Why Marriages Fail

Ken Chapman · Ephesians 5:22–33

INTRODUCTION

- Certainly high on the list of failure of a failed marriage would be a marriage that ends in divorce.
- We just trot along, endure one another, despise one another until death blissfully lets us part.
- If we have failed our children who are the result of that marriage, we would have to say that marriage on some level is a failure.

1 No True Commitment

Matthew 19:3–6

- One reason for failure is no true commitment in this marriage relationship.
- So then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.
- We do not exist daily in our marriage relationships with the true commitment that this is for life. Divorce is not an option.
- It would change how we view it, how we treat it, and how we take care of it. Because we would recognize the value of this lifelong commitment we're making.
- If I recognize that I can get out of this anytime I want, and all it's going to cost me is $99, then I'm doomed to fail from the start.

2 Selfishness, the Greatest Enemy of Love

Ephesians 5:22–24; Ephesians 5:25–29

- Selfishness is the greatest antidote and enemy to commitment and to love that there is.
- So many times the husbands want to read the wives' section, and the wives want to read the husband's section.
- Wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord.
- That requires a wife to not think of herself, but to think of her husband.
- Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.
- No husband full of self is going to love his wife as Christ loved the church.

3 A Misunderstanding of Love and Respect

Ephesians 5:33

- Another reason for failure in our marriages is just a complete misunderstanding of what God requires in this relationship in regard to love and respect.
- Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself. And let the wife see that she respects her husband.
- Despite what the world might be fostering upon us, men and women are different.

- Live with her in an understanding way. Understand her needs.
- But also maybe because that's not what the man needs. He needs respect.

4 Failing to Include God in the Relationship

Ephesians 5:32

- Marriages fail, undoubtedly, when we fail to include God in the relationship.
- No self-help book, no book on marriage, will move the needle one bit, until God becomes the center and the focus of this relationship.
- It's not in man that walketh to direct his own steps.
- It requires humility of praying to God, of studying his word, and including God every day in the relationship between husbands and wives.
- This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

THE CHALLENGE

Before we begin talking about making our marriages or any relationship in this life what it ought to be, we must think about making our relationship to God what it ought to be. Would you come to Christ in obedience this morning?

MY NOTES