

Revive Our Marriages

Psalm 85:6

INTRODUCTION:

A. Illustrations:

1. **Illustration:** A lady came to the preacher's office and said, "I need a little counseling . . . I need to see about getting a divorce."

The preacher asked, "Do you have any grounds?"

She said, "Yes sir, we have about an acre, acre and a quarter out there on the edge of town."

The preacher said, No, no, I mean do you have a grudge?" "No, but we have the prettiest little carport you ever saw."

The he said, "Lady, does the man beat you up?"

She said, "Oh no, I'm up nearly every morning about an hour and a half before he is."

The preacher said, "Then I don't understand why you want a divorce."

She said, "Because there is no way you can carry on an intelligent conversation with the man."

2. **Illustration:** Joe had asked Bob to help him out with the deck after work, so Bob just went straight over to Joe's place. When they got to the door, Joe went straight to his wife, gave her a hug and told her how beautiful she was and how much he had missed her at work. When it was time for supper, he complimented his wife on her cooking, kissed her and told her how much he loved her.

Once they were working on the deck, Bob told Joe that he was surprised that he fussed so much over his wife. Joe said that he'd started this about 6 months ago, it had revived their marriage, and things couldn't be better.

Bob thought he'd give it a go. When he got home, he gave his wife a massive hug, kissed her and told her that he loved her. His wife burst into tears.

Bob was confused and asked why she was crying. She said, "This is the worst day of my life. First, little Billy fell off his bike and twisted his ankle.

Then, the washing machine broke and flooded the basement. And now, you come home drunk!" Bob & his wife needed to revive their marriage!

- B. Marriage is a holy union of one man and one woman in which they commit, with God's help, to build a loving, life-giving, faithful relationship that will last for a lifetime. God has established the married state, in the order of creation and redemption, for spouses to grow in love of one another and for the procreation, nurture, formation, and education of children.

1. **Psalm 85:6** – "Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?"

2. **Psalm 119:37** – “Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, *And revive me in Your way.*”
3. **Psalm 119:40** – “Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.”
4. **Psalm 119:107** – “I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O LORD , according to Your word.”
 - a. “Revive” appears 20 times in the Bible . . . All in the Old Testament.
 - b. “Revive” means:
 1. Intransitive verb: To return to consciousness or life: become active or flourishing again.
 2. Intransitive verb: Top restore from a depressed, inactive, or unused state . . . To renew in the mind or memory.

C. Before talking about “Reviving Our Marriages,” I need to talk about reviving God’s plan for marriage.

1. One man . . . One woman . . . Until one of them dies!
2. Divorce for any cause or no cause.
3. Same sex marriages . . . Gay marriages (Registered partnerships . . . Domestic partnerships . . . Same sex unions, Etc. . . .)
 - a. Regardless of what man calls it, God calls it sin . . . and sin destroys the very thing it attaches itself to.
 - b. Vermont is now the fourth state in which gay marriage is legal, as it joins with Iowa, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Same-sex marriage was briefly legal in California last year, before voters repealed it.
4. Single parenting as a chosen lifestyle . . . A conscious and deliberate choice.

D. God’s Plan for marriage is found in the Bible.

GOD HAS A STANDARD FOR MEASURING MARRIAGE . . . IT IS THE STANDARD THAT PLEASES HIM. The Bible is God’s Mind in Print!

A. FOR ALL MARRIAGES:

1. **Genesis 2:24** – “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
2. **Matthew 19:4-6** - “And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'* and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?*
So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

B. FOR ALL HUSBANDS:

1. **Ephesians 5:25** – “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

2. **Ephesians 5:28** – “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.”
3. **Colossians 3:19** – “Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.”

C. FOR ALL WIVES:

1. **Titus 2:4-5** – “That they [older women] admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,
to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”
2. **Ephesians 5:24** – “Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.”
3. **Colossians 3:18** – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”
4. **1 Peter 3:1-2** – “Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,
when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.”

D. FOR ALL CHILDREN:

1. **Genesis 1:27-28** – “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it . . .’”
2. **Ephesians 6:1** – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”
3. **Colossians 3:20** – “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”
4. **Ephesians 6:4** – “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

E. The marriage that needs to be revived is the marriage that falls below the Biblical standard for marriage, failing to live up to the Biblical statements God intended each marriage to subscribe to.

WARNING SIGNS THAT A MARRIAGE NEEDS REVIVING

There are warning signs or “symptoms” when your marriage is “under the weather.” Here are some key symptoms:

- A. Feelings of chronic resentment toward your spouse.
- B. A lack of laughter between the two of you.
- C. A lack of meaningful communication.
- D. Desire to spend free time with someone other than your mate.
- E. Too much time spent playing the “blame game.”
- F. Conversations between you are laced with bitterness and sarcasm.
- G. Acting like Strangers

- Do you and your partner spend hours together under the same roof, at social engagements or performing routine errands, yet rarely engage in meaningful conversation?
- Existing in silence is a primary symptom of major marital problems.

H. Too much scrutiny

- Do you feel like your every action is being watched and criticized by your partner?
- Can you do no right in their eyes?
- Too often partners will funnel larger relationship issues into negative criticism of day-to-day tasks.

I. Being left out of the Loop

- Has your major source of information about your partner -- their career, problems and personal achievements -- become mutual friends and overheard phone conversations?
- When you start becoming "the last to know," communication needs to happen.

J. Change in Appearance

- Over time, your comfort level will inevitably end that desire to look "perfect" for every encounter with your partner.
- However, a drastic decline in personal appearance and hygiene by your spouse could be a sign of surrender.

K. Looking for Distractions

- If the buzz of your household's television becomes constant, there may be a problem.
- It is common for individuals to overwhelm themselves with distractions (television, books, model-building in the basement) to avoid dealing with a troubled marriage

L. Repeated Arguments

- Do you feel like a Broadway actor giving the same performance eight times a week?
- If your arguments become routine with all the same issues and no resolution, then your marriage is either standing still or dying fast.
- You may need the assistance of a professional counselor to help direct these conversations.

M. Lack of Intimacy.

- A significant decline in physical affection is one of the most recognized symptoms of a failing relationship

HOW TO REVIVE A MARRIAGE

Note: **Marriages rarely fix themselves. Don't walk on eggshells, afraid to bring up sensitive issues. If your relationship is on the rocks and you**

aren't moving toward either a solution or dissolution, then you aren't actively managing the process and need to take a more proactive role help a troubled marriage.

- A. Communicate . . . Communicate . . . Communicate! . . . And then communicate some more!
- B. Do nothing . . . But do it together. Not just time, but quality time, needs to be spend together.
- C. Devotionals:
- Read the together.
 - Pray together.
 - On bended knees, hold hands, and pour out your heart to God.
- D. **Make the marriage your priority, not an afterthought.**
- Set aside regular time to be alone with your partner.
 - If children are in the picture, hunt for a “network” of trusted babysitters.
 - If money is a concern, compare the cost of a night out with that of marital therapy or a divorce attorney!
 - Get the drift? Start doing some of the things that used to bring you joy, and helped you to feel more connected. There are plenty of activities that you can do for free — a long walk, star gazing or window-shopping are all simple pleasures that can bring you closer together.
- E. Accept what you can't change.
- A lot of marital strife is caused by the belief that you cannot be happy in your marriage as long as you live with your partner's bad habits or imperfections.
 - Rather than trying to control what you can't, work around the quirks of your spouse and focus on the positive.
- F. Be attractive inside and out.
- “Married” doesn't have to mean complacent.
 - Take care of your body as a part of your commitment to the relationship.
- G. Be willing to change what is right and in the best interest of your marriage.
- H. You want to save your marriage, because it is a special gift. If so there is one very important thing that you need to know . . . **Commitment** is a very important key in a person's marriage! There are a lot more things that you need to commit to in your marriage. Things we may have never even thought of before.
1. The first and major thing that you need to commit to would be of course **your marriage**. If you're not committed to your marriage how do you think it is going to survive throughout the years?
 2. **Another thing to be committed to is to be free from the past.** Which means that you need to let your spouse's past go, and your spouse needs

to let your past go. If you and your spouse dwell on the past, how are you supposed to make it through the present and to the future?

3. **The last thing that you should commit to in your marriage is change.** It's inevitable everyone changes. No matter how hard we try not to we all change. It's in the human nature. You and your spouse just need to commit to changing.

H. Be patient . . . God isn't through with either one of you yet!

CONCLUSION:

A. Jesus said that the last days would be like the days of Noah: people would be marrying and giving in marriage and yet after all these years of experience, marriage as an institution is under great pressure today. From the days of the great Flood, some **4,354** (2009) years ago, until now, marriage still needs reviving according to God's standards for it.

B. All marriages can use some reviving

1. Troubled marriages need reviving in order to become better marriages.
2. Good marriages need reviving in order to remain strong. **1 Corinthians 10:12** – “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

C. Far too many Christians are physically married but are living spiritually single

1. **What does “spiritually single” mean?** – A “spiritually single” woman is a Christian wife who is “going it alone” either because her husband is a “pre-Christian” (unbeliever) or is a believer who is not living what he believes.
2. A “spiritually single” man is a Christian husband who is “going it alone” either because his wife is a “pre-Christian” (Unbeliever) or is a Christian who is not living what she believes.
3. Either way . . . Both types of these marriages need reviving.

D. Therefore, let us call on congregations everywhere to do their part to strengthen marriage in our nation by providing:

- Prayer and spiritual support for stronger marriage
- Encouragement for people to marry
- Education for young people about the meaning and responsibility of marriage
- Preparation for those engaged to be married
- Help for couples experiencing marital difficulty and disruption
- Positive Influence within society and the culture to uphold the institution of marriage between one man and one woman for one lifetime

By our commitment to marriage as instituted by God, the nature of His Kingdom will be more clearly revealed in our homes, our congregations, and our culture.

E. **Illustration:** Bro. O'Dell Denton. “Just go home and be good to each other.”

F. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**