

MARRIED WELL
WHAT IF I MARRIED THE WRONG PERSON
PSALM 27

INTRODUCTION:

1. Have you had this discussion in your mind lately?
 - A. Why did I choose my spouse? Because I didn't know any better?
 - B. Why does my spouse feel like the wrong person? Because he or she IS the wrong person?
 - C. Am I the wrong person in my marriage? Yes, of course. The fact that we don't get along proves that we're each the wrong one for each other, so why not end it?
 - D. What did I expect? A whole lot more than I got.
2. One day you convince yourself that you have made a terrible mistake and married the wrong person.
3. Karen
4. Doubt begins with fleeting thoughts.
 - A. "I wonder what my life would have been like if I had married so and so?"
5. Good feelings are replaced by more and more bad feelings.
6. Dr. Richard Matteson writes, "As doubt grows, so does the evidence that you made the wrong choice of a mate: Your spouse has unchangeable character flaws. Someone else makes you feel better than he or she does. You can't stop fighting. Your values are incompatible. You have different views about child-rearing. You're ill-suited sexually. There's no more passion. Your family backgrounds are too disparate.

You're at different places spiritually. Your careers are pulling you apart. There's no more respect or trust between you. You can't communicate. You're always angry. You're bored. You're numb."

7. Doubt turns to panic. "Do I have to live with this the rest of my life because I married the wrong person?"
8. Your situation may not be this bad, but perhaps you're asking the question, "What if I married the wrong person?" What will you do?
9. You have three options:
 - A. You can get a divorce.
 - B. You can stay married despite the pain while it gets worse.
 - C. Or, you can create a new marriage with the same person.
10. "But Pastor, you don't know how bad it is!"
11. III. "Little Rascal" movie. Alfafa and Darla. "This ring is a symbol of my undying affliction for you!"
12. You may feel "afflicted today."
13. Let's look at these three options:
 - A. You can get a divorce.
 1. Christians as well as non-Christians feel this is the best option.
 2. Their reasoning sounds like this, "God doesn't expect me to live with my wrong choice for the rest of my life. Divorce, tragic as it is, must be the lesser of two evils. My spouse and I will both be better off if we're free to find more compatible partners. Surely our children will

be better off if they don't have to live with battling parents.”

3. The result of most divorces is mental, emotional and financial devastation for the parents and especially the children.
4. The odds that your second marriage will work are against you. It is possible but less likely.
5. The scars accumulated in a failed marriage are so deep and painful they make the second marriage more difficult.
6. Divorce also erodes trust.
7. I also heightens sensitivity to what might otherwise be minor issues.
8. The fact is, there are more issues in second marriages, not less.

B. Second Option: You can stay married despite the pain while it gets worse.

1. For many, divorce still carries a heavy stigma.
2. Some people would rather experience the loneliness of an empty marriage than face the stigma of being divorce.
3. Some will stay together for the kid's sake.
4. Many resort to marital martyrdom which is a desperate and lonely way to live.
5. Tensions, however, will continue to escalate.

C. The third choice is that you can create a new marriage with the same person.

1. Your marriage can be transformed.

2. How?

3. Psalm 27

I. LET GOD REMOVE YOUR FEAR OF HOPELESSNESS

A. v.1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom should I fear."

B. The darkness of your marriage is not to be feared.

C. God can bring light to your marriage.

D. He can save your marriage.

II. LET GOD BE YOUR STRONGHOLD, NOT SATAN

A. v.2-3

B. Your enemy is not your mate.

C. You didn't marry the wrong person, and you are attacking the wrong person.

D. Satan's strongholds vs. God's strongholds.

III. LET GOD BE YOUR REFUGE

A. v.5, "For He will conceal me in His shelter in the day of adversity, He will hide me under the cover of His tent."

B. Your struggle may be exhausting.

C. Your courage may be weak.

- D. You may feel alone, unloved.
- E. Know that God is with you and will protect you.
- F. Who or what is your refuge.

IV. WORSHIP GOD WITH YOUR FAMILY EVERY SUNDAY IN GOD'S HOUSE

- A. v.6, "I will offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy, I will sing and make music to the Lord."

V. TURN YOUR HEART TO GOD AND AWAY FROM YOUR MATE

- A. v.4, 7-8, "gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking Him. Lord, I will seek Your face."
- B. Your focus is on the problem rather than the problem solver.
- C. Stay fixed on what is important. V. 4, "I have asked one thing from the Lord." Pursue God's perfect will.
- D. Why turn to God? v.1
 - 1. Light – wisdom.
 - 2. Salvation. Salvation finds us in the dark but doesn't leave us there.
 - 3. Strength.

VI. REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE PAST

- A. v.9, "You have been my help."

VII. LEARN FROM GOD

- A. v.11, "Because of my adversaries, show my Your way, Lord."

B. God is using this person in your life to teach you something.

C. Not why but what!

D. How does God teach us His ways about marriage?

1. Prayer
2. Scripture
3. Godly, Biblical counsel
4. Seminars
5. Read
6. Mentoring

VIII. MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN YOUR MARRIAGE

A. v.11, "Lead me on a level path."

B. There is a straight path, a right path, for your marriage.

C. You can read and study until Jesus returns, but change produces change!

D. Notice "lead me." You have to be willing to change what you have created.

E. When you change, your marriage will change.

IX. BE CONFIDENT OF THE FUTURE

A. v.13, "I am certain that I will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living."

B. You are holding on to the past, but God holds on to your future.

- C. As you follow Him, there will be peace (you did the right thing), and there will be growth.
- D. It will get better, if the commitment is secure, even though you can't envision that right now.
- E. We must believe to see, not see to believe.
- F. Our faith in God, in Him who holds our future, make that possible.

X. BE PATIENT

- A. v.14, "Wait for the Lord; be courageous and let your heart be strong. Wait for the Lord."
- B. Wait with prayer, humility, service and expectancy.
- C. Get out of the way and let God do His work.

CONCLUSION:

1. Why go through so much pain and effort to redeem your marriage to someone who feels like the wrong person?
2. Because is at stake in your relationship, even if you made an unwise choice of a mate.
3. Once you're married, the question is not, "Did I marry the wrong person?" but "What can I do to change my marriage."
4. It's worth it to do the work of trying to recreating your marriage because the consequences of not trying are so serious for you, for your spouse, for your children, for our culture, for the Kingdom of God.
5. God values covenant relationships so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us who have rejected a relationship with Him.

6. He wants to redeem you and your world.
7. And, He can redeem your marriage!
8. Notice: v.1 does not say He gives us light and salvation but that He IS our light and salvation.
9. Ill. During a worship service in a small country church, the preacher was preaching when all of a sudden the lights went out. Total darkness. Someone in the back said, "Keep on preaching preacher, we can see Jesus in the dark."
10. Well, the day may come when you've got to see Jesus in the dark. If he's in your heart and you love Him and serve Him, I'll make you a promise. When it gets dark, you will be able to see Jesus.
11. Jesus Christ is your light and salvation!