

~ Live the Dream ~

"We are so in love! . . . Marriage is going to be great!!! . . . We have so much in common . . . He adores me . . . We like the same music . . . I can't wait until we have our own house . . . She makes me feel so good. . ."

Sound familiar? We enter into marriage thinking that we will live happily ever after. If marriage is so wonderful, why do so many marriages end in divorce?

It is not long after the wedding when reality sets in... "*Maybe this isn't going to be as easy as I thought. . . . I'm not sure we are compatible . . . Why is he so grouchy in the morning? ? ? ? Why isn't she cleaning up the house? ? ? ?*"

When these questions arise, what motivates us to stick with it... to not give up?

Marriage is a God-given gift. We are to receive our spouses as gifts from God, even at times when we are tempted to want to give them back. The focus of marriage is not whether or not he or she is right for us, but whether we are being 'right' for him or her by making the love of God credible to our spouse through our words and actions. God did not intend for our joy in the relationship to come from what **get** from our spouse. He intended **our joy to come from what we could give** to him or her.

Ephesians 5:25 says... "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*"

Ephesians 5:33 says "...and the wife see that she reverence (give respect to) her husband."

Do you love your spouse as your own self?

Do you receive your spouse as a gift from God?

Do you make him/her feel good about themselves?

Do you accept them as Christ does, instead of having plans to make them conform to your expectations?

Can you tell them honestly what you really want instead of using manipulation or games?

Do your actions show that you really care for them?

Do you give your spouse the kind of love God says that they deserve?

This year's "*Live the Dream*" conference is designed to help us work through all these questions and many more. We will be sharing "how to" tools to practically turn our marriages into the bliss that we've always wanted and what God intended.

This is what God intended for marriage: **Put the glory of Christ on display by pursuing your joy in your spouse.** We can...

Live the Dream!

Pastors Paul & Sheryl Lloyd