Angie's Marriage Column – October 7, 2015 Understanding Priorities and Responsibilities of Marriage

Marriage is a big responsibility and a challenging endeavor. Once you get married, it's not just about you anymore; it is about both of you; it is about taking care of one another's needs the best you can; it is the willingness to take the time to have a healthy marriage. It is the perseverance to hang in there no matter what. The responsibilities of marriage and family are huge.

I talk a lot about responsibilities, roles and duties in marriage because it is very important that couples realize **what their responsibilities are**, and then fulfill them in a proper Christ-like manner. This is where cooperation and consideration come into play for balancing out the efforts of both the husband and wife and helping marriage to run efficiently, balanced and peaceably.

When I was first married I actually thought the marriage was made for me. I'm embarrassed to say it. I was very selfish with my husband, always wanting things "my way" and when not getting "my way" I would threaten to leave or just make idle threats because I was a manipulator. I would manipulate my way into having everything done the way I thought it should be done. Funny thing is, I didn't even realize I was like that.

Thankfully, through a long and soul searching journey with my source, Jesus Christ, (because I am nothing without God) I grew out of *that* selfishness and realized it wasn't about me; it wasn't even about my husband. It was about what we can do together in our marriage <u>for God</u>. I believe strong marriages are meant to be the examples for others in their marriage.

I'm constantly reminding myself that I am NOTHING without Jesus Christ. It's through the power of Christ living in me that I have a strong marriage; it has nothing to do with what I can do personally or what my husband can do personally, except we do have to be willing to do the will of God.

The willingness to follow Gods design for marriage comes directly from our faith and trust in Him and His love that resides within us. We work together, so to speak. If God thought I didn't really care about my marriage, nothing would change for the better...And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Roman 8:28 KJV

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:3-5 KJV)

What Is Gods Will for Our Marriage

The number one thing that God wants from us is that we put our priorities in order. What does that mean? It means for me I had to come out of my selfish, bossy and domineering world I was living in. I had to HUMBLE myself and RECOGNIZE how much I NEEDED inner HEALING. For a long time I thought I had a personal relationship with God through Christ, but I didn't know Him at all. That's why my marriage was so bad; nothing was getting better.

If we aren't REALLY putting God FIRST than whom are we putting first? Did anyone say...ourselves? If you said we are "putting ourselves first" then you are absolutely correct. But we have to step down off the pedestal because that's not where we belong as Christ's people.

God MUST come first and be our foundation for how we live our lives and marriage!

Only Jesus Christ can make us <u>see the light</u> and help us to see that we are living in err. Going to church will not do that for us, in fact church keeps us blinded to the truth because churches don't teach what real, Christ-like behavior is. If they did teach principles for Christ-like living, why are 98 percent of Christian women feminist? That kind of behavior, position and attitude in marriage IS NOT GODS WILL FOR YOU.

Maybe you're like I once was and you don't really know Him either.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. James 3:17

Working towards being a responsible marriage partner is FIRST HUMBLING our lives to our source, which is Jesus Christ and then allowing HIM to go to work in our lives. Only then can we carry on the roles given to us by God. God did not give women role of domineering, bossy, selfish attitude. In fact, just the opposite. Do you need inner healing?

Remember: Marriage belongs to God! If you are positioning yourself in your marriage inappropriately than it comes from the world and not from God.

Dear friends, if you have been working off the feminist foundation for your marriage and you think you are doing God's will then you are being deceived once again by the brick and mortar building called "church". That's not Jesus Christ's ministry!! Why do we think that "going to a church" where mere men are being worshipped instead of Christ is where the answers are"?

James 4:8 KJV- Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, ...

Everyone has a light to shine in their marriage FOR God. Some people may have their light hidden because they are deceived from incorrect information in the world. Read here about how YOU can Shine your Light in Your marriage today!

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2 NIV)

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