



## 2 Corinthians 7:1

A. When it comes to marriage, we tend to focus on the symptoms rather than the real problem. It comes down to this:

**Are you a \_\_\_\_\_-centered spouse or a \_\_\_\_\_-centered spouse?**

B. God demands that we “perfect holiness out of reverence for Him.” That means everything I do (including this special earthly relationship called marriage) is for Him. Here it is:

1. I am not called to love my wife because she is holier than anyone else.
2. I am not called to love my wife because she always makes me happy.
3. I am not called to love my wife because things are always wonderfully romantic.

**I am called to love my wife out of reverence for God. Period. Thus, every decision I make or attitude I reflect must flow from one holy motivation: is this something that honors God?**

### I. Marriage—It’s Harder Than It Looks

A. Have you ever thought that marriage is not about your happiness as much as it is about God’s holiness? Your relationship with God will outlast your relationship with your spouse. That’s why working only on the symptoms won’t work in the long run. There is something much holier that God wants us to learn.

B. Maybe we’re asking too much of our spouse. You and I were created with an eternal itch within the soul. Only God can satisfy that. Only God can fill that ache. And when you finally “get it,” only then will you have a new appreciation for the person with whom you have embarked upon this very special earthly journey called “marriage.”

### II. The Scripture Connection:

Isaiah 62:5—Matt.9:15—Matt.22:1ff—Rev.19:7—Jer.3:8  
Eph.5:22-33

How can you read that and fail to come away without a higher appreciation for the sacredness of marriage?

### III. The Ultimate Question: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

- 2 Cor.5:9—is marriage exempt from that?
- 2 Cor.5:15—is marriage exempt from that?
- 2 Cor.5:18—is marriage exempt from that?

**One more thing you must not forget: you married God’s child!**