

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments three times weekly.
Delores Hendrickson is back home, feeling better and was able to attend services last Sunday.
Iris Hash is still suffering from stomach problems. She is taking probiotics for her stomach and strong pain medication for her back pain.
Elena Hawkins is suffering from leg pain caused by issues in her back and is currently on medication.
Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems in addition to problems with her back and legs
Karen Sproles is doing better but continues to receive steroid injections in her knee.
Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.
Jessica Haynes, daughter-in-law of Dave and Tina, is having a recurrence of headaches and pain. She is now on medication and doing better.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney, John and Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in back of the auditorium.

Ladies' Bible Class Resumed:

The ladies' Bible class continues to meet on Thursdays at 11:00 AM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday, July 2nd, immediately after the morning service. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for a singing then dismiss for the day.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, July 5th at 5:00 PM.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

June 25, 2023

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM
Worship – 10:30 AM
Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"
Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

MARRIAGE

Bill Boyd

In our homes we treat our weaker vessels with greater honor. We handle them gently; we often have a special place for them on our shelves. A man should honor his wife as he honors his weaker vessels. He should treat her like a fine piece of china, not like an old bucket.

Marriage is for “the grace of life;” that is where this article is going. This is the last of a six-part series on what marriage is not and what it is. We have seen how that the Bible teaches that marriage is not of man, not just a civil union, not sin nor an accommodation of sin, not for animals, and not for the self-centered and immature. Marriage is of God, what God hath joined together, from the beginning, older than sin, a sacred spiritual covenant, a God blessed relationship, honorable in all, a relationship that exceeds all other human relationships; and, a commitment. Marriage is for companionship, for a godly seed, for man’s good, woman’s good, good for society’s good. Marriage is something God loves, for it is “very good.” We have learned of marriage from Moses, Solomon, Hosea, Malachi, Jesus, and Paul. This series will end with what we learn from Peter.

Peter was a married man. In [Matthew 8:14-15](#) and [Mark 1:29-31](#), Jesus was in the house where “Simon’s wife’s mother” lay sick of a fever. In [1 Corinthians 9:5](#), Paul said he had the right to lead about “a sister, a wife, as well as the other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas.” In [1 Peter 5:1](#), Peter called himself as “an elder” (Peter did not call himself “the Pope”). It is necessary that “an elder” be “the husband of one wife” ([1 Tim. 3:2](#), [Titus 1:6](#)). This ancient apostolic tradition that was necessary for Peter to be qualified to be “an elder” would disqualify him to be “a Pope” (under current Roman tradition).

Peter began his discussion of marriage with the obligations of a believing wife to an unbelieving husband. Paul wrote of believers married to unbelievers in [1 Corinthians 7:10-15](#). He told them to remain married, but he said that if the unbelieving spouse was to depart, then the believing spouse was to let them depart. They were married, but they were not and had never been bound to their spouse as a slave. Paul did not tell the abandoned believers that they could marry another, he said, “If she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband” ([1 Cor. 7:11](#)). Jesus gave one exception for remarriage following a divorce ([Matt. 19:9](#), fornication); Paul did not give another exception to the Corinthians.

Peter told the believing wife to “be in subjection to her own husband” ([1 Peter 3:1](#)). Freedom from sin does not free one from the obligations of marriage. Peter taught that the godly submission of believing wives could open the hearts of unbelieving husbands to the Gospel, and that they may “without a word be won by the conversation of their wives; while they behold your chased conversation coupled with fear” ([1 Peter 3:1](#)). What Peter said has often occurred.

“Conversation” in the King James Version refers to her manner of life. The “fear” of which Peter spoke is not fear of harm from her husband, but respect for him in the fear of the Lord. Peter clarified a few verses later saying, “not afraid with any amazement.” A wife’s submission to her husband does not come from a woman’s

fearful weakness, but from the inner strength of her meek and quiet spirit. With this inner quite strength, she is not afraid to call her husband her lord ([1 Peter 3:5-6](#)). We learn from this that for the married, a commitment to Christ includes a commitment to their marriage.

Peter also had a few things to say to husbands; “dwell with them according to knowledge” ([1 Peter 3:7](#)). Husbands cannot cop out saying, “I do not understand her,” and be the husband God expects him to be. It is true that sometimes a wife can be hard to understand, but it is just as true that sometimes a husband can be hard to understand. Men and women are different, and part of the joy of marriage is getting to know and learning to understand one another, and then, having that knowledge and understanding, to complete one another.

Peter also said, “giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel” ([1 Peter 3:7](#)). It is true that men are often physically stronger than their wives, but I am not convinced that this is what Peter is referring to. A wise surgeon told me, “Men are often stronger, but women are usually tougher.” Men should stand amazed at what women endure. Peter’s admonition to give “honor to the wife as unto the weaker vessel” reminds me of how Paul said that the potter will “make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor” ([Rom. 9:21](#)). In our homes we treat our weaker vessels with greater honor. We handle them gently; we often have a special place for them on our shelves. A man should honor his wife as he honors his weaker vessels. He should treat her like a fine piece of china, not like an old bucket.

At the end Peter writes, “as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” “The grace of life” is the best of life. I am reminded of how Solomon said, “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor from the LORD” ([Prov. 18:22](#)), and, “Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest, all the days of the life of thy vanity” ([Eccl. 9:9](#)). The married enjoy “the grace of life” because, “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him” ([Eccl. 4:9-12](#)). The married enjoy the grace of life when they walk hand in hand together, sharing all life has to offer. Paul says, “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep” ([Rom. 12:15](#)). There is comfort in marriage when you weep together, and joy is magnified when you rejoice together.

In the normal course of events, the day will come when one will walk away from the grave of the other. Even then, if they have done things God’s way, so that their prayers have not been hindered, there is the grace that comes with the hope of being together again. Jesus said, “in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage” ([Matt. 22:30](#)); nevertheless, we will know each other in heaven, and the married should anticipate a special joy in knowing how they helped each other get there.

Those who know the grace of hope and joy, know what marriage is.