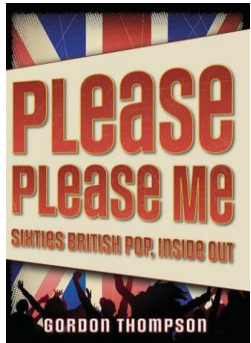


A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

WHO TO PLEASE



"Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. --Galatians 1:10

I remember the words of an old Bob Dylan song, "Everybody's gotta please somebody." Well, if you're trying to please your husband or your wife, give it up. It won't work. "What kind of marriage counseling is this?" you say. It's the kind that is based in truth. Human beings are so fickle that what pleases us today may not please us tomorrow. It's like trying to hit a moving target; it's a losing proposition. Let's be real. Has it worked for you? There's a better way, one that works. Live your life, not to please your spouse, or anyone else; live your life to please God. You see, God doesn't change. What pleases Him today will please Him tomorrow. It's a goal much more attainable. Then, if you're loving your spouse in a way that's pleases God, chances are your spouse will be pleased, because It will be the love of God expressed through you. Wow! It will be a love directed by your spouses' needs, (not necessarily their wants). It will be a love rooted in the wisdom of God, and energized by the power of his Spirit working in you, a love that transcends human fickleness. Change your focus. Get your sights off of trying to please each other, and fix them on pleasing God with the way you love each other. Everyone will be pleased, and God will get the glory! After all, "Everybody's gotta please somebody." It may as well be the One who can be pleased!

Question for dialogue: "In what ways have we tried to please each other that just never seemed to work? How can we better please God with the way we love each other?"

Prayer for both of us: "Lord, help us to live for one single purpose: To please you with the way we love and treat each other, so that your love will freely flow through our lives and our home."

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