

(Applying Ephesians 5:22-33 and Colossians 3:18-19 is an effect of living by...)



- A Vital Verse - Especially For Marriage

“Do not let any from rivalry or conceit, but in honor count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ” (ESV). **Philippians 2:3-4.**

I. Applying This Passage To Marriage:

A. *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit.*

1. The KJV says “...do nothing from selfishness or vanity.”
(A desire to put one’s self forward.) _____

2. How does this occur among spouses? _____

3. How does this manifest itself outside the marriage toward others? _____

4. Selfishness does not sacrifice the other solely for the other’s benefit.
Selfishness also motivates for personal gain or pleasure.

5. Selflessness elevates the spouse’s value, best interests, and preferences.

B. *Let each regard the other as more significant than self.*

1. Praise fuels desire for self-glory. _____
Honor casts the spotlight of importance on the spouse. _____

2. Let your Words praise them. _____
Let your Deeds edify them. _____

C. *Look out for the interests of your spouse.*

1. Make your spouse’s interests and values also important to you.

2. What are some examples? (Relive those “first works.” Rev.2:5c)

3. Giving attention to what your spouse cares about is vital to keeping the marriage healthy, holy, and happy.

II. Explaining The Blessing: (How Does This Aid Marital Harmony?)

A. **Philippians 2:3-4 replaces selfishness with S.**

1. (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:5ff.) _____
2. Think of the wisdom in God's plan for spouses to serve the other. _____

B. **Philippians 2:3-4 provides U.**

1. Efforts to identify and empathize with the spouse demonstrate V _____.
2. This matures relational intimacy. _____

C. **Philippians 2:3-4 grants S.**

1. It's only natural to greatly appreciate and love the one who appreciates and honors your importance. _____
2. An illus. from John Maxwell: ***Developing the Leaders Around You.*** (pp 74-75). _____
3. Do you effectively demonstrate to your spouse what he/she thinks is significant? _____ Commit to discussing with your spouse ways to improve.

D. **Philippians 2:3-4 breeds T and M.**

1. This complements **James 3:13-18**. Notice the phrase "*full of mercy*."
2. When **Philippians 2:3-4** governs your marriage, mercy will be present.

E. **Philippians 2:3-4 stops H.**

1. **James 3:17** _____
2. In what ways have you caught yourself being guilty of this? _____
3. These passages keep the relationship balanced and strong.

F. **Philippians 2:3-4 communicates L clearly.**

1. This reason alone can compel and motivate us to follow God's instruction.
2. Every spouse will have and develop his/her hierarchy of "love languages."
3. Communication and experience will reveal what is important to your spouse.

III. Two Things Not To Do With This Passage:

→Don't use **Philippians 2:3-4** to (1) manipulate or (2) attack/criticize.

Conclusion: THIS PASSAGE IS VITAL FOR MARRIAGE.
IF IN PLACE, ALL OTHERS HOLD TOGETHER.