

CONNECTING COUPLES TO CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

Glen and Shawn Solberg | Serving Couples to Build Christ-Centered Marriages

Prayer Requests to Share

FOCUS FOR 2025: Pray for our preparation in prayer before each session. That we would be consistently and fervently praying for the Spirit to fill and control us. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit in sessions - to lead us to truth and Scripture that helps couples grow in humility and Christ-likeness. Pray against the attacks of the enemy as we expect more spiritual battles for these couples and for us.

GROWING CHRISTLIKENESS: Please pray that all the couples God brings to Abiding Marriage will truly grow in becoming more like Christ and in more and more consistently displaying that Christlikeness in their marriage!

GIVING THANKS: We had asked for prayer for a family gathering we had in late September. We and our adult kids and their spouses had a great time together. Thanks so much for praying!

FIRST LOVE AND COMMUNITY: This is our consistent prayer: That we would never lose our "first love" for Jesus Christ and the pursuit of a deeply abiding relationship with Him. And after that, we would continue to make it a priority to be deeply connected to Christ-centered community in and outside of our local church.

A Tale of Two Marriages: Phil and Peter

The conversations could not have been more different. The first husband I talked to, Phil, was seeking help for his marriage. He said he began to ask for help from friends almost a year prior, and now was at the point of desperation. But as I heard him speaking, all I heard was "She does this...." and "She never does that...." over and over and over again. He went on for 20 minutes telling me all the things she was doing wrong and how he couldn't take it anymore. When I asked him, later in the conversation, what part he had played in their conflict, there was a long silence on the phone. He said that he really couldn't think of anything other than helping more with household chores.

Almost immediately after hanging up with Phil, I called Peter. Peter is also at a challenging place in his marriage as he and his wife are currently separated. But the conversation with Peter was so very different from my previous conversation with Phil. Peter was humble, readily admitting the many ways he had failed in his marriage and telling me the steps he was to work toward reconciliation. There was a sense of brokenness over his sin and failures in marriage, but also a shining hope and faith that God was working to reconcile he and his bride.

As I hung up the phone with Peter, I was overwhelmed with the vast difference between the two phone calls. Two marriages in crisis. Two vastly different responses to similar situations. The difference: Pride versus Humility. One husband was full of pride and unwilling to acknowledge his part in the marital conflict. He and his wife continue the "blame game" in their marriage that started way back with Adam and Eve. The other husband was full of humility and readily acknowledging his sin in the conflict. He had repented before God and had acknowledged his sin and failure with his wife.

The Lord tells us in the book of James that, "*God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble*". Peter was willing to humble himself and was seeing the Lord's grace flowing into his life and into his marriage. Phil was proud and there was no visible evidence of the Lord's grace working in him or in his marriage.

Your marriage may not be in crisis like Phil and Peter, but there is still a powerful application for every married person: If you and I want God's powerful grace at work in our marriage, then we must choose to humble ourselves. This dying to self takes the daily empowering of the Spirit of God.

To keep reading, use this short link: rebrand.ly/tale-of-two

Your Partnership at Work: Check Our Site for the Latest

We love to “brag on the Lord” as we share comments about what He is doing in the lives of the couples He is bringing for marriage counseling with Abiding Marriage. We share those 3-4 times a year in our mailed and electronic monthly updates. If you haven’t seen an update in a while, or would like to review the latest ones, please go to the link below. And please remember to thank the Lord as you read them!! He is working!!! LINK: www.abidingmarriage.org/your-partnership-at-work

Paul Tripp: How to Walk in Humility

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called. Eph 4:1

If we know the theology behind "walk in a manner worthy," there should be a correlation between how we think and how we act. The Apostle Paul wastes no time describing it to us, listing five character qualities of what our walk will look like as we relate and respond to others. The first is HUMILITY. Being humble in your relationships can have a variety of practical applications, so instead of giving you "10 ways to serve" I want to give you 3 things to remember. Before asking "What can I do?" (which is still a good question), ask yourself, "How can I think biblically?" Your words and actions are always an overflow of the heart.

First, you need to remember that God is above all. It sounds like simple theology, but it's so simple for us to remove God from His throne and seat ourselves above others. When we think we're more important than the people God has placed in our lives, our words and actions will disrespect and demean them.

Second, you need to remember your dependency on other believers. Even if you have a Ph.D. in biblical studies, God can teach you very important lessons through people who seem "less spiritual." It doesn't matter how many Scripture verses you've memorized - sin blinds, and you need a diverse body to help see yourself with accuracy.

Finally, you need to admit that you're just wrong sometimes. If you've made a mistake, you don't need to argue for your own righteousness. The Gospel frees you from having to bear the burden of defending yourself. Christ took the stand in the courtroom and declared you innocent!

Think about those three things. If I'm honest, I hate that list! I want to be king; I want to be independent; and I always want to be right! It's very hard for you and I to humbly admit to who we are. But remember - because we have been "strengthened with power through his Spirit in our inner being" (Eph. 3:16), we can walk in our relationships in a radically humble and liberating way.

SOURCE: Paul Tripp Ministries, Post from June 4, 2014

Bible Verses for This Month

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:1-7 ESV