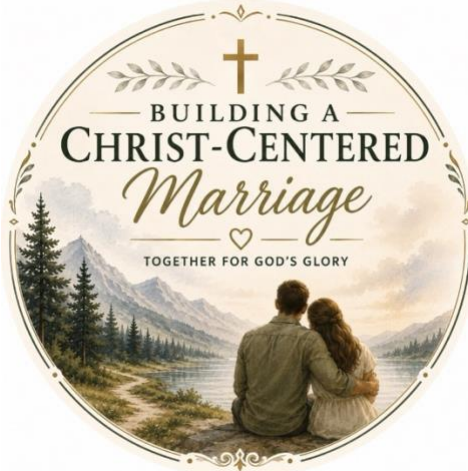




GROWING OLD TOGETHER AND LEAVING A GODLY LEGACY

LESSON TEN

BUILDING A CHRIST CENTERED MARRIAGE

Ten Biblical Lessons for Growing Together in Love, Faith, and Unity

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| 1. God's Design for Marriage (A, B, C) | 6. God's Gift of Physical Intimacy |
| 2. Love, Respect, and Biblical Leadership | 7. Making Decisions Together |
| 3. Communication That Builds Unity | 8. Money, Work, and Stewardship |
| 4. Healing from Past Hurts, Bitterness, and Unforgiveness | 9. Protecting Your Marriage |
| 5. Growing Spiritually Together | 10. Growing Old Together and Leaving a Godly Legacy |

Main Scripture Passage: Psalm 92:12–15

Memory Verse: Psalm 92:14

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

Main Truth: Growing old together is a call to remain faithful, care for one another, and pass a godly example to those who follow.

Lesson Purpose: To help couples face aging with faith, serve one another through change and loss, and leave a legacy that points others to Christ.

LESSON OVERVIEW

Growing older brings blessings and changes. A couple may enjoy grandchildren, deeper friendship, and years of shared memories. They may also face less strength, changing work, sickness, grief, or the loss of people they love.

Marriage vows are not only for young and healthy years. A husband and wife are called to remain faithful through every season God allows.

Psalms 92 says that God's people can still bear fruit in old age. In this verse, fat means full of life and strength. A person may become weak in body while still growing strong in faith, wisdom, prayer, kindness, and service.

A godly legacy is more than land, money, tools, or family belongings. It is the truth, example, love, and faith that remain in the lives of other people. That kind of legacy begins long before old age.

IN THIS LESSON, WE WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING TRUTHS:

1. Remain faithful through changing seasons.
2. Care for one another in weakness and loss.
3. Leave a godly legacy to the next generation.

MAIN SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Psalms 92:12-15

12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

15 To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

PART 1: REMAIN FAITHFUL THROUGH CHANGING SEASONS

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Isaiah 46:4

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

2 Corinthians 4:16

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

1. Every season brings change. Work, health, strength, duties, and family needs will not remain the same.
2. Your worth does not come from how much work you can do. Your life belongs to Christ when strength is great and when it is small.

3. Keep building companionship. Adjust what you do, but continue to talk, pray, laugh, remember, and enjoy time together.
4. Speak honestly about the future. Discuss work, housing, health needs, finances, care, important papers, and final wishes before a crisis comes.
5. Do not shame a spouse for moving more slowly, forgetting something, hearing poorly, or needing help. Aging calls for patience and honor.
6. Never retire from following Christ. Older believers can still pray, learn Scripture, encourage others, confess sin, and serve with wisdom.

Practical Illustration: Walking at a New Pace

For many years, Henry and Mary walked quickly to visit neighbors. As Henry grew older, pain in his knees made him move slowly.

At first, Mary walked ahead and became impatient. Then she remembered how often Henry had waited for her during other hard seasons. She slowed down, took his arm, and planned shorter visits.

Their road did not change, but their pace did. Faithful love learns how to walk together in a new season.

DISCUSSION AND SELF EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. What change of season is affecting your marriage right now?
2. Do you give or receive needed help with patience and humility?
3. What can you still enjoy and do together in this season?
4. What part of your heart do you need Christ to renew today?

PART 2: CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER IN WEAKNESS AND LOSS

Galatians 6:2

Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

1 Corinthians 13:7

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

1. Aging may bring sickness, pain, weakness, or the loss of familiar abilities. Love stays near when life becomes difficult.
2. Care should be given with honor. A person who needs help is still an adult made in the image of God, not a burden without value.

3. The person giving care also has limits. Rest, shared duties, and help from trustworthy people may be needed to prevent deep weariness.
4. Loss should not be rushed. A spouse may grieve health, work, independence, a child, a friend, or another loved one. Listen and weep together.
5. Physical closeness may change with age or illness, but tenderness should remain. Kind words, gentle touch, attention, and affection still matter.
6. When memory or judgment becomes weak, seek wise help. Protect the person from neglect, shame, unsafe choices, and people who may take advantage.

Practical Illustration: The Chair Beside the Bed

After Samuel became ill, Rebecca placed a chair beside his bed. She could not remove his pain, but she sat near him, read Scripture, and listened when he was afraid.

Other family members brought meals and helped with chores so Rebecca could rest. She learned that accepting help was not a failure of love.

The chair became a picture of faithful care. Love does not always fix the burden. Sometimes love carries it by staying near and receiving help from others.

DISCUSSION AND SELF EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. What burden does your husband or wife need help carrying?
2. Do you care for weakness without shaming or controlling the person?
3. What trustworthy help could keep either of you from becoming worn out?
4. How can Christ help you show patient love during loss or sickness?

PART 3: LEAVE A GODLY LEGACY TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Psalms 71:17-18

O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. **18** Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: **7** And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Proverbs 20:7

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

1. A legacy is what your life leaves in other people. Daily faithfulness often teaches more than a large gift or important name.
2. Let others see real faith. Pray, obey Scripture, tell the truth, confess wrong, forgive, and explain how Christ has saved and changed you.
3. Tell the stories of God's faithfulness. Share answered prayers, hard lessons, family history, and times when the Lord carried you.
4. Seek peace while there is time. Apologize for wrong, speak words of blessing, and repair broken relationships when it is safe and possible.
5. Pass on useful skills, a strong work example, generosity, and care for others. Above all, point people to Christ and His Word.
6. Couples without children can also leave a godly legacy. Younger relatives, church families, neighbors, and friends need prayer, wisdom, and faithful examples.

Practical Illustration: What the Grandchildren Remembered

After Jacob and Martha were gone, their family gathered to share memories. They spoke about the farm and the meals, but those were not the strongest memories.

One grandchild remembered hearing Jacob ask Martha to forgive a harsh word. Another remembered Martha praying by name for every family member. Others remembered how they welcomed lonely people into their home.

Their greatest gift was not something kept in a box. It was a faithful example that continued to point the family toward Christ.

DISCUSSION AND SELF EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. What are other people learning about Christ from your marriage?
2. What story of God's faithfulness should you share with someone?
3. Is there a relationship where you should seek peace or speak a blessing?
4. Who could you encourage, teach, or pray for in the coming month?

A SIMPLE PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

1. Thank God for one season you have shared and one quality in your spouse.
2. Talk about one change ahead and how you can face it together.
3. Write down one story of God's faithfulness that should be passed on.
4. Choose one younger person or family to encourage, help, or pray for.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for every year and season You have given us. Help us walk faithfully together for as long as You allow.

When our bodies grow weak or our duties change, remind us that our worth is found in Christ. Renew our inward hearts day by day.

Teach me to honor, help, and listen to my husband or wife. Keep me from impatience, shame, selfishness, and fear.

Give us grace through sickness, grief, and loss. Help us accept wise help and remain tender toward one another.

Show us how to prepare wisely for the future without living in fear. Give us honest words and peaceful hearts as we make needed plans.

Help us tell the next generation about Your mighty works. May our words, choices, repentance, service, and love point people to Jesus Christ.

May we still bear fruit in old age. Keep us faithful until our work on earth is done. In Jesus' name, Amen.