

FFM Newsletter



Family Fortress Ministries

June 2010



Dear Ken,

I hope that you will take time to peruse the "Meism in Marriage" articles as they address what I believe to be the major problem in marriages today. If you would forward this newsletter to other couples, I believe that God can use you as salt and light to help strengthen another family. May the anointing of God be upon you and your family.

It's all about Jesus,
Sam Wood

Missed Meism in Marriage Part 1: [Click Here to Read](#)

MEISM in MARRIAGE Part Two: The Solution

In last months' article "Meism in Marriage Part One" (click link above to read part one if you missed it), I defined meism as the heart condition of an individual who is consumed with self. Hence, I concluded that all marriage conflicts are in essence meism conflicts that often result in divorce! Last week, an article in the Wall Street Journal entitled "Til 40 Years Do Us Part" confirmed that conclusion. In reporting the divorce of Al and Tipper Gore, the article expounds, "The Gores aren't offering explanations, but marital therapists and divorce attorneys say the breakup of long-term marriages is routine these days - for reasons of longevity, economics and cravings for happiness and self expression that were less prevalent in previous generations. People are living longer, and they're less willing to spend their last decades with someone who leaves them unfulfilled."^[1] As I read this article the last three words leap off the page at me. Even the secular mindset recognizes that the problem in marriages today is rooted in self fulfilling desires. However, their recommended resolution to this dilemma does not get to the heart of the problem. The world is obsessed with self fulfillment and is frantically searching for how to obtain it. We are bombarded with secular and even Christian self help books that offer mere psychological band aids for a struggling marriage. Others believe they can only find fulfillment in marriage through changing their marital environment by dumping one spouse for another. Martyn Lloyd Jones aptly concludes;

The terrible, tragic fallacy of the last hundred years has been to think that all man's troubles are due to his environment, and to change the man you have nothing to do but to change his environment. That is a tragic fallacy. It overlooks the fact that it was in Paradise that man fell. It was in a perfect environment that he first went wrong, so to put man in a perfect environment cannot solve his problem. No, no; it is out of the heart that these things arise.^[2]

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Devotional Thought:

FERVENT LOVE

SUGGESTED READING: 1 Peter 4:8

Should a husband and wife rebuke, repent and forgive each other over every little offense that happens in their marriage? If so, much of our time would be spent repairing every little matter that brings conflict! Fortunately, God has made a provision for handling all the minor offenses we commit toward one another. But how do we distinguish between those sins requiring rebuke and the ones which do not? Sins that we commit against each other that do not break fellowship or lead to an unreconciled relationship are to be covered by fervent love!

The word "fervent" means to stretch and refers to an athlete who stretches their muscles or extends them in preparation to win a race. It is this stretched out and extended love that we are commanded "above all" to manifest one to another. God is stating that this fervent love is a prerequisite to the exercise of all Christian virtues. Fervent agape love is to be modeled after the love of God, which is patient, long suffering, keeps no account of wrongs and never fails (1 Cor.13).

[Read More](#)

Father's Day Humor

My father used to tell me, "When Abraham Lincoln was your age, he had a job." "When Abraham Lincoln was your age, he walked 12 miles to get to school." I said, "Dad, when Abraham Lincoln was your age, he was President!"

What's wrong with Kids today? My friend Mort explains: "When we were kids we were very disciplined. My father was very strict, but along came the electric razor and took away the razor strap. Then furnaces took away the woodshed. And along came taxes and the worries of it took away my Dad's hair and with that the hair brush disappeared. And that's why kids today are running wild, the old man has run out of weapons!"

One little boy defined Father's Day like this: Father's Day is just like Mother's Day, only you don't spend as much on a present."

A doting father used to sing his little children to sleep until he overheard the four-year-old tell the three-year-old, "If you pretend that you are asleep, he stops!"

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