

“WALK WORTHY” (IN MARRIAGE)- -1/26/25 (#12)

PASTOR LEE

- PASTOR LEE.....introduces a new sub-series (6-8 weeks) within the “WALK WORTHY” Series and covering one of the major components of the Book of Ephesians.
- Marriage is so much better than its advertised to be....the potential of committed love, interdependency, trust, intimacy, the shared privilege of motherhood/fatherhood, etc.!
- But it is so much more...it is a HOLY, SACRED, LIFE-LONG COVENANT BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. And.....it is A BLESSED CALLING BY GOD...created for each other!

- In light of all this, would it not follow that we would consider marriage to be a special, Godly destination and one that we would want to make the best that it can possibly be?
- Analogous to Christ and the Church....and His sacrifice for us...His refinement (through fire) of us- -foundational in our lives!
- Some people, especially the young and/or the hurt, and those just hanging on to marriage by a thread....have a skewed/distorted view. But marriages we’ve witnessed, our personal history, our related culture and our bottom-line perspective of marriage is very impactful on all of us! So we need a clear understanding of its sacredness, its dynamics, its value and its place in our lives as Christians.

- Pastor Lee notes: 1. 1/3 of couples say their marriage is “good”; 2. Christians have a 33% lower divorce rate; 3. Couples praying together have a 90% higher satisfaction rate.

- To those who say they’ve “fallen out of love’.....could it be, rather, that you consciously or unconsciously said, “I chose me”...? Could your (progressively evolving) ‘self-focus’ have impacted the degree to which you love your spouse?
- Or...have you reached a point where, perhaps, you didn’t think you needed to continue working on your marriage but instead started taking each other for granted?
- The more you imitate Christ....the more capacity you have to love your spouse with even greater intensity...to even further solidify/reinforce your marriage.

PASTOR LEE PRAYS FOR OUR MARRIAGES

Gen 2:18-25 — - Then the Lord said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (19) Now out of the ground the Lord God has formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. (20) The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. (21) So the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. (22) And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. (23) Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” (24) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother

and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh. (25) And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- This was a surreal, mystical kind of event....an absolute miracle of God. Do you remember 'that day' when you were sure that YOUR SPOUSE WAS A GIFT FROM GOD?
- Pastor Lee: God does not want you to be alone.....not His Plan.
- V-24/25-marks what a marriage is: 'The union of one man and one woman, created by God'.
 1. You leave home....literally and in substance.
 2. You hold on fast;
 3. You become as one;
 4. Sexual relations are beautiful BUT confined to marriage.
- Unmarried couples engaged in sexual relationships- and irrespective of future plans-need to re-think:

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

- If that defined your pre-marital relationship, you can be repentive and confess that...and God can restore you. If you are dating and are sexually active, confess/repent and (ignoring any extraneous rationalizations) begin to follow the Word of God.

1 Cor 7:5 Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited times that you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Asfterwar, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self control.

- Do not act on temptations.....repent....your marriage can't get right if not able to do the simple things that God intended.

Math 19: 4-6 - -He answered, " have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, (5) and said, ' There a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? (6) So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

- Classic wedding vows are typically said with conviction and belief.....fast forward to now, no excuses or rationalizations.
- Remember Him because everything depends on who He is!! The enemy does not want us to get this marriage thing right. Remember, we ARE the Bride of Christ.....the One who sacrificed all for us! Be filled with the Spirit of God...all else follows!

**RESPECT THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE
BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

