

Dear Friends,

June 21, 2007

I wrote last month that the phrase, "Putting Christ First," has many applications. Here's an important one!

### ***Putting Christ First in Marriage***

Recently I heard this line in a wedding sermon: "The most important love in marriage is the love of Christ." That's a bit remarkable, isn't it? I imagine many would say the bride and groom's love for each other is the most important.

But that sermon was right. For when husbands and wives put the love of Christ first, they are anchoring their marriage - basing its strength and stability - outside of themselves. This is essential if a marriage is to endure the tests all marriages face. If the only anchor is the love between the bride and groom, what happens if that love grows cold, even briefly? The desire to keep the marriage alive will be missing, and it could end in sorrow - *entirely unnecessarily*. But if the anchor of the marriage is outside the couple, secured to the rock which is Christ, then it holds firm even through passing storms. Then the desire to keep the marriage alive remains, for each person says, "Because of my love for Christ, I will remain faithful to my spouse and my marriage, for I know how much this pleases Christ." And this creates a safe environment in which the love between husband and wife can flourish and thrive and deepen and grow - even if it had once been dormant.

There is yet one more way in which the love of Christ is the most important love in marriage; namely, His love for us! His love is constant, and gives birth to our love for one another. His forgiveness for us makes possible the healing of wounds, the forgiveness of hurts, and the daily rebirth of love.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Carl L.M. Rasmussen