



## The Kind of Marriage Your Kids Need to See

*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14 NIV)*

*A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:39 NIV)*

*When the Lord your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaties with them and show them no mercy. 3 You must not intermarry with them. Do not let your daughters and sons marry their sons and daughters. (Deuteronomy 7:2-3 NLT)*

### **A "Spiritually Synchronized" marriage—what it is**

A spiritually synchronized marriage shares the same faith in the same way.

True spiritual compatibility implies a shared belief; a shared degree of commitment. In other words, a vibrant, Spirit-led, radically committed Christian woman would never settle for a nominal, comfortable, Christian man who does little more than wear a cross shaped lapel pin and mimic churchy jargon.

What if the Christian man realizes that to live for Christ means being totally possessed by Jesus? That's a far cry from someone who views Christianity as a religious preference. What happens when the Spirit leads her to sacrifice time or money or go out on a limb of faith, or change career, or churches, or lifestyle?

What happens when she wants to obey that leading but her less than spiritual spouse says, "Why are you getting fanatical on me? Why make waves? I don't like limbs. I like our live the way it is. No changes." (Hybels 1991, 56-7)

## **A “Spiritually Synchronized” marriage—why this matters**

**God wants us to avoid the tragic mistake of being transfixed on appearances!**

*The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV)*

**God wants us to celebrate a common treasure.**

Do you know what it is like to come home so filled with the experience of corporate worship; with being in the presence of the grace of God that you think you are going to explode—but then you can’t share it with anyone? You hang onto the hope that one day; maybe, your spouse will come to Christ. But he is no puppet on a string and she offers no guarantee. God wants us to avoid the ache of an unshared treasure. (Hybels 1991, 50-51)

**God wants triple-braided relationships.**

*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. (Eccl. 4:12 NLT)*

**Because God wants us to impart common values.**

## **A “Spiritually Synchronized” marriage—how this applies**

**If you are a believer who is unmarried . . . .**

**If you are a believer married to a believer . . . .**

**If you are a believer married to an unbeliever . . . .**

**If you are an unbeliever . . . .**

Our children need to see that *“love covers over a multitude of sins.”* (1 Peter 4:8) *“In a word, live together in the forgiveness of your sins, for without it no human fellowship, least of all marriage, can survive.”* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)