not itself, is not puffed up. 5. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8. Charity never fails!

ACCEPT OTHER PEOPLE JUST LIKE THEY ARE AND DON’T TRY TO CHANGE THEM!

The most important gift from God is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For the married person, His next most important gift is your marriage.

Some of you may say, "Mine was a booby prize!" "Mine was more like a surprise package!" Some of you may have decided you married the wrong person. But it is important to realize that even though you didn't know who you were getting, God did!

Romans 8:28, All things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

God can use the very thing you despise the most in your spouse to help mold you into the image of God.

A plant needs WATER, SUN AND FRESH AIR in order to spread its roots to grown and be healthy.

Even so, we all need unconditional love, freedom and acceptance in order to love and cherish in return.

The real reason we try to change others is because of a self-righteous attitude.

THE VERY HEART OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE IS, IT IS OURSELVES WE MUST CHANGE!

Matthew 7:1-5, KJV

1. Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with that measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye. 4. Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the more out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye. 5. Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast our the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5 The Living Bible and my paraphrase

1. Don't criticize and then you won't be criticized for your spouse will treat you as you treat them. And why worry about a speck in the eye of your spouse, when you have a board in your own? Should you say, "Honey, let me help you get that speck out of your eye, when you have a board in your own?" Hypocrite, first get rid of your board, then you can see to help your spouse.

Four reasons we shouldn't try to change our spouse:

1. It causes problems
2. It can destroy love
3. It can cause a person to rebel
4. It doesn't work

IN WHAT WAYS DO WE TRY TO CHANGE OUR SPOUSE?

1. Personal habits

Proverbs 15:17, Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

Proverbs 25:24, It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop than with a brawling woman and in a side house.

Proverbs 27:15, A continual dropping is a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

REFER TO SPOUSE SPATS BOOK

He brags too much, thinks I'm superwoman, never remembers my birthday, never hangs up his clothes, never compliments me, wants sex too much.

She nags, doesn't make love often enough, wants everyone to do as she thinks they should, jealous, never says I'm sorry!

IS IT ALRIGHT TO TELL YOUR SPOUSE IF SOMETHING BOTHERS YOU? IF SO, HOW MANY TIMES?

2. How they spend their time
3. Duties
4. Desires and dreams
5. Money
6. Neglect of children
7. Social behavior
8. Religion

STEPS TO ACCEPTANCE

1. Get rid of our self-righteous attitude. Luke 18:1, (My paraphrase) A man and his wife went up into the Temple to pray. The wife, a Pharisee, and her husband a Publican. The wife stood and prayed thus to herself, "God, I thank thee that I am not like this husband of mine, an extortioner, unjust, adulterer. I fast twice in the week. I give tithes of all I possess." And the husband standing afar off would not lift up as much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner."
2. Look to their better side
Philippians 4:8, Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.

In your mind, color one side of your spouse blue, representing the bad side. Color the other side white, representing the good side. Turn the bad side away from you and concentrate on the good side.

(Make a list of good things, post the list in several places, and when you are tempted to dwell on the bad, grab your list and start reciting, then dwell on it.)

3. Don't use other people as shining examples
4. Tell them you accept them as they are

WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET THE STRENGTH TO ACCEPT?

1. By praying together
2. By reading the Word
3. Asking God to help us
4. Pray in the Spirit

“Sometimes I feel sorry for the Lord, he desires to give good gifts to His children but we tie His hands because we are violating His principles. When we obey His principles, we untie His hands and He leans over the balconies of heaven and gives us the gift of great relationships.”