

Marriage Shepherding Questions

in light of The Gospel

1. What about your current relationship is causing discord, brokenness, and/or lovelessness?
2. In the discord, brokenness, and/or lovelessness, what is causing you to respond the way that you're responding?
3. Do you believe that your response is pleasing to God? Why / Why not?
4. Do you believe that God loves you? Why / Why not?
5. What is The Gospel? How would you summarize it?
6. When did you first understand the gospel? How did the gospel change you?
7. Are you currently believing the gospel? Explain what that looks like.
8. Are you currently living under the influence of the gospel? Explain.
9. What relational connection does love for your spouse have with Christ's love for you?
10. Do you believe that God is pleased with where you are in your current relationship with your spouse? Why / Why not?
11. How do you think your understanding and belief in the gospel might affect your current situation?
12. Do you acknowledge that your spouse is incapable of fulfilling your deepest desires (i.e. love, respect, acceptance, satisfaction, etc.), and that only God is capable of fulfilling those desires?
13. Do you believe that God is capable of changing your relationship for the good? Why / Why not?
14. Are you willing to walk by faith, and not by sight, that you might move in a direction towards reconciliation in this relationship, and bringing honor and glory to God? Why / Why not?
15. What is one step you can take to make this relationship one that is honoring to God?
16. What are reasons that you might not want to step in a direction towards making this relationship more honoring to God?
17. What do you need from God to give you the motivation that would enable you to step in a direction towards making this relationship more honoring to God?
18. Are you willing to surrender yourself to God, and to His Spirit, and to do what he calls you to do? Why / Why not?
19. Are you willing to surrender this relationship to God, and to honor Him in it by seeking to be the husband / wife God has called you to be?
20. Believing that only God (by the inward working of His Spirit) can change hearts, what might you do to create an "environment of grace" such that the conditions of your heart, mind, body, and soul are inviting and conducive for God's Spirit to be at work in your heart and/or in the heart of your spouse?

What is The Gospel?

5 However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. – Romans 4:5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. – Romans 8:1-4

21 God made him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. - 2 Corinthians 8:9

15 "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles 16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. – Galatians 2:15-16

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through

faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 2:1-10

This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to you who share the same precious faith we have. This faith was given to you because of the justice and fairness of Jesus Christ, our God and Savior. – 2 Peter 1:1

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. – Colossians 2:9-15

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. - Titus 3:3-6

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. – 1 John 4:9-10