



# *WHATS WRONG WITH YOUR MARRIAGE?*

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welcome to the uh Real Marriage podcast uh my name is Mark drisol and with me is Grace Driscoll my best friend since March 12th 1988 and uh we did a marriage retreating conference we did some mainstage sessions and then we did some impromptu uh Q&A before a live audience which was like juggling grenades with a pin pulled thanks for joining us for the Real Marriage podcast 1 two 3 here we go this person's asking so we we when we um were advertising for this and encouraging people to come we were encouraging singles dating married because anybody needs this content but this person's asking they're saying I'm dating we're living together but not having sex is that okay that's just weird [Laughter] it's just really weird I don't know you can answer that's my answer that's weird well there's no pretending to be married so um you either are or you aren't and living together um puts you in the way of a lot of Temptation would you say it's a counterfeit I would say it's a counterfeit yeah yeah um it's playing house um and God wants us to be like-minded and in a covenant when we're married and you're just tempting yourself constantly and the appearance to Outsiders um to other believers if you're both claiming to be Believers um it's not above reproach and so um no I mean the culture accepts it because you know oh financially it's a good thing to do because then you're saving money right um and we're just seeing if it'll work out and I mean there's all kinds of cultural reasons why people do it but it's not it's not a a Godly thing and it doesn't set a good example so how would you feel if I moved in with another woman but I wasn't sleeping with her trust me I mean you can't check but just take my word for it we we're yeah no that wouldn't fly see the the point is when you're dating and when you're married you're still held to the same standard so my point is always if while you're dating you're doing things that you would never do when you were married why are you doing them you know as a single man you should not be living with someone you're not married to and as a married man you should not be living with someone you're not married to it's a lot clearer perspective when you're married than when you're single but it's the same issue just a different vantage point and I always think of it this way you know um a lot of times the Bible says that among God's people there shouldn't even be a hint of sexual immorality in Ephesians if you're living together and we can't see what you're doing there's more than a hint and um and I would say you don't practice for Covenant like I don't here's what I don't do I don't practice for a relationship with Jesus I have one right so good and couples that cohabitate they have higher divorce rates than couples who don't and so the cultural myth is statistically sociologically that it works it doesn't because Covenant is All or nothing and God blesses Covenant he doesn't bless pretend practice Covenant right so good and uh how many of you are dads and this issue looks very differently when you're a single Man versus you're a dad with a daughter if a guy's like I just want to live with your daughter you're like I'm going to do prison ministry from the inside that's what I'm going to do [Applause] uh because anybody any guy who comes along and says I'm not sure I want to live with her so I want a test driver I like that's my daughter not a car right right um and if he's like well I I can't afford it well then you're not ready to be married yeah it's it's not a good headship start either no well the Bible says that you should keep the marriage bed pure I've read the whole Bible I can't find the dating bed and I would say since we're just hammering single guys um you know at the end of the day um if you are living with a girl and you're not married to her you are not bringing her closer to Jesus and if you really want to be a good husband usband the first job is to help her get closer to Jesus and if you're doing anything in your relationship that doesn't help the other person get closer to Jesus then actually you don't have a loving relationship you have you have an abusive relationship wow and so because there's no way that a girl living with her boyfriend every night can have a clear conscience in the sight of God and say you know by by by living with this man I'm not

married to I feel a lot closer to Jesus it doesn't work like that and so Jesus is very jealous in a healthy and good way and ultimately her relationship with him is far more important than her relationship with you and if you're going to hurt that relationship you're actually hurting her wow so good wow uh this person's writing and talking about getting closer to Jesus they're saying what are some practical tips for me and my spouse to begin developing a strong devotional prayer life you want to be honest about our devotional life or you could tell them the truth not I mean not not totally but we're different in every way including how we study and do devotionals um we I tried in the beginning to let's do this book together let's fill in these BLS but that didn't work for him so then I was praying for his heart that he was being ungodly and that didn't work so I just realized we're different in yet another way we need to figure out how to make our differences come together in unity and so he studies I study whatever we're studying um I do a lot of um Bible reading plans on the Bible app or I'll buy um books that I am working through a book of the Bible or I do a lot of Priscilla Shire um stuff and so um basically I do that he does whatever he's studying we also study the section that he's preaching but not all your husbands are pastors um and then we'll come together or we'll go for the walks that we've talked about and and just talk about what we're learning with each other and it could be totally different stuff but somehow God Blends it into practical um things that we can use for our marriage so when you study do you like it loud or quiet very quiet very quiet me loud with country very loud I will put on bro country very loud and I will study the louder the better the louder the better and I I will use so I've got like I don't know 20 25,000 books on my laptop and I will do all kinds of cross references study my study process is a total mess that ends up beautiful I could NE that's why I could never teach anyone how to study or preach I make up half of it as I'm going I verbal process I'm a hot mess minus the hot it's totally unscripted and you like structure orders plans 31 days I'm on day 27 there's 37 blanks I filled in 36 I would kill myself but we're both in the word and we both pray we just do it so differently that what we share is what we're learning not how we got there so we don't we don't have the same process but we share what the Lord is sharing with us and so at the end if you're looking at your spouse going you have to read this book you have to do this or that no they need to walk with the Lord Faithfully you need to walk with the Lord faithfully and then share what you're learning but it doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to do things the same we are we take those tests you know those marriage tests we are the opposite on everything except for Spiritual convictions we're 100% the same and so if it wasn't for Jesus we would do nothing together so good so good this person's writing they're saying I've been divorced and I'm happily remarried does God forgive me for the divorce and will he bless my new marriage that's our God you know even if so this is the weird thing as soon as you talk about the grace of God there's immediately people who talk about well they're going to abuse the grace of God well you know what we're not supposed to abuse the grace of God but we're supposed to use the grace of God because we need the grace of God and as soon as you talk about Grace there are some people who want to abuse use it but you still need to let people use it and you know and at the end of the day I don't know what happened in the first marriage and I'm you know nobody's going to die and give an account to me you know I'm not the judge of the living and the dead um so I don't know the circumstances I don't know the person everybody's story is different and their journey is different I don't know but even if the first divorce was um not godly and Justified you know can God draw straight line with a Crooked Stick yeah can God put Grace on a broken thing and mend it yeah can God bring something to life that was dead yeah and you know some people will be like you can't say that about marriage I I have to say that about everything because I believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and I believe that my God

can take broken and dead things and he can make Beauty and life out of them yeah and and and and if he's not done that in your marriage he'll do that in your business if he's not done that in your business he'll do that with your family I mean every one of us has received that Grace at least one place in our life and so you know it sounds like this person is dealing with condemnation there's now no condemnation in Christ that old things have passed away that all things are made new and I'm not saying that to excuse those who want to sin but I'm saying that is Grace for those who have done things that maybe looking back they would do differently we've all got those we've all got those beautiful that's so good what advice do you have for blended family that are trying to navigate the role of being a step parent I don't think we're any good at this because we we met at 17 that's all we got yeah I mean again Pastor Jimmy has resources on Blended families we know a lot of people who um have walked through this but since we haven't personally we refer people to them um it is hard and and to respect and honor each other um in how you brought the kids up already in your parenting but then be willing to let the other parents step in and be the father or the mother is super important um because if you continue to stay divided in how you raise your kids from your previous relationships um then you'll just you'll end up divided as a couple and so sitting down and kind of trying to figure out um before the Lord through prayer um and if you need help with that from wise counsel um what is our plan for doing that and kind of having um a mission statement for your new family and how you want it how you want it to look what you think God's will is for your new family um and then that way when you have issues come up whether it's with the kids or your marriage you can go back to that mission statement and say I know God gave this to us we need to hold fast to this and and ask the Lord to strengthen us to do this and but I mean that can look different in every family and you face different challenges with different kids and so it just adds that other layer of possibility for the enemy to divide and so I would get all the resources you know books and um wise counsel around you that you can so that when you're fighting those battles you can have that support the verse that comes to mind said there's this crazy verse in Hebrews it says that Jesus was perfected through his suffering and you're like I thought he was perfect he was and it wasn't that he was sinful he was not sinful but what it means is there are certain things that you only learn through experience okay like every premarital couple you talk to them they're like we're going to do this we're going to do that and you just you chuckle you're like you're adorable that's not how this works you've not been there or what I always love is when you have kids and somebody that's never had kids comes up and tells you had a parent that's adorable that's adorable um that there are things that you only learn through experience and like for us we don't have this experience I met Grace at 17 uh we've been together you know what now 33 years I guess that would be if my math is correct and um and at the end of the day we've only been together and so there are things that that people will have knowledge of but they don't have wisdom until they have experience in and so it's finding people because like some of you you've got special needs kids you're like how do you do that you better find somebody that's further down that path because they have been perfected through suffering they have learned things experientially that you can't learn from a book or a class some of you have Blended families you need to find those people some of you are widows you buried the one that you love you need to find somebody who's walked that path and this is where the church family has an opportunity to really be the family of God because our family doesn't even have those experiences that we all need to learn from but the church family does there's enough people there with enough life and experience good and bad positive and negative that they can walk that path with us and help us be perfected through our suffering and so the big myth is that because we're up here we're the

most helpful people we're not the most helpful people are out there and it's just looking for those people wow so good so good well Mark and Grace thank you so much can we give them a hand one more time I did I did because we have just one more minute I did want to ask you guys what is your like favorite date night together like if you had to say this is it this is the best date what would it be we have no idea I don't know why we're doing this event I don't feel I don't feel qualified on the awesome date night the how to resolve a conflict like most of the questions here's what I'd say I don't know um what what would you want to do for date night I mean honestly it's who you're with not you're doing what you're doing and so we just like hanging out um whatever it is um sometimes it's a movie but not usually because that's not like a conversational date getting to know each other but we like going for walks we like traveling together um we like you know going to a park we like going down to the beach we I mean there's a lot of things just as long as we're together and talking and and getting updates on how we're doing and and just hanging out having fun we really it really honestly doesn't matter we've done pretty much everything for 33 years so our first date was pretty awesome which we spent like 3 hours together in the downtown area of where we lived and just had fun I mean it was it was crazy but it was just fun walking around and getting to know each other so as long as we're getting to know each other and my favorite thing I'll be honest it's holding Grace's hand I like to hold her hand and go for walks and my favorite thing is to hold her hand and worship in church and my view is it's a lot of people like I can't wait to go to heaven I don't think Heaven is just a place I think it's a person and I think if you're with the right person almost anywhere can be kind of heavenly yeah cuz if I went to heaven and Jesus wasn't there it wouldn't be Heaven uh but if I go to Detroit and Jesus is there there's a shot it feels like heaven and so for me honestly home is wherever Grace is yeah and um rest is wherever Grace is and as long as I get to hold her hand and she's around that Ministry of presence is really the best for me so going for a walk and just worshiping holding hands driving in the car holding hands I mean to me this is this is everything it means we're together and that's all that really truly matters to me to be honest with you yeah we hope you enjoyed today's episode of The Real Marriage podcast subscribe to this podcast wherever you listen if you enjoy this podcast leave us a fester review We love to hear how this podcast encourages and helps you