

Marriage is Meant to be Heart-to-Heart!

Every married couple starts their marriage with the dream and expectation that it will last a life time “until death we do part.” We all want our marriages to be full of fun, excitement, fulfillment, love, and togetherness. I believe that is the way our heavenly Father also desires our marriages to be with Him in the center of it all. After just celebrating 44 years of marriage, Sue and I have come to realize that this kind of marriage is achievable. However, it has taken a lot of effort, willingness to compromise and submit, willingness to change and learn new ways to relate and love each other, giving up our “right” to be right, and walking through all the test and trials of life together. A key part to experiencing greater heart connections for us came as we allowed Father to heal our hearts from all the wounds and “stuff” from our past.

Our heavenly Father made us to have face-to-face and heart-to-heart relationships with Him first and then with each other, especially for a man and woman in marriage. We are to draw our life and love first from Father and then give it away to all those we come in contact with us. Since God is Love (**1 John 4:8**) and Jesus is the Life (**John 14:6**), there is no other source for life and love in our marriage outside of God and Jesus being in the center of it! We draw that life and love by having a face-to-face relationship with Father for our self and together as a couple.

The eyes are the doorway to our heart; when someone looks into your eyes, they are looking into your heart. There are several reported accounts in the Bible of people who had face-to-face encounter with God like Moses, Jacob, Gideon, and David, and all of these men’s lives were dramatically affected. Through the finished work of the cross, we all can have that face-to-face relationship with Father where He can look into our heart and we can look into His heart to see what He is thinking about us. As you gaze into His eyes, your hearts become connected.

You can also experience that heart connection with your spouse as you gaze into their eyes. Tender words like, “I love you.” or “You’re beautiful.” are much more powerful when they are spoken as you are looking into their eyes. If you’re going to ask forgiveness or say, “I’m sorry,” it will carry much more weight when it is done face-to-face and the other person can see into your heart. I’m still working on this one with Sue, but the times that I have on purpose done it, the results have been more impacting! Also, when we are face-to-face during any conversation, there is a connection that goes deeper and the communication is much more effective between us. In order to really understand another person, we need to know what is going on in their heart.

As we spend time face-to-face with Father and receive His love, we have love to give away to our spouse. Furthermore, as we bring Father into the center of our marriage, we connect heart-to-heart with Him and each other. The love flows freely between the three of us bringing the fulfillment that we all desire in our marriage. However, trying to do it any other way without the Father will not work in a marriage or any other relationship. Jesus knew this was the root of the problem with the woman that came to the well in John 4. She had had five failed marriages and the relationship she was currently in was not working. Jesus used the circumstances where they were to teach her this Biblical truth. Jesus told her that she was drinking from the wrong well. This woman was trying to get her love needs met from another man instead of from the Father. None of us will ever have our love needs met by our spouse, only the Father can do that. All we end up doing is drawing all the life and love out of our spouse, but are never satisfied. The

marriage quickly becomes dry, boring, unfulfilling, and the life and love are gone. You may stick it out and not get divorced, but the marriage will never meet your dreams and expectation. And if nothing changes in your life, even if you get divorced and remarried, the results will be the same.

Father is the only “well” for every relationship to prosper. We all need to make Father the source of our love and life for us individually and in our marriage. Sue and I start and end every day in prayer with the Father. Also, we each spend time alone in the morning seeking Father’s face and receiving His love so we have love to give away to each other. Almost without exception, when I’m “too busy,” don’t take time to pray with Sue, or spend time with Father, those days do not go very well or end poorly with our relationship.

So as I close, I just want to encourage you, if you haven’t already, to develop an intimate heart-to-heart relationship with you heavenly Father and spend time daily with Him. Allow Him to fill you with the fullness of His Love so you have love to give away to your spouse and family. Also, make sure Father is the center of **every part** of your marriage! **This will help you enjoy the marriage of your dreams!!**

Dialogue Question:

Write a letter to each other answering the following question. Then exchange letters and read and discuss your answers together. Allow the conversation to go from there!

How Do I Feel when my spouse connects with me face-to-face as we talk and share our hearts?