



Care

Feel concern or interest; attach importance to something

God *cares* for us - He is concerned and interested in each of us individually and we *are* important to Him. Psalm 8:4, Matthew 6 and the fact that Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd, caring for His sheep all bear this out. We are so important to God, that Jesus came to earth to die for us - each one of us. But, while we are important to the God of the universe, He also expects us to *care* for others. The second commandment of Matthew 22, is to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus says it is as important as the first commandment to love God and everything else hangs on those two. We are told in Galatians 6:2 that carrying one another's burdens is fulfilling the *law of Christ*. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan to drive home what it means to care for others - it is a matter of extending ourselves and giving of ourselves to care for someone else.

This care; the feeling concern or interest for someone else, to attach importance to another person should especially be seen in the marriage relationship. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 7:33-34 that husbands and wives must be concerned about the things of the world - how to please their spouse. This is caring for our spouse! Too many people today care only about themselves, their needs, their desires, and don't *care* for their spouse. Friends, this should not be so! Husbands are told, in Ephesians Chapter 5 to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her. This is a sacrificial, giving absolutely *everything* for our wives. But wives, this doesn't let you off the hook; remember Galatians 6:2 and the story of the Good Samaritan; you also are to give selflessly and totally!

We need to stop looking at the other person and what they are doing or not doing and *care* for our spouse! We must attach more importance to our spouse and his or her needs than to ourselves. Yes, we must address sinful and wrong behavior and yes, we must set healthy boundaries; but even then are we doing that out of care and love for our spouse or are we doing it in a mean-spirited way? Care for your spouse - be concerned and interested in him or her; attach importance to them. I believe you will see a difference in your marriage; it may take a while, but virtually everyone will respond positively to genuine care.

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

Book to check out:

The Proper Care and Feeding of Marriage by Laura Schlessinger

Articles to check out:

How taking care of your marriage is the best thing for your kids by Dr. Debbie L. Cherry - www.focusonthefamily.ca

20+ Practical Ways to Care for your Spouse by Noelene Curry - www.startmarriageright.com