

# Surrender:

Yield to the power, control, or possession of another.



Jesus said; “So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” Surrendering every aspect of our lives to the Lord is the essence of Christianity. We are not our own; we belong to Christ and if we don’t surrender our lives - yielding the power, control - even the possession of our lives to the Lord, life will be difficult and our walk unproductive. Surrender means that we cease resistance and submit to God’s authority.

Often, when things are not going well in marriage, one or both spouses are not surrendered to the Lord. They may be living for themselves or are stuck in behaviors that do not lead anywhere positive. The first thing we must do to build a strong healthy marriage is to surrender our lives *and* our marriage to the Lord our God. We yield to a God who loves us and gave Himself for us. The Lord may not require that we give up all of our possessions, but if our whole lives are not surrendered to Him, we won’t experience all the Lord has for us in our lives and marriage.

There is another aspect of surrender in marriage; the idea of dying to self; of giving our life for our spouse. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, and soul and second to that command is to love our neighbor as yourself - our closest neighbor is our spouse. 1John 3:16 tells us that we know what love is by what Christ has done for us - giving Himself for us - therefore, loving our spouse is giving of ourselves - dying to self. This does not mean that we are do surrender to the abuse or sin of our spouse; that must be addressed! But, so many have told us; ‘I have done everything; I’ve given up everything for my spouse.’ My thought is really? You have lived a perfect life of sacrifice, giving up all your rights and privileges for your spouse? I only wish I could say I’ve come close to living a totally loving, sacrificial life for my wife.

Yield to the Lord your God; give him the power and control of your life - allow Him to possess your very life! Allow that surrender life to spill into your marriage - love your spouse sacrificially as Christ has loved you. Surrender your pride and ego and yes, even your “rights” to your spouse. I pray that you will experience the incredible blessings that come from a surrendered life. Reflecting on our nearly 41 years of marriage, I think that is the biggest change in Carmen’s and my relationship - seeking to live for each other rather than for self. We both seek to live our lives for Christ and love each other sacrificially. Certainly, we are not perfect, but what a blessing to hear my wife tell someone that she “adores” me. I thank the Lord for that blessing and pray that you also will experience the Lord’s abundant blessings in your life and marriage.

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page: [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)*

**Articles to check out:**

*How Surrendering to God Can Strengthen Your Marriage* by Dave and Ann Wilson - [outreachmagazine.com](http://outreachmagazine.com)

*What Surrendering in Your Marriage Means & Why it Builds Trusting Relationships* by Jennifer Long  
[themarriagerestorationproject.com](http://themarriagerestorationproject.com)