

From the Family Room

16 August, 2015

Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL

CONGRUENT MARRIAGES



*The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole. John 5:15
For in Him [Jesus] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power Colossians 2:9-10*

If you have looked at the Family Forward schedule, you may have noticed a lesson entitled “Congruent Marriages.” This title was interesting to me. I had an idea of what congruent means in math. Congruent numbers are two numbers which give the same remainder when divided by the same number. To understand how this might relate to marriage, I studied the word congruent for a very short period of time. It comes from a Latin word *congruere* which means to agree, to meet together. In general to be congruent means to be in harmony, agreement, and conformance. Listed below is a short summary I asked Mark to send to help explain the meaning of the class.

Congruent Marriages

In America we have believed movies and songs for quite a long time now with the basic message that what we should find in relationships is someone who completes our weaknesses. In America we have also seen a severe decline in relational enjoyment for a few decades (rising divorce rates, etc.).

If we stop and think for just a moment, we can see how the popular view of relationships can be something that has inadvertently added to relational dissatisfaction. If love is attached to someone when they are the perfect supplement to our strengths and weaknesses, what happens as we grow older? Corporations and all sorts of professional organizations develop their employees along the way. None of us are ever the same person at 45 as we were at 25. So what happens when all of the sudden we become stronger or better at something in which we were weak? What role does our spouse play in our life then?

This is just one example of what using someone for their supplementary powers can do to a relationship. The concept of congruency vs. supplementary marriages is much healthier. Marriage is like multiplying fractions. When $\frac{1}{2}$ a person is looking for his better $\frac{1}{2}$, they only get $\frac{1}{4}$ of the marriage they envisioned ($\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$). However when someone who knows himself/herself and has worked to be able to give all of himself/herself to their spouse finds someone of the same caliber, they experience a more full marriage ($1/1 \times 1/1 = 1$).

Consider the couple that is represented in Proverbs 31. She is the sign of strength. She is the sign of intelligence. She blesses him with her abilities. He rises up and calls her blessed. He is continuing toward greatness by being with the elders of the city and learning and leading while she is continuing in greatness making killer real estate deals. Both spouses in Proverbs 31 are portrayed as being healthy, able to give all to each other, being congruent. Being Congruent, where one whole person chooses to love one whole person, is a concept we will explore in this class with the goal of having a more fulfilling marriage.

Please plan to be a part of our Family and Friends Weekend on August 29th and 30th. Please bring a family with you to share in these valuable lessons on Saturday and Sunday plus a fellowship meal Sunday at noon.

RICKY