

By Rejecting Narcissism

Matthew  
5:31-32



**Appropriating The Happiness  
That Is In You**

## **Series Overview**

The beatitudes is a list of attitudes prescribed by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount that are designed to build on one another to lead a Christian to true joy in Christ.

The attitudes are:

Being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meekness, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemaking, and willingness to be persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Only Christians that “climb” this superstructure are in a place spiritually to “appropriate the happiness that is in you,” a process that Jesus describes directly after The Beatitudes.

This process of “appropriating the happiness that is in you” similarly builds on itself with the following steps:

By Being Salt, By Being Light, By Being Law Abiding, By Controlling Anger, By Keeping Sex In Marriage, By Shunning Narcissism, By Choosing Wisely, and By Judging Carefully.

## **Part 6: By Rejecting Narcissism**

*It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.'*

*But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.*

Matthew 5:31-32

The number one reason for broken marriages and broken homes is narcissism. The best way to have a happy marriage and avoid divorce is to learn what God said about marriage.

### **Ingredients of a Blessed Marriage**

#### **1.) Iron-clad commitment to your spouse.**

In Matthew 19, Jesus uses the words of the Scripture: “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh”? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

“To be united” is sometimes translated as “to be cleaved,” which literally means “glued together.” In marriage, both spouses’ lives revolve around the marriage covenant in the same way that the Earth revolves around the sun. This is a picture of the believer’s relationship with Christ.

Our God is a covenant-keeping God. He does not merely “dump you” when you mess up. Likewise, the covenant of marriage ought not to be dependent on the whims and feelings of one party. The covenant of marriage between a believing man and a believing woman is for life.

This commitment can be reinforced by rejecting narcissism, and by discovering your spouse’s real need and seeking to meet that need.

#### **2.) Caring communication in the relationship.**

Men tend to communicate facts. Women tend to communicate feelings. Each needs to learn to better communicate the opposite in order to better connect with their spouse

in order to encourage, esteem, and honor one another.

As important as building up a spouse is, however, it is second to the most important thing that a Christian can do: lift up the name of Jesus.

A blessed marriage is only possible if Christ is at the center, not yourself.