

# **THE MODERN RADICAL MARRIAGE**

## **Respect**

### **SERIES PART 2**

**February 7th 2015**

**By Dr. Mark Aitkenhead**

"Scripture quotations taken from the Amplified Bible."

[www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org).

"Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group."

- Ed Traut May 19th.
- Valentines dinner/ renewal of vows (Outreach), and open house for Jungle Town.
- Names on the wall.
- 

Open in Prayer

### **Esther 1:1-22**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

It was in the days of Ahasuerus [Xerxes], the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces.

<sup>2</sup> In those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne which was in Shushan *or* Susa [the capital of the Persian Empire] in the palace *or* castle,

<sup>3</sup> In the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his princes and his courtiers. The chief officers of the Persian

and Median army and the nobles and governors of the provinces were there before him

<sup>4</sup> While he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor and excellence of his majesty for many days, even 180 days.

<sup>5</sup> And when these days were completed, the king made a feast for all the people present in Shushan the capital, both great and small, a seven-day feast in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

<sup>6</sup> There were hangings of fine white cloth, of green and of blue [cotton], fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings *or* rods and marble pillars. The couches of gold and silver rested on a [mosaic] pavement of porphyry, white marble, mother-of-pearl, and [precious] colored stones.

<sup>7</sup> Drinks were served in different kinds of golden goblets, and there was royal wine in abundance, according to the liberality of the king.

<sup>8</sup> And drinking was according to the law; no one was compelled to drink, for the king had directed all the officials of his palace to serve only as each guest desired.

<sup>9</sup> Also Queen Vashti gave a banquet for the women in the royal house which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the king's heart was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who ministered to King Ahasuerus as attendants,

<sup>11</sup> To bring Queen Vashti before the king, with her royal crown, to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was fair to behold.

<sup>12</sup> But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs. Therefore the king was enraged, and his anger burned within him.

<sup>13</sup> Then the king spoke to the wise men who knew the times—for this was the king's procedure toward all who were familiar with law and judgment—

<sup>14</sup> Those next to him being Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media who were in the king's presence and held first place in the kingdom.

<sup>15</sup> [He said] According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti because she has not done the bidding of King Ahasuerus conveyed by the eunuchs?

<sup>16</sup> And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen has not only done wrong to the king but also to all the princes and to all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

<sup>17</sup> For this deed of the queen will become known to all women, making their husbands contemptible in their eyes, since they will say, King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she did not come.

<sup>18</sup> This very day the ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will be telling it to all the king's princes. So contempt and wrath in plenty will arise.

<sup>19</sup> If it pleases the king, let a royal command go forth from him and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and Medes, so that it may not be changed, that Vashti is to [be divorced and] come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

<sup>20</sup> So when the king's decree is made and proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, extensive as it is, all wives will give honor to their husbands, high and low.

<sup>21</sup> This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did what Memucan proposed.

<sup>22</sup> He sent letters to all the royal provinces, to each in its own script and to every people in their own language, saying that every man should rule in his own house and speak there in the language of his own people. [If he had foreign wives, let them learn his language.]

## **Today, we are going to look at the radical modern Marriage and Specifically, RESPECT in the marriage**

### **Respect: What do we mean by mutual respect?**

Mutual respect is a very simple concept. It means that you treat your spouse or partner in a thoughtful and courteous way. It means that you avoid treating each other in rude and disrespectful ways, e.g.,

you do not engage in name calling,

and do not insult spouse or partner,

demean your spouse or partner.

It also means that you do not talk sarcastically to, or ignore or avoid your partner.

Finally, mutual respect means that you view the opinions, wishes and values of your partner as worthy of serious consideration. While this sounds very simple it takes a consistent effort to treat your spouse or partner respectfully. Respect is not just the absence negative behavior, but the presence of positive behaviors. Specifically, if you are treating your spouse or partner respectfully you are doing things such as: considering his//her opinion; consulting with your partner before making decisions that affect your partner; taking an active interest in your spouse's or partner's life (work, daily activities and interests); compromising and negotiating with your partner about important issues that affect both of you and your family. While this list is far from exhaustive it captures the essence of a respectful marriage or relationship.

### **Broken tooth brush Story!**

without love:

Women react

Without respect:

Men react

### **Joke:**

There were these three guys talking. Two of them are talking about the amount of control they have over their wives, while the third guy remains quiet. After a while

one of the first two turns to the third and says, "Well, what about you, what sort of control do you have over your wife?"

The third fellow puffs out his chest and says, "Well, I'll tell you. Just the other night my wife came to me crawling on her hands and knees."

The first two guys were amazed! Their eyes are wide and they have a newfound respect for this guy. "Wow! What happened then?" they asked.

The third fellow sighed and uttered, "She said, 'Get out from under that bed and fight like a man!'"

I have 10 pointers for us to consider as we each work on our relationships.

- 1. Listen harder.** We already know that proactive listening should be your first social skill. We know this because we love when people listen to us, so we find it safe to assume that other people love when we listen to them.
- 2. Be considerate.** Once you've listened, it's time to act accordingly. If there was anything about the person's tone of voice or body language that gave a hint as to how they were feeling, use that information in your interaction.
- 3. Keep your promise.** By keeping your word to someone, you not only establish yourself as a person of integrity, but make the other person feel as though you value them.

- 4. Be on time.** Another way to demonstrate that you value someone, is by treating their time as though it is valuable. Nothing says this better than being punctual. If you have a problem with being chronically late, fix it!
- 5. Have manners.** This is pretty simple. Do not interrupt a conversation, be polite and watch your 'please' and 'thank you's'. By showing manners towards someone, you make them feel valuable.
- 6. Encourage.** Sometimes when we hear a silly idea, it's easy to shoot down someone's hopes and dreams, or otherwise make them feel unimportant. Genuinely encouraging someone could be very empowering and liberating.
- 7. Be fair.** We often find ourselves in a position of power over someone else; to some extent. Having power enables the opportunity to be corrupt. Avoid corruption, give people what they earn-deserve, and they'll appreciate it.
- 8. Go out of your way.** You don't have to always do the bare minimum. If you want to show someone that they're valuable, and that you respect them, go the extra mile without expecting a reward.
- 9. Preserve dignity.** When wronged, mistreated, or otherwise upset in some way handle the dispute with finesse. This means approaching the person in such a way as to preserve their dignity. The best way to handle it is via a calm and private conversation, as opposed to a public screaming match.
- 10. Do Not Assume.** They say when you ASSUME, you make an **ASS**- out of **-U-** and **-ME**. So don't assume anything about a person based on their race, income level, or gender. Start off each interaction by thinking of the other person as your equal.

## **A woman who was married for 13 years gave this advise.**

Respect and consideration is for sure key to a happy union. My husband and I have been together 13 years and are still very much in love.

I know how unusual that is, but when I think of the guys I dated before him, they were not thoughtful or considerate and I wasn't happy with them.

My husband is never late, and I know that if he says he's going to do something, he does. I trust him and feel safe and secure with him. And when he talks behind my back, it's him bragging about what a good cook I am or how I've single-handedly made him successful. And I also talk good about him behind his back and bring him coffee in bed most mornings, because it's important to him. It makes him feel loved.

It's a mutual respect that keeps a relationship humming along nicely. And it's putting forth the effort - because it is an effort to do things you might not feel like doing, but you do it for your partner.

### **Proverbs 23:7**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

<sup>7</sup> For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. As one who reckons, he says to you, eat and drink, yet his heart is not with you [but is grudging the cost].

### **Philippians 2:2-8**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

<sup>2</sup> Fill up *and* complete my joy by living in harmony *and* being of the same mind *and* one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind *and* intention.

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit *and* empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than *and* superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves].

<sup>4</sup> Let each of you esteem *and* look upon *and* be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Let this same attitude *and* purpose *and* [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]

<sup>6</sup> Who, although being essentially one with God *and* in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped *or* retained,

<sup>7</sup> But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men *and* was born a human being.

<sup>8</sup> And after He had appeared in human form, He abased *and* humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!

## **Romans 8:5-11**

Message Bible (Mess)

<sup>5-8</sup> Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

<sup>9-11</sup> But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

## **1 Corinthians 11:3**

Message (MSG)

<sup>3-9</sup> In a marriage relationship, there is authority from Christ to husband, and from husband to wife. The

authority of Christ is the authority of God. Any man who speaks with God or about God in a way that shows a lack of respect for the authority of Christ, dishonors Christ. In the same way, a wife who speaks with God in a way that shows a lack of respect for the authority of her husband, dishonors her husband. Worse, she dishonors herself—an ugly sight, like a woman with her head shaved. This is basically the origin of these customs we have of women wearing head coverings in worship, while men take their hats off. By these symbolic acts, men and women, who far too often butt heads with each other, submit their “heads” to the Head: God.

### **Joke:**

A man went to the doctor because he was concerned about his lessening level of energy. He told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do.

When the examination was complete, he said, "Now, Doc, I can take it. Tell me in plain English what is wrong with me."

"Well, in plain English," the doctor replied, "you're just lazy."

"Okay," said the man. "Now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife."

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office. After the check-up, the doctor took the wife aside and said, "If you don't do the following, your husband will surely die."

1. "Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast and send him off to work in a good mood."
2. "At lunch time, make him a warm, nutritious meal and put him in a good frame of mind before he goes back to work."
3. "For dinner, fix an especially nice meal and don't burden him with household chores."
4. "Satisfy his every whim."

On the way home, the husband asked his wife what the doctor had said.

She replied "You're going to die."

There is something intriguing about royalty – and a royal marriage. It's as if something within all of us longs to be royal. Did you know that God says we are royalty? "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

God has put in the heart of every little girl to be a princess. She dresses up, talks about it, even dreams about it. As a woman, she wants to be first in the heart of her prince. She wants to be loved and treasured like a princess.

A little boy wants to be the hero, defending the fort and saving others from danger. As a man, he wants to be the prince, the hero that his princess admires and respects. He is designed by God to be a man of honor, one who is responsible to provide and care for his princess.

The wedding ceremony is a great picture of the prince and the princess dynamic – the love and respect is evident, and it is beautiful. But what often happens in that first year is that he isn't as loving as she expected or needed him to be. And she often stops treating her prince with the respect that he needs. She needs to be loved, to be his princess; he needs to be respected, to be her prince. When this dynamic breaks down, the relationship gets crazy.

In the book, *The Language of Love and Respect*, It talks about the concept of wanting to be treated as a prince and a princess. "The man with basic goodwill wants to serve his wife, and he would even die for her. When his wife shows him unconditional respect, in most cases he will feel like a prince and be motivated to show her the kind of unconditional love she desires. She is a princess who is loved."

In a safe and secure kingdom (even when that kingdom is a home), its people thrive. Effective kingdom leaders demonstrate benevolent goodwill to the people. In marriage, the importance of goodwill is just as important.

One key to making your relationship safe and secure is to demonstrate benevolent goodwill toward your mate – to believe he or she has good intentions, to expect the best of the other person. Even when your mate messes up, you can choose to believe in the goodwill of your spouse.

Unfortunately, what often happens when you feel unloved or disrespected is that you start predicting and judging the other person's motives. Research shows that successful couples don't make condemning judgments

about the other; they choose to trust their mate's intentions.

## Royal differences

Though the differences between men and women are part of the relationship challenge, God intended it to be this way. Women and men simply have different filters through which they experience life. She sees through pink sunglasses, hears with pink hearing aids and speaks through a pink megaphone. He sees through blue sunglasses, hears with blue hearing aids and speaks through a blue megaphone.

Yet, when blue blends with pink, it becomes purple, God's color – the color of royalty. He made us male and female to reflect His image, and as we love and respect each other, we create that purple, blending together as one to reflect the very image of God. When we understand this, we can begin to value our prince and our princess as God does, and we can trust that this is a truly magnificent design.

Even as allies you'll have moments of conflict. But whether it's a disagreement over Child raising or taking out the trash, each of you can rehearse what you know to be true: He's a good-willed man; she's seeing the situation through princess-pink glasses. He's not wrong; she's just different. We are friends; we are allies. Then, by going to God during conflict, we can discern His answer, what His royal purple, is. When we do this, we find the heart of God.

Seeing each other as God sees us, as His prince and princess, will cause us to treat each other differently. God has an unconditional commitment to loving us, and so should we. That's part of maintaining a peace-filled, good-willed kingdom – and a royal marriage.

**Quote by Franz Schubert:**

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.

Happy is the man who finds a true friend, and far happier is he who finds that true friend in his wife.

**An extraordinary marriage is not one without conflict. It is one where honesty, respect, and forgiveness set the tone for resolution.**