

Praying with your Spouse

A prayer guide - judgement

INTRODUCTION

In November we hosted the Sacred Marriage Conference and many of us made this commitment at the end of the conference:

"From this day forward, we're committed to fighting for our marriage. We promise to seek God for the wisdom, strength, and tenacity needed to create and sustain a sacred marriage with one and another. Whatever it takes, we're all in. We will remember that marriage wasn't created to make us happy, it was created to make us holy."

With this commitment, hundreds of us pinpointed one barrier that is keeping us from having a Christ centered marriage; these barriers have been prayed over ever since.

During the Revival Series we want to provide ways you, as couples, can be praying over these barriers, too.

We are providing couples with prayer prompts for each of the top nine barriers that were identified. We have offered ideas for how the issue may be impacting your home or a friend's home; a Scripture that speaks about this topic, a suggested action item and a prayer. Please use this time to pray, as husband and wife, over your marriage and the marriages of all those around us. Let us start a revival in our homes...a revival in our marriages...a revival in our families.

Each topic includes:

- Topic introduction.
- A passage that speaks about this topic.
- A practice or idea that may benefit your marriage.
- A prayer regarding the topic.

Judgement

“Judging is often misunderstood as being judgmental, but these are not and should not be synonymous. Judging requires discernment and even wisdom. Being judgmental is often associated with self-righteousness, and almost always has a negative connotation.” (Numa Gomez, *With the Right Intentions*). It’s not so much that judging is wrong or even ungodly; it’s the heart with which we are making those judgments. As wives and husbands we hold one another accountable, but it must be done in love. Whose standards are we holding one another up to; ours or God’s? Are judgments stemming from unmet expectations or from a place of insecurity within us?

Matthew 7:1-5 states “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

God calls us to take a real and honest look at ourselves and be open to changing ourselves. When we can take an open and transparent look at ourselves, it changes our ability to look at our spouses with love and humility. Words spoken in love and humility are more likely to be heard and understood. We also need to remember that the Holy Spirit is the only One who can bring about real and lasting change in us. We cannot be one another’s Holy Spirit. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in one another, but we must leave the work and the timing for change in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Lord Jesus, we know that you created each of us to be your beloved and that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made. You’ve given each of us unique talents and abilities to serve the world for Your kingdom and glory. Lord, give us eyes to see the beauty and wonder in one another, to appreciate our differences and to respect one another in love. Grant us wisdom to know when to speak up and when to just pray. Help us to love without expectation or judgment; to love from a heart of unconditional love and acceptance. And Lord, give us humble hearts and open eyes to allow Your Holy Spirit to change us as we need to be changed and may we find joy in the journey as You mold us to be more and more like You. In Jesus Name, Amen.