

# Christ-centered Marriage vs Christian Marriage

Many people believe that a marriage of two Christians automatically makes it a Christian-centered marriage. In 25 years of counseling we have experienced few Christ-centered marriages. It is sad to say that in the majority of marriages, Christ really is no where to be found. Author Gary Oliver contrasted the two:

## ***Marriage of Two Christians***

Jesus is valued  
Problem focused  
Self-focused  
Conditional love  
Me oriented  
I hear you  
I want to be understood  
I want to be served  
Pray sometimes  
Individual spirituality  
Prayer is 'change my spouse'

## ***Christ-centered Marriage***

Jesus is Lord  
Growth focused  
Other-focused  
Unconditional love  
Us oriented  
I listen to you  
I seek to understand  
I want to serve  
Pray always  
Shared spirituality  
Prayer is 'change me'

Honestly evaluate where Christ is in your marriage. Do you have a Christ-centered marriage? Or is it the marriage of two Christians? It begins with your answer to the question; 'Who is Jesus Christ?' Is He the Lord of your life? Is Christ's lordship evident in the way you treat your spouse and children? Yes, none of us are perfect, but there is a difference in the marriage of two people surrendered to Christ. They are not living for self, but seek to serve each other and others. Make *your* marriage a *Christ-centered* marriage.

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples grow in their marriages.

*The Christ-Centered Marriage* by Neil Anderson & Charles Mylander

*Building a Christ Centered Marriage* by John Stange