

Welcome and intro

What if God designed your marriage to make you more holy than happy.

As common as divorce is, I'm convinced that most of them could be avoided. **Mark this down on the tablet of your heart: MOST wrong behavior begins with believing a lie.**

Our culture promotes many deceptions/lies that can quickly take down a marriage.

Let's talk about three of those lies, and a truth...

Lie #1: "My happiness is the most important thing about my marriage."

I can't tell you how many people have justified breaking up their marriages by saying, **"I have to do this. God just wants me to be happy."**

But according to God's Word, a spouse's individual happiness is not the purpose for marriage.

What if God's purpose for your marriage was to make you more holy, than happy?

The Bible says in Colossians 3:17: **"Whatever you do in word or deed," do for the glory of God.**

Through marriage, husbands and wives are to reflect His character and have children who will reflect His character ... all the way to the end of time.

Every marriage knows unhappiness. Every marriage knows conflict. Every marriage knows difficulty. But everyone can be joyful in their marriage by focusing on God's purposes and His glory instead of individual happiness.

Please hear me say...There should be joy and happiness in your marriage. It doesn't have to always be like a Debbie-downer episode from SNL.

I think God want's us to have joy. That's ok!

Lie #2: "If I don't love my spouse any longer, I should get a divorce."

It's a tragedy to lose love in marriage. But the loss of human love can teach us to access a deeper love—the very love of God Himself. That love is patient and kind ... it never fails (1 Corinthians 13). It even cares for its enemies.

When human love dies in a marriage, a couple can enter into one of the most exciting adventures they'll ever have: **learning how to love each other with God's love.**

Romans 5:5 tells us that this very love "**has been poured out within our hearts, through the Holy Spirit...**"

Do a spiritual inventory, and ask God why you feel like Love has diminished in your marriage?

Lie #3: "My private immorality does not affect my marriage."

A lot of people think, I can view pornography in the privacy of my home. It's just me and my magazine, or computer, phone ... it doesn't affect my marriage.

Oneness in marriage is always hijacked by sexual immorality. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:15, "**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?**"

In culture today, there are many ways to join oneself with a prostitute: physically, through the pages of a magazine, on a computer's video screen, etc. Paul's advice is the same today as it was thousands of years ago:

Flee immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18).

If you take your emotional and sexual energy and spend it on someone else, there will be nothing left for your spouse. **FLEE IMMORALITY!** Those who continually view pornography or engage in sexual fantasies are **isolating themselves. FLEE IMMORALITY!**

Isolation in marriage is not healthy...That's not God's design. **FLEE IMMORALITY!**

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

Be alert...the thief
wants your joy...

Something to ponder...What if God designed your marriage to make you more holy than happy. Something to think about.

Resources:

<https://www.familylife.com>

Book: The Meaning of Marriage by Tim & Kathy Keller