

#THEMISSINGPIECE

TODAY:

A Matter of Perspective

@REMNANTCHURCH

A grace-filled marriage is more about weaving together three people than it is joining together a man and a woman.

Matthew 19:4-6

“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’”⁵ And he said, “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”⁶ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

To have a grace-filled marriage, first we need to recognize the graceless ways we tend to view our spouse. Then we will learn how to replace those distorted views with a grace-filled perspective.

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THE "ME" LENS

James 4:6

And he gives grace generously.
As the Scriptures say, "God
opposes the proud but gives
grace to the humble."

THE “ME” LENS

Self-absorbed people are the opposite of humility. They short-circuit God’s desire to pour grace all over them.

THE "ME" LENS

...to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge myself to you."

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THE “ME” LENS

The Me Lens says, “I want you to do better because you are not pleasing me. I don’t have everything I want.”

THE “ME” LENS

Philippians 2:3-4

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

THE “ME” LENS

Philippians 2:5-8

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

THE “ME” LENS

Paul’s argument for why we shouldn’t stare through the Me Lens is that Jesus didn’t-even though He actually had the right to.

THE "ME" LENS

Whether you are looking through the Me Lens because you were born that way, bent that way by how you were raised, or maligned into it, it's a prescription for misery for everyone around the dinner table.

THE “LOVE IF” LENS

Romans 3:22-24

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

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THE “LOVE IF” LENS

The love If lens is often a reaction to things you feel you must manipulate in order to survive.

THE “LOVE IF” LENS

The excuses we make for limiting our love are similar to the ones we make from behind the Me Lens. It’s a self-serving, self-protecting starting point that makes marital love more of a contest than a covenant.

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THE “LOVE IF” LENS

Romans 3:10

No one is righteous—not even one.

THE “LOVE IF” LENS

Isaiah 64:6

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

THE “LOVE IF” LENS

Psalm 103:10

He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

THE “LOVE IF” LENS

Romans 8:38-39

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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THE “LOVE IF” LENS

Regardless of how we behave, he loves us completely.

THE “PIOUS” LENS

Matthew 23:33

Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?

THE “PIOUS” LENS

Matthew 23:27

What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity.

THE “PIOUS” LENS

John 8:44

For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

THE “PIOUS” LENS

There is a huge difference between folks whose faith is an extension of God’s heart and those whose faith is an extension of their ego.

THE “PIOUS” LENS

James 1:22

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

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A NEW PERSPECTIVE

You cannot make the heart connection you need and want as long as you look at your life through the wrong lens.

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A NEW PERSPECTIVE

We become pros at moving from a “Me Lens” to a “Love If Lens” to a “Pious Lens”-sometimes within the same exchange of selfishness.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Romans 3:23-24

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

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A NEW PERSPECTIVE

**We must apply the “Grace Lens”
to our lives.**

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Romans 8:1-4

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Romans 8:1-4

He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

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