

SEEK THE LORD

“More than Looking Good”

A man was asked how many years he had been married. He stopped to think and said, “I’ve been married to Martha for 67 years.” The other person said, “That’s a long time to be married to one person.” He said, “Well, it would have been a lot longer without her.”

The greatest thing about marriage is that we can actually get more out of it than we put into it. Our joys are doubled when we share them with a spouse and our sorrows are cut in half. At least that’s how it seems. When I see a beautiful rainbow, I enjoy it twice as much if my wife, Deb, is with me.

Very soon our third daughter, Katie, will be getting married. I’m so glad to be able to be the Pastor and Dad at all three of our daughters’ weddings. It seems like just the other day that we drove by St. Elizabeth hospital and Katie said she was born in that “hos-bib-ul.”

The Bible reading for Katie and Tyler’s wedding is Colossians 3:12-17. In this passage it suggests that we “put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...” There are nine qualities of character which it recommends we put on. At a wedding the obvious application is about how we try to look beautiful on the outside but it’s far more important to look good on the inside.

Those qualities the Bible holds up for us, compassion, kindness, etc, are the same qualities which result in a good marriage. Any strong marriage or relationship has to be based on good solid character. In this world we put such an emphasis on “looking good” on the outside. I know before a wedding there’s a

whole lot of money and time invested in looking as good as possible. How much effort do we put into looking good on the inside?

Way too much in our society tries to pass as good or great with just glitz and glamour, smoke and mirrors. We can have a great tunnel walk before a football game with all kinds of music and video but when the game starts you better have a solid game plan. You better have coaches and players with good character.

One quality of character I'd like to hold up is compassion. The world hardens us and we lose compassion. God softens hearts so we can be like Christ. Many times we find in the Bible that Jesus had compassion for another person. "As Jesus saw the crowds he was moved with compassion because they were worried and helpless." (Matthew 9:36) "Jesus got out of the boat, and when he saw the large crowd, his heart was filled with compassion for them, and he healed their sick." (Matthew 14:14)

One large Midwestern research and interview firm did research on what were the most important qualities in a good leader. They found that compassion was a key factor in a good leader and boss. If the employees genuinely felt their boss cared about them they enjoyed their work more and took instruction more willingly.

Prayer: Our Lord, remind us of the importance of looking our best on the inside and not just the outside. Amen

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