

Lesson One – Discussion Question # 4:

A marriage in which both the husband's life and the wife's life are characterized by the works of the flesh, as described in Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV), would likely be fraught with conflict, pain, and instability:

1. **Sexual Immorality:** Infidelity or engaging in sexual relationships outside the marriage might be present, causing deep wounds of betrayal and mistrust.
2. **Impurity:** Their relationship might be filled with inappropriate behaviors or desires that lead them away from a healthy and respectful marital bond.
3. **Sensuality:** Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures might overshadow deeper emotional and spiritual connections.
4. **Idolatry:** wrong worship results in wrong understanding of marriage.
5. **Sorcery:** While this term historically relates to practices like witchcraft with drug use, in a modern context, it might suggest harmful drug/alcohol abuse.
6. **Enmity:** Hostility and resentment might be constant companions, with both partners feeling like adversaries rather than allies.
7. **Strife:** Frequent arguments, disagreements, and conflicts might dominate their interactions.
8. **Jealousy:** One or both might be overly possessive or envious, leading to further discord and mistrust.
9. **Fits of anger:** Explosive outbursts and unchecked tempers can make their home an unsettling and unsafe environment.
10. **Rivalries:** Instead of working as a team, they might constantly compete with one another, vying for attention, affection, or superiority.
11. **Dissensions:** Disagreements might escalate quickly, leading to a fractured relationship.
12. **Divisions:** There could be clear divides or factions within the relationship, making unity a challenge.
13. **Envy:** Unhappiness with each other's successes or possessions can lead to a lack of contentment and appreciation.

14. Drunkenness: Excessive alcohol consumption or other substance abuse can add another layer of complexity and strife to their relationship.
15. Orgies: Excessive partying or indulgence in group activities might take precedence over their marital responsibilities.

Such a marriage would be characterized by a lack of trust, safety, respect, and true partnership. It would require significant intervention, counseling, or therapy to address these deep-rooted issues and bring about healing, understanding, and transformation.

Lesson One – Discussion Question # 8:

A marriage in which both the husband's life and the wife's life are characterized by the fruit of the Spirit would be a relationship marked by mutual respect, genuine love, and profound unity:

1. Love: Both partners demonstrate an unwavering commitment to each other, prioritizing each other's well-being and happiness. They show love not only in words but in daily actions, always seeking the best for one another.
2. Joy: Their home is filled with laughter, gratitude, and contentment. They find joy in the big milestones as well as the daily, seemingly mundane moments of life.
3. Peace: Conflicts, though inevitable, are approached with calm and understanding. They strive for harmony and avoid unnecessary drama or strife. Their home is a refuge and sanctuary for both.
4. Patience: They understand and accept each other's imperfections, giving room for mistakes, and showing understanding when one partner is going through a tough time.
5. Kindness: Acts of generosity and thoughtfulness are regular occurrences. They speak to each other with gentleness and seek to uplift and support at every opportunity.
6. Goodness: Both partners act with integrity and honesty. They work together to build a relationship and a family environment rooted in moral and ethical values.
7. Faithfulness: Loyalty and trustworthiness are at the core of their relationship. They remain devoted to each other, resisting external temptations and staying true to their vows.
8. Gentleness: Communication is approached with softness and empathy. Neither partner is domineering or aggressive, and they listen to each other with genuine interest and respect.

9. Self-control: Both individuals exercise restraint when necessary, whether it's in managing their temper, curbing harmful habits, or making decisions that benefit their relationship in the long run.

In such a marriage, both partners are likely to feel valued, heard, and cherished. Their relationship would be a beacon of light and hope for others, demonstrating the profound beauty that can arise when two people center their lives around the virtues described as the "fruit of the Spirit."