



2025 | Week 2

A Kiss on the Lips

Blog Contributors:

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Solomon shares one profound verse that serves as a good reminder of the great importance and sacredness of a couple's intimacy and honesty. Both are significant in the journey of a married couple and in the foundation of their relationship.

So, let's take this week to dig deeper into this verse, as well as the related Biblical truths, to help us better anchor these two important relationship factors in our journey with Jesus Christ.

'He kisses the lips Who gives a right answer.' Proverbs 24:26

DAY 1

When the New Year comes, discussions often involve the uncomfortable reminders of the past year's challenges that cry out for improvement or progression. It can be a struggle to embark on such a path, but if our intention remains focused on fostering understanding, reflecting on uncomfortable circumstances could transform pain into impactful endurance and perseverance.

In the realm of marriage, the most commonly shared challenges in marital relationships include poor communication, financial issues, infidelity, lack of commitment, domestic violence, jealousy, stress,

boredom, and unresolved trauma. Among these factors, we can easily recognize a significant need for "honesty," which, when you think about it, is one of the pillars that upholds the foundation of marriage. In a recent podcast episode of Focus on the Family with Jim Daly, titled "Healthy Budgeting Habits for Your Marriage," the discussion with Jade Warshaw noted that the two most common concerns in today's marriages are intimacy and finances [1]. Once again, we see the necessity of strengthening "honesty" in relation to these factors, as well as the importance of understanding the impact of our "physical bodies" in today's open culture. It's amazing how God has led us to reflect on this week's scheduled verse, Proverbs 24:26. The wisdom shared by Solomon prompts us to reflect deeply on two very significant yet "sticky" factors in marriage: intimacy and the kiss.

'He kisses the lips Who gives a right answer.' Proverbs 24:26

A kiss is a common gesture today, but a "kiss on the lips" still holds a unique significance, despite being displayed boldly as a normal greeting like other "kiss gestures." When we examine the true essence of a "kiss on the lips," it symbolizes an intimate relationship, respect, and love. If that is how we perceive this gesture, then we cannot genuinely share or experience its essence in the absence of honesty. Even in this ordinary act, the experience of such a kiss can differ greatly when genuine honesty exists between a married couple.

The blessing of intimacy in marriage is profoundly influenced by the flow of honesty between husband and wife. In a world rife with lies and deception, we need a great Savior who can continuously equip us to overcome any challenges or even minor details that could tarnish that honesty. As we confront the brokenness of this world and the presence of the "devil," who is heavily active in many temptations, we must remember that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the darkness of this world—spiritual wickedness. We need Jesus Christ and the sustained guidance of the Holy Spirit to uphold that "honesty."

'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Finally, be strong

in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ' Ephesians 6:10-12

So, keep Journeying with Christ!

Your Fellow Couple,

Rey & Annie

DAY 2

Yesterday, we initially reflected on Proverbs 24:26 and delved deeper as Solomon compared honesty to a man's kiss on the lips. We're reminded of how the sacredness of intimacy is closely tied to the flow of honesty within it. Maintaining this perspective contributes to the foundation of trust and respect in the relationship between husband and wife.

Sadly, today's culture, along with the easy access and openness of media, has a strong campaign to undermine this simple yet impactful gesture among married couples. Allowing ourselves to be influenced by this perspective could certainly lead us to undermine the firmness of the Biblical view.

Hollywood actor Neal McDonough made a radical decision to no longer accept kissing scenes or other related adult scenes. This decision drastically affected his career, and he was blackballed in Hollywood. Furthermore, it impacted his financial status, leading him to lose some of his properties. He shared how he was challenged to the point of questioning God. Yet, God faithfully helped him to gain insight into his situation. In watching the message he shared, we see how that incident contributed to the foundation of his faith. He appreciated the support of his wife, and this decision became a driving force behind his commitment to obey God by being an intentional parent.

We encourage you to listen to his message through this YouTube link. [2]

Following Christ is indeed not an easy task. Many say that

Christianity is not difficult but impossible, and Jesus Christ mentioned this in Matthew 16.

'Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."' Matthew 16:24-25

It is indeed costly to follow Christ. We've heard many stories and testimonies, not just Neal's. Yet we also witness the amazing faithfulness of God to those who willingly accept the sacrifices for the sake of obedience to Him. In all these stories, we can recognize that it's only God who can change our hearts. It's God who equips us during difficult times and tests our faith. Finally, it's God who can truly deliver us from persecution and challenges, allowing us to experience His favor.

A kiss on the lips may denote honesty between husband and wife, but it also represents an honest declaration witnessed by others. Having this declaration anchored in the genuine essence of following Christ brings about impactful actions that can lead others to Him. We may face many challenges that test the sanctity of our marriage in today's culture, but our perseverance anchored in Christ leads to a life that experiences His presence.

'Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ' James 1:12

Keep Journeying with Christ!

Your Fellow Couple,

Rey & Annie

DAY 3 | For Husbands

Not until I exposed myself to Biblical truth did I gain ideas or understanding of our identity with God and how that perspective relates to our physical body. Furthermore, it

informs us about His creation, will, and purpose for marriage.

Overfamiliarity and cultural influence shape our minds to undermine or even disregard the true existence of Satan, the weakness of our flesh, and the brokenness of this world. These influences can drive us to the mindset that we can rely on ourselves and survive in life if we remain consciously aware of our surroundings. Such perspectives can distance us from the reality that we need a Savior—a constant help to live this life, providing true guidance as we undergo the transformation that God intends for us—to be Christlike.

When Annie and I learned about Satan’s tricks and the deceptions in this world that could lead to the fall of our weak flesh, we knew that we needed to anchor ourselves and our relationship in Christ. We made many past mistakes that affected our previous relationships, leaving us with unhealthy perspectives. Our decision to accept Christ is not just based on a simple desire for protection, but also on a profound change of our hearts and minds from the wrong beliefs and perspectives that were shaped when we lived away from Him.

About the wisdom shared by Solomon in Proverbs 24:26, I would like to point out two things for my fellow husbands this week: (1) the protection of our bodies goes hand in hand with the sacredness of our intimacy with our wives, and (2) our integrity should have a pillar of truth, firmly standing against all lies. Both of these admirable commitments should be anchored in Biblical truth and our relationship with Christ.

We protect our bodies because we understand and embrace the truth that they are the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19). As married individuals, we also recognize the oneness that God intended for our marriage (Genesis 2:24), and in such oneness, intimacy is crucial. Learning more deeply about this matter has helped Annie and me formulate practical applications that we can practice as we commit to protecting the sacredness of our relationship as God intends. I am careful about the “kissing” that this culture strongly promotes, which can undermine our resolve against temptation. Additionally, Annie always accompanies me to any schedule or meeting with the opposite sex.

Secondly, the opposite of the “right answer,” in Solomon’s note, is not merely a “wrong answer,” but lies that corrupt the truth. For this reason, we need to remember that a “lying tongue” is one of the things the Lord hates (Proverbs 6:17). Our honesty with others, particularly with our wives, demonstrates respect and honors God’s creation. As I learn more stories in the Bible, I discover more effects of “lying lips or tongues.” This discovery leads me to a conviction to be more intentional in teaching ourselves (our family) to tell the truth. If we used to take “lying” lightly, we must now constantly remind ourselves how displeasing it is to God. Such a habit is not easy to break; only God’s grace and our healthy fear of Him can drive us to a commitment to deliverance from it. May the modeling of Jesus Christ and the influence of the Holy Spirit be our strong pillars in this commitment.

Keep journeying with Christ Jesus.

Your Fellow Husband,
Rey

DAY 4 | For Wives

As Rey mentioned yesterday, we have a different perspective on intimacy before intentionally committing our lives and marriage to Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we’re not accommodating the idea that providing “the right answer” is significant in sharing that intimacy. I used the phrase “not accommodating” simply because we’ve experienced many incidents where we faced challenges to be intimate with one another, yet we ignored the great need for discussion and honesty.

'He kisses the lips Who gives a right answer.' Proverbs 24:26

It was indeed another great “a-ha” moment for me when we had the chance to reflect and dig deeper into the wisdom shared by Solomon in Proverbs 24:26. Much more fascination flowed in my heart and mind when we referred to theologians’ commentaries on this verse. We realized that we often do not intentionally take the route of “understanding” when challenges arise regarding intimacy; instead, we allow irritations to take over. Little

did we know, we were holding love and respect for each other.

Solomon provides a profound analogy that links the high respect and love of intimacy from the “kiss on the lips” to “giving the right answer.” As previously shared in another blog this week, giving the right answer here is not just about compromising the truth with lies, but rather about responding “aptly and uprightly.” I looked up the meaning of “answering aptly and uprightly.”

- **Aptly** - This means that the person’s response is fitting or suitable to the situation. It effectively addresses the questions or issues presented to them.
- **Uprightly** - This signifies that the response is delivered with integrity, fairness, and honesty. It implies that the individual adheres to ethical principles in their answers.

In summary, the phrase suggests that a person communicates with both wisdom (by responding appropriately) and integrity (by being honest and moral).

You may be thinking this is a bit much for a simple kiss or in relation to intimacy. I have to agree with you because it’s not very often that a husband and wife have serious matters to discuss. It’s those simple things that we deal with daily that significantly affect our intimacy with one another. When you think about it, those daily interactions should be our training ground for healthy and honest conversations with our spouse. If we anchor such healthy and honest conversations in understanding rooted in Christ Jesus, by His grace, we can experience transformed communication in our marriage. So, when serious matters arise, we will be better trained in a communication method that understands each other as well as God’s intent for us and our marriage.

If there’s one thing I would remind my fellow wives (as well as the husbands who follow this weekly wife’s insight blog post), let’s not allow it to be the norm to have only spiritual conversations with “others” like Bible study groups or friends. Instead, let’s engage in intentional and regular spiritual conversations with our spouses. This spiritual conversation is not about discussing ministry operations or church involvement; it aims to foster understanding of one another and is anchored in Biblical

truths for whatever season of marriage we are in. We can maintain a consistent attitude on this matter when we remind ourselves that our spouse is alongside us as a recipient of God’s grace, being transformed towards Christlikeness.

Keep journeying with Christ!

Your Fellow Wife,

Annie

DAY 5

'He kisses the lips Who gives a right answer.' Proverbs 24:26

This week, we joined Solomon in contemplating the verse he shared, which points out a profound relativeness of “honesty” to “kissing on the lips” or intimacy. Such comparisons remind us of how much is related to the marital relationship. The message in the verse spoke deeper as we determined that what it meant to give a “right answer” is not just about avoiding lies, but about providing answers that are both apt and upright. We know that life’s challenges, or a collection of unprocessed and ignored offending actions, leave a scar of pain in relationships. Furthermore, this affects couples in expressing “answers” that are both apt and upright, which eventually impacts their communication. Many of us have experienced and witnessed incidents resulting from communication problems and even intimacy issues. Perhaps this new year could be a good opportunity to change course.

We’ve shared how we struggled with communication problems, just like many other couples. We thought that coming to Christ would easily lead us to the desired breakthrough in this area. Little did we know that it takes a process of discovering and realizing the true problems, replacing our understanding with Biblical perspectives, and finally taking action based on those convictions. It may seem like a simple three-step guide, but with every step, we discover more shortcomings. Such discoveries can really bring discouragement and tempt us to lose our focus. On the other hand, we have the option to

persevere and move forward. This healthy perseverance and endurance can only take place when we're anchored in Christ Jesus because it's only His grace that can truly bring and equip us with a new heart and perspective.

Until we had such genuine realizations and committed ourselves to restoration, we struggled with consistently practicing regular spiritual conversations. These discussions can strengthen our relationship with Christ, as well as our marriage, with Him as the center of it.

So, for this new year, we would like to encourage every couple to have regular conversations that seek and rely on Biblical truths. We know that it's not an easy transition, especially when many years have passed and there are many unprocessed painful incidents (intentional or unintentional). Yet, nothing will change the course if there's no volition from both partners in taking the route toward transformation.

CJ2 is here, willing to journey with other couples who understand the intentionality of being consistent life-learners anchored in Christ. Our website is filled with information and resources that can equip you on this life-changing journey. This blog features weekly topics that are centered on and intentional about marriage growth. Together, by God's grace, let's transform our marriages through regular conversations that don't undermine challenges but anchor them in Jesus Christ.

So, keep journeying with Christ Jesus.

Your Fellow Couple,

Rey & Annie

NOTES

[1] Daly, J. Warsaw, J. "Healthy Budgeting Habits for Your Marriage." Focus on the Family with Jim Daly. Spotify

[2] Why God Media. "Blackballed in Hollywood for Refusing to do Adult Scenes - Neal McDonogh."

www.youtube.com



Let's embark on a comprehensive learning experience with this week's topic by following the **D.R.A.S.H. - 5 Steps of Learning Method!**

Step 1 | Discover the Truth

- This week's topic centers on the wisdom shared by Solomon in Proverbs 24:26, which highlights the relevance of intimacy and honesty. We can see how these factors are crucial in marriage. In this simple verse, do you have any reminders or new learning experiences you encountered? Additionally, there are other verses mentioned:
 - Ephesians 6:10-12 - A reminder to equip ourselves against the deceptions and lies in this world.
 - James 1:12 - A reminder for those who persevere despite the costs of following Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19; Genesis 2:24 - Relating to our bodies and the sacredness of oneness in marriage.
 - Proverbs 6:17 - Lying.

Reflecting on the verses mentioned this week, did any learning experience resonate strongly with you? Why?

Step 2 | Reflect and Meditate on the Truth

- How do the themes of intimacy and honesty relate to your current faith journey and your

relationship with your spouse (the status of your marriage)? Take a moment to meditate on these connections.

Step 3 | Apply the Truth

- Based on this week's topic and the truths that resonated with you, what actions do you plan to take in the coming days? Set a meaningful goal that supports your spouse and strengthens your marital relationship.
- Has this week's topic helped you learn more about Jesus Christ? How and in what way?
- What old habits or practices do you need to change as a result of your new discoveries and understanding of Jesus' invitation? How do you plan to implement these changes?

Step 4 | Share

- Using a storytelling concept, compose a short story about how you will share the truths you discovered in this week's topic with your spouse or other married individuals journeying with you. You may want to consider a 1-minute or 5-minute storytelling technique. You can use the following guiding questions in your composition:
 1. What truths did you discover and reflect on in this week's topic?
 2. How are these truths and reflections related to yourself and your current marital status?
 3. What actions do you plan to take in the coming days that relate to this week's learning?

Step 5 | Help in Navigating the Truth

- Besides your spouse, identify another person (or member/s of your small group) who will journey alongside you as you take intentional actions based on this week's learning. Consider what additional help you may need, such as further discussion or a regular prayer partner.

We pray that you encounter God through this week's topic. May His grace turn your learning experience into a

transformative journey, leading to testimonies of breakthroughs that further strengthen your walk with Christ Jesus!

Let us know how this guide has helped you!

May this study tool be effective and helpful for every fellow seeker and believer who is intentionally journeying with Jesus Christ. We would be grateful to hear how this tool has significantly impacted your journey and your relationships with your spouse and others. Please share your feedback or experiences through this [link](#) (or scan QR Code)



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www.couplesjourney.org

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