

FORTIFIED MARRIAGES

Fortifying Marriages to Strengthen Families, Churches and the Community



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MA-MFT

Visit our website

www.fortifiedmarriages.com

to find out more about the ministry and how you can get involved.

The website also has a great deal of marriage resources and links to other marriage organizations available.

Donations are tax-deductible and make the ministry to couples locally and internationally possible.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” ~ Isaiah 9:6

The Peace of Christ in Our Marriage

The God of the Universe, the Creator of all things came to earth and took on the form of man to die for us - to bring peace between mankind and God that we might live in relationship with Him. God’s Word also brings the concept of peace personally into our lives. We are told to let the *peace* of Christ rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15), to live at *peace* with everyone as much as it depends of us (Rom. 12:18), and to make every effort to do what leads to *peace* and mutual edification (Rom. 14:19). Peace can be defined as; the well-being of the whole person; quiet and tranquility; or the absence of enmity, hostility, or anger. We have peace with God because of what Christ did for us, but do we live in peace with our spouses, family, and those around us?

Psalms 119:165 says, “Great peace have they who love Your law, and nothing can make them stumble.” The King James Bible completes the verse with, “nothing shall offend them.” The idea is that those who love God’s law are not stumbled or offended by the people around them. I can tell you as a counselor and someone who lives in today’s culture, there are not a lot of people with *great peace*. Sometimes it seems that people are offended by anything and everything their spouse or the people around them do. Couples and families are arguing and fighting about everything and the slightest offence often sets people off in angry reactions and a barrage of hateful words. Brothers and sisters, this should not be so.

The Peace of Christ *should* rule in our hearts; even if we have to address hurtful or sinful behavior, it should be peacefully and to build the other person up, not to tear him or her down (Eph. 4:29). We do not have to address every little perceived wrong committed against us. We shouldn’t criticize, blame, or attack our spouse or others when there is disagreement. We can respond in love, even if they speak in anger. Proverbs 15:1 says, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Do what you can to be a peace-maker, one who brings peace to the situations you encounter.



*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
~ Francis of Assisi*

Peaceful Living

It can be a challenge to live a peaceful life in today's world. Wars and rumors of wars, terrorism, political upheaval, disease, hunger, and the busyness of life threaten our peace every day. Stress and anxiety over health, children, grandchildren, finances, and so much more add to the problem. Often husbands, wives or family members react in anger because of the lack of peace in *their* lives. They say something hurtful and that causes the other person to say something hurtful back and then the argument is on! The stress in homes today often is near a boiling point and the slightest provocation lights the fire of a heated argument. Jesus addressed this problem as recorded in John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We only have peace *in Jesus*. It is a matter of living the surrendered life - of walking in the Spirit.

Peace is possible through any situation we experience because we have the Holy Spirit to walk with us through it, but we must remain focused on the Lord, cling to Him, and oak ourselves in His Word and Spirit. It is giving the problems, anxiety, frustration, anger - whatever we are experiencing - to Him daily, sometimes moment by moment. Paul admonishes us to, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*" (Phil. 4:4-9)

Available on our website: *Christmas is About...* An Article to challenge us to remain Christ focused during Christmas.

Action Point: What are you going to do?

Is there peace in your life? What is your home like? Is it peaceful? Is there peace between you and your spouse? Your children? Extended family? Yes, there are times when peace with someone is not possible. There are angry, hateful people in the world, but they do not have to take your peace. They don't have to ruin your day.

True peace is only possible in Christ Jesus. Knowing Him, walking in His Spirit brings peace. You also must direct your mind; rejoicing in the Lord, praying about the problem areas, and thinking about the positive things - the good things. The promise is that then, the God of peace will be with you. May the Lord our God bless you and your family this Christmas season!



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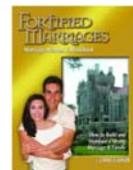
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Resources Available at www.fortifiedmarriages.com

- Go to the *Resources Available* page to find a lot of great resources.
- Boundaries, Communication, and Conflict Resolution resources are available also.
- Click "Manual" to learn about the Fortified Marriages manual and workbook.
- Articles and information are also available to learn more about God's design for marriage.



Chris & Carmen present a variety of seminars and workshops to help couples grow in their marriage and work together as a team. Contact us for more information about sponsoring seminars at your church.

Fortified Marriages Ministry is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization seeking to build strong marriages to withstand the storms that will come. Please consider partnering with us to affect marriages and help couples leave a Godly legacy. Ministry partners may donate to the cause of building strong marriages, become monthly contributors, pray regularly for the ministry, or let others know about the ministry. More information is available at <http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com>.
