

Wholehearted

Completely and sincerely devoted - committed



What is the greatest commandment? “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.” (Matthew 22:37-38). It is *wholeheartedly* loving God - being *completely and sincerely devoted* to Him. Because of what Jesus Christ has done for us, we are to be completely devoted to Him in trust and obedience. Jesus demonstrated this requirement throughout His ministry; His call of the disciples to leave all that they knew to follow Him, the ‘rich young ruler’ who was too bound to his wealth - there are many instances of Jesus calling people to leave everything they knew to follow Him. It seems that Christians today have lost that *wholeheartedness* - the intentional complete commitment to what they believe in.

This is seen in too many marriages today. People made the vow on their wedding day that they are *completely and sincerely devoted* to their spouse, but when trouble comes or something better comes along, they are too willing to leave the marriage. They leave behind them a trail of wreckage in the lives of too many people as they seek to find their happiness rather than living a committed life to the one they are married to. AND so many do not demonstrate a wholehearted commitment, even if they are not leaving the marriage. They do not do the work or make the changes necessary to build a marriage that will glorify God, honor each other and be a testimony of God’s love. A healthy marriage requires that husband and wife be fully “in” - to be fully committed to each other, not matter what.

Wholeheartedness requires that we daily make the choice to be fully committed to our spouse - to be devoted to him or her, even if they are not doing things right. Yes, poor behavior must be addressed - in love. But the overarching question is; are we fully - completely committed to the marriage? Are we wholeheartedly *in* for life? Wholeheartedness is seen in diligent work, serving with love, overcoming discouragement, and maintaining integrity, all done as an act of serving God whether or not our spouse deserves it. We made vows to love our spouse through all the trials and tribulations that might come our way; is that promise seen in our daily life - do we *seek* to love our spouse as the Lord wants us to love him or her?

Helpful Resources:

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

Article to check out:

5 Keys to a Wholehearted Marriage by Scott Means - heavenmademarriage.com

Book to check out:

The Wholehearted Marriage: Fully Engaging Your Most Important Relationship by Greg Smalley and Shawn Stoecker