

Selflessness:

Prioritizing other's needs and well-being



Paul wrote in Philippians 2:3-4 that we should “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” The letter continues that we should have the mindset of Christ; who, being God, humbled Himself and served others. The Christian walk means to prioritize other's needs and well-being before our own. Frankly, we don't see very much of that today. Standing up for our “rights” and one's own needs and well-being seems to take precedence in most marriages; even Christian marriages. It is not the way God designed marriage to be!

How can we be a witness for Christ when we don't act like Him; when we don't die to self and put our spouse before ourselves. Friends, it is something we just must do! I can hear the voices now; ‘but you don't know my spouse.’ ‘You don't know how hard it is.’ ‘I've had such a bad life.’ ‘Nobody has cared for me.’ Blah, blah, blah... Yes, we all have had problems in our lives and guess what, NO ONE has a perfect spouse. Everyone of us must make the choice, each and every day; “Am I going live as Christ?” or “Am I going to live for self?” I have a great marriage, but it is not perfect. I must make this same choice, each day, sometimes, minute by minute!

2Peter 1:3 tells us that we have everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of the One who called us by His only glory and goodness. There really is NO excuse. Are you going to rely on the power that God provides and put your spouse and others before yourself, or are you going live for yourself. 1John 3 take this thought even further, pointing out that if we do not love others (i.e. giving ourselves up for others), *do we really love God?* Quit making excuses and put your spouse's needs and well-being before your own - love him or her as the Lord our God wants you to. Die to self, just as Jesus died to self and went to the cross for you!

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com - The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook is a great resource to help you and your spouse work together.

Articles to check out:

Becoming a Selfless Spouse by Joshua Straub - www.focusonthefamily.com

15 Ways to Be Selfless in a Relationship by Rachael Pace - www.marriage.com