

MARRIAGE MATTERS:

I was having a hard time figuring out what to write about this month. I started thinking...what happens in March? Spring. AH HA! Spring Cleaning!

Psalm 51:10 says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." How appropriate!?! Spring cleaning not only applies to your physical house, but also your Spiritual "house".

So, now that spring is upon us, although someone forgot to tell the weather channel, it's time to grab some trash bags, a broom and some cleaning supplies! It's time to trash all those things that are just taking up space around your "house".

First, be thankful! Give thanks to God that you have a "spiritual house" to keep clean for HIM. Make it a HOME He wants to dwell in always. Also, remember...a clean and organized house is better for your own health and relationships. If you clutter yourself with negative thoughts and bad habits, it starts to break you down. Pretty soon your spiritual thoughts are no longer focused on God and your relationships can start to decay.

1st: Communicate and exterminate. Talk and listen to God daily to keep the contact open and easy. When communication starts to break down, the connection with the Lord will start to fade and distance will start to seep into relationships with Him, your spouse, family and friends. Exterminate the "bugs" of judgment and negativity and work out the kinks by being understanding and gentle when your spouse shares their heart.

2nd: Dust and Trust. Dust off your Bible and Trust in His Word. Don't let the dust settle...bathe yourself in His Word, everyday. Trust that He will take care of you and help you clean out the hardest, most cluttered rooms.

3rd: Find and Bind. Find yourself an accountability partner. The Pastor, a Deacon, a Sunday school teacher. your spouse, family member or even a friend can be your helper. Couples: the Bible says your spouse is your helpmate, who better to help you bag up the garbage? Bind and/or connect yourself with your church family...get involved with a study group or ministry.

4th: Move and Groove. Move all that clutter out of the way and praise His holy name. Sing praises for He has provided all you need. Singing helps the time go by and makes "cleaning house" more bearable.

Remember, with daily prayer, reading your Bible, spiritual pruning, and taking out the "trash"...you can keep a clean "spiritual home" and things won't start to pile up and get out of control. It's easier to clean on a daily basis than it is to do it every once in a while.

God helps life smell sweeter!

In Christ,
Allen & Liz Marshall