

Week 1 Devotion/Challenge

"Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law."

Proverbs 29:18 ESV

Biblical Vision is imperative to living out a fruitful persevering marriage. As the scripture says, *"a people without vision throw off restraint"*. Marriage requires day to day endurance and sowing that can be powerfully helped by understanding God's purposes in the relationship. Understanding the macro-purpose gives meaning to the micro-practicals of everyday life.

Two "big picture" themes can help strengthen our hearts and relationships. The first is found in Genesis 1:27, *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* The fullness of what is "Man" is broke into two parts - male and female. Thus the two becoming one flesh (Genesis 2:24) completes God's idea of Man. A vision of the marriage relationship bringing fullness to God's plan for His image bearers can empower us to appreciate instead of despising our differences.

Secondly, Paul in Ephesians 5:32 says that marriage is prophetic picture of Christ and His bride the Church- *"This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."* This is a profound vision for the purpose of marriage. Every marriage carries the testimony of Christ and His beloved Church. Knowing this can give a couple an eternal purpose and reason for doing all they can to walk together in love. Our marriages are literally a non-verbal sermon or witness to the gospel's unifying work between God and man.

We encourage couples to remind each other of these two great visions for their marriage. And to even make them a matter of prayer. For example praying together, "Lord may our marriage fulfill all that you mean for what Man is to be and also witness to the loving union between You and Your Church. Help us to understand these two themes more deeply and to be empowered to walk them out."

Blessings,
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