

Testimony:

Evidence or proof provided by the existence of something.



People today often look at longevity as the *testimony* of a good marriage; if a couple has been married a long time, it is evidence of a strong, healthy marriage. It may be a testimony of their tenacity to remain married, but is it a testimony to the work of God in their lives and marriage? Statistically, 95% of people do not want a marriage like their parent's marriage - a sad commentary of the *testimony* of marriages today. Longevity is *not* evidence that God is in a couple's marriage; living a Christ-centered marriage and demonstrating God's love in our marriage *is* the testimony the world needs to see.

Sadly, most *Christian* marriages are not a testimony - evidence or proof of the existence of God in a couple's lives and marriage. Christians yell and scream, demean, disrespect, and even abuse their spouses and somehow justify their *sinful* actions. Why would the world want what Christians have when their marriages, families, and lives are basically the same as the relationships in the world? Folks, we have to be different - holy; set apart for God! We have to quit being so selfish and self-centered and live lives according to Scripture and God's will. Stop with the excuses! We blame our spouse, our parents, our childhood, wrong done to us - NONE of it will stand up when we stand before God and try to justify our unchristian behavior in our marriages!

My wife and I seek to be used of God to save marriages - but not to save them so they can go on living dysfunctional lives and relationships. Our marriages - *your* marriage and *my* marriage must be *testimonies* for the God we claim to serve. We don't want to just endure. We want people to look at our relationship and say, 'I want a marriage like that.' In Christ, we *have* victory; now we must live it and provide evidence of God's work in our lives by demonstrating God's love to each other. Make your marriage a testimony for God!

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great way to build a marriage that will be a testimony for God.

Article to check out:

The Surpassing Goal: Marriage Lived for the Glory of God by John Piper - www.desiringgod.org