

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

Dear Rick and Cassie, Family and Friends,

June is no longer famous as the wedding month. Now weddings are spread out over the year. But one thing has not changed. Faithfulness is still a vital ingredient in marriage. Both groom and bride still properly promise to be faithful to each other as long as they both shall live.

Behind that important promise is a still more important faithfulness, the one our Lord commands, **“Be faithful,”** he commands. When I read the Greek of this text, I realize that our Savior is talking to each of us individually. *“You be faithful,”* he says, and *“You be faithful.”* Each of you is to be loyal and true, attached to him, filled with constant love for him. Jesus, who died for you, is to be the Rock on which you set your trust and the Ruler for whom you live your life. **“Even to the point of death,”** Jesus goes on. From the day he called you to faith till the hour of your death, you are to be his. This is what life’s all about: believing, loving, never leaving our beautiful Savior.

When our Savior commands something, he also makes it possible. That’s why he promised, **“I will give you the crown of life.”** He who cannot lie or change his mind is the One making the promise. When he gives, it is a pure gift with no strings attached. And look at what he offers so full and free—**“the crown of life,”** or as it reads in the original: **“the crown of the life.”** Only one life counts, the one in heaven, which never ends.

Faithfulness in marriage is important. As believers, realize that such faithfulness begins with your connection to your Savior.

That connection with Jesus makes a real difference. Statistics show that among Christians, divorce figures are lower. Among conservative Christians, the incident of divorce is the lowest of all. What that shows is this: When both husband and wife are faithful to the Lord that will have an effect on their life together. Faithful to God, they will be faithful to each other.

When success enters your life together, faithfulness to Christ helps you not to boast self-centeredly about such things. Instead, you will thank our gracious Lord for what he has granted. When you sin against each other, faithfulness to Christ helps you not to tally up the score and nurse grudges. Rather, you will work at forgiving each other just as Christ has forgiven each of you. When sorrow and suffering cast their shadow over your marriage, faithfulness to Christ helps you to support each other and step forward. Since God has blessed your union with children, faithfulness to Christ enables you to raise them as souls bound for eternity. When death parts the two of you, faithfulness to Christ quiets grief with the sure hope of reunion at the side of the heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus.

Need I go on? How fortunate the two of you are to have a Christian mate! God’s greatest gift to you is bringing you to faith in your Savior. His second greatest gift is bringing you a spouse who is faithful to the Savior. Faithful to our God, you can work at being faithful to each other. Be faithful in your church attendance and in your reception of Holy Communion, and you will have the tools you need to be faithful to each other. Amen.

Wedding Sermon
for
Richard and Cassondra Mahlon

Revelation 2:10
“Be Faithful!”

3:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 29, 2010

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bay City, Michigan

Pastor Richard D. Starr