

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



- A Vital Verse - Especially For Marriage

*“Do n_____ from r_____ or c_____, but i_ h_____ count o_____ m_____ s_____ than yourselves. Let each of you l_____ not only to his own interests, but also t_ t_____ i_____ a_ a_____.” (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 s_____ or v_____.”
(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 s_____ the other solely for the other’s benefit.
Selfishness also m_____ for personal gain or pleasure.
5. Selflessness e_____ the spouse’s value, best interests, and preferences.

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

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

2. Let your W_____ praise them. _____
Let your D_____ 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.