

COLLISION

Steering Clear of Collisions in Marriage:
Issues & Solutions

Ephesians 5:31-32; Genesis 2:18-25; 3:6-7; Romans 7:14-25

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When we operate within the parameters of God, we can steer clear of relational collisions.

■ A Plan

Ephesians 5:31-32, “31 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ 32 This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.” (NIV)

Genesis 2:18-25, “18 The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’ 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky.... 20 But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called “woman,” for she was taken out of man.’ 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.” (NIV)

God’s plan is for marriage to be a relationship of oneness...

■ A Problem

Genesis 3:6-7, “6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” (NIV)

...but sin has caused separateness.

When we operate outside the parameters of God and we sin, it causes relational collisions.

My spouse is not my problem. My spouse reveals the problem in me: Sin

Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (NIV)

Psalm 51:5, “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” (NIV)

There are very few marriage issues, but there are many people issues.

My spouse is not my enemy. Sin is.

Romans 7:14-23

Because I am sinful and incomplete, I naturally seek for my spouse to make me complete, but this is impossible because my spouse is not God.

Too many collisions in marriage come from expecting too much from it. There are many needs only God can meet.

■ A Picture

Ephesians 5:31-32, “31 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ 32 This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.” (NIV)

Throughout the Bible, marriage is pictured as a temporary symbol and shadow of an eternal reality: The relationship between Christ and the Church.

Matthew 22:30, “At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.” (NIV)

Marriage is not first about me or my spouse. It is about God.

■ A Provision

Romans 7:24-25, “24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (NIV)

Ephesians 5:18, “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.” (NIV)

I can operate within the parameters of God and steer clear of relational collisions when Jesus Christ is the main Person and Power in my marriage.