

July 23, 2006

DESPERATE HOUSEHOLDS

Help! I Married the Wrong Person!

● Many people enter marriage with expectations and hopes that may set them up for heartache. We all come to the altar as people with very real needs. And often we envision those need being met in our spouse to be.

● But the reality is, our needs are never fully met in our spouse. Sometimes that leads people to come to the conclusion that they have married the wrong person.

Myth #1: My Spouse Can Meet My Needs.

■ All of us have very real emotional, relational and physical needs. These needs were established at creation. ☞ **Genesis 2:18**

■ Two kinds of needs:

Security

Significance

◇ They are signs of our humanness built in by our Creator.

◇ The Fall brought with it the inability of any person to fully meet the needs of another. ☞ **Psalm 62:1-2**

◇ There is only one person who can fully meet my needs, and it is God Himself. I experience fulfillment to the degree I pursue and deepen my relationship with Him.

◇ Security is experienced as I realize the reality of God's love in my life.

☞ **Romans 8:38**

◇ My significance is demonstrated in the reality that Jesus sought me out and died for me. ☞ **Luke 15**

Myth #2: Marriage Is About Me.

■ Honesty check.

■ What does the Bible say? ☞ **Ephesians 5:21-33**

◇ Ephesians is a great book to help us understand how to live our lives on the platform of biblical truth. Chapters 1-3 are a theological explanation of what we have in Christ. Chapters 4-6 tells us what it looks like when we live it out practically. In chapters 5 & 6 Paul talks about what it looks like to live in some very specific relationships based on who we are in Christ.

◇ The theme that governs them is stated in chapter 5, verse 21—mutual submission.

◇ Marriage is about ministry.

◇ My fulfillment comes not from what my spouse gives to me. It comes from what I give to him or her.

Myth #3: I Can Only Love When I Feel “In Love.”

■ The Dating Game.

■ The truth about emotion.

◇ The reality is that any emotion cannot be permanently sustained.

■ Much of what we do in our marriages is based on emotion, not truth.

◇ For many, so long as the emotion of love is there, we act lovingly. But when the emotion is gone, we excuse ourselves from acting in loving ways.

◇ The feelings of love will fade. The Bible tells us that love is also a choice—a decision. ☞ **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

◇ The example of Jesus: ☞ **Romans 5:8**

Conclusion:

● My relationship with God is the key to a fulfilling marriage.

“Desperate Households” next week: *“Help! I Married the Right Person!”*