

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

"Re-modeling Your Marriage"

Sunday October 7, 2012

Philippians 2:1-11



I. God's FINGERPRINT on our Lives:

1. Our Desire for ENDURING LOVE.

II. We Have INSUFFICIENT MODELS.

1. The Only Sufficient Model is JESUS CHRIST.

III. RE-MODELING Our Relationships:

1. The BIBLICAL Model for Relationships:

He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27)

- a. Love GOD.
- b. Love OTHERS.

2. Loving Like JESUS:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3)

- a. **Selfish Ambition: Don't be in COMPETITION with spouse.**
- b. **Humility: Treat them as the MOST IMPORTANT person in the room.**

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

- a. **Be proactive at SHOWING INTEREST in things that interest your spouse.**

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped." (Philippians 2:5-6)

- a. **Put away the "TRUMP CARD."**

For Reflection / Action: Do you still believe that people can fall in love, get married and stay in love, or is that just for fairy tales? What insufficient models have you patterned your relationships after? What is the Biblical model for relationships? Why do you think that is? Is it possible to love perfectly, as Jesus does? Why should you bother trying? Do you find yourself competing with your spouse? How would it feel to be the most important person in the room? Can you gift your spouse with that kind of treatment? What interests of your spouse can you more intentionally participate in? What "trump cards" do you bring out for protection and posturing?

Message uses materials by Rod Stafford (Fairfax Community Church). All Scripture, unless otherwise noted, is taken from the "New International Version" (NIV84).