

Week#5

When the House Is a Mess - The Solution

As stated in the last post, sometimes we receive the shock of our lives when we move in together following the wedding and discover how slovenly our new spouse has become - seemingly overnight.

So, what is the proper solution?

Jesus showed his love for others by serving them (*Mark 10:45*). This also means that if we are not willingly serving our spouse, our definition of love is not Biblical.

How, then, do we best serve our spouse? Realizing that we cannot change anyone but ourselves, we must examine our own hearts and the way we relate to our spouse. We may need to abandon preconceived notions of our roles and trade them for a servant's heart that simply tries to do what is best at the moment to help one another.

Even so, don't settle for the same old way of doing things. If something is not working, do something different!

In any case, cleaning up the house may have as much to do with cleaning up our attitudes as it does with a mop and a broom. Communicate outside of conflict. Be specific and reasonable. Avoid the trap of doing it all and then harboring resentment.

In conclusion, some of us may have allowed our need for a tidy home to become more important than our spouse's need to be treated lovingly. A clean house brings with it a sense of harmony that is temporary. Tomorrow will come and so will its messes. Serving from a place of humility and choosing to love our spouse and honor God brings a peace and tranquility that lasts.

Next week: When You Are Married to a Backseat Driver - The Problem