

Sunday, May 7, 2017

"Embracing the Other" Part 2

THE MEANING
OF MARRIAGE

Embracing the Other Review

"Marriage is a full embrace of the other sex. We accept and yet struggle with the gendered 'otherness' of our spouse, and in the process, we grow and flourish in ways otherwise impossible."

The Cross and the Other

"...the sin in our heart tends to respond by assigning moral significance to what is simply a deep temperamental difference. Men see women's need for 'interdependence' as sheer *dependence*, and women see men's need for independence as pure ego."

"Christ embraced the ultimate 'Other' – sinful humanity. He didn't exclude us by simply consigning us to judgment. He embraced us by dying on the cross for our sins."

"The easiest thing is to leave. But Jesus did not do that. He embraced and loved us, the Other, and brought us into a new unity with himself"

"In Christ we have a profound security. We know who we are in him, and that frees us from the natural human impulse to despise anyone who is significantly different from us."

Embracing the Other at Home

"...how does this idea work itself out in the actual life of a marriage?"

"First, you have to find a very safe place to practice headship and submission."

"Second... While the principle is clear—that the husband is to be the servant-leader and have ultimate responsibility and authority in the family—the Bible gives almost no details about how that is expressed in concreted behavior."

See page journal page 3 and 4 for the Embracing the Other at Home Devotion



Embracing the Other Increases Wisdom

"...marriage is for both the overly gender-typed and the under gender-typed. It broadens us and deepens us."

"And what do you think [gender] stereotypes are? They are unbalanced and unredeemed masculinity and femininity. But husband and wife are there to complete each other. It's a great mystery, as St. Paul says, but at some deep level, this person who is so Other is healing me, and I him."

"When you see marriage as completion, submission finds its place."

Gender Roles: Fishbowl Game

THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

What about a Marriage in Which One Party Doesn't Get It?

"Since every mention of gender roles in the Bible is tied to the creation story, it is not that easy to just lightly dispense with them. Further, if our assigned roles are rooted in the nature of the relationships within the Trinity, tampering with the revelation of that mystery that God intends within marriage is surely not our prerogative."

"Since both the headship role of a husband and the submission role of a wife are *servant* roles, one can always begin to serve without waiting for permission."



Embracing the Other at Home: Gender Roles

At Home Devotion

THE MEANING
OF MARRIAGE

Keller tells married couples they need to find a very safe place to practice headship and submission. We would like you to take time to begin this conversation with your spouse this week as you work through this devotion guide in your "safe place:" your home.

Share with your spouse: What have you admired about your grandparents, parents or other older couple's marriage?

Take a few minutes to journal, write your thoughts down: What does it mean to practice submission within a marriage? What does it mean to practice headship within a marriage?

Share your thoughts with your spouse.

"While the principle is clear—that the husband is to be the servant-leader and have ultimate responsibility and authority in the family—the Bible gives almost no details about how that is expressed in concremented behavior."

Every individual has a different experience in their role as a husband or wife. Are there any areas in your marriage where you feel your role comes naturally to you? Are there any ways you feel you operate counter to the typical expectations of your role?

"The basic roles—of leader and helper—are binding, but every couple must work out how that will be expressed within their marriage. The very process of making these decisions is a key part of what it is to think out and honor your gender differences."

Bible Study — Read 1 Peter 3:1-4

1. When appreciating or striving for beauty, on which do you most often focus?
2. What does a marriage built on voluntary submission and consideration look like?



Bible Study

THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

3. Is Peter advocating that spouses stay in cruel situations or that wives never say no?

4. What does this Bible verse say about the role of women or wives, men or husbands?

Read Titus 2:1-8

1. What is Paul implying about the importance of mentors (trusted guides or models)?
2. What one quality in each of the groups mentioned do you feel is most important for Christians in our society? (Look at older men, older women, young women, young men, and employees)
3. Which group do you fall into? What group catches your attention? Why?
4. How much have you focused on self-control and doing what is good in your own relationship? How can you improve?
5. What do these Bible verses say about the role of women or wives, men or husbands?

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-5

The following verses address requirements for pastoral ministry. Pastors then set this example for others. Think of these verses as very strong recommendations to you as Christian's!

1. Why is this list of leadership qualifications focused on the outward as well as the inward?
2. Although applied specifically to leaders here, why are these qualities important for all Christians?
3. What do these Bible verses say about the role of women or wives, men or husbands?
4. Of these qualities, what are two or three you have made progress with in the past year? In which area do you want to grow now? How can your spouse help you?

