



# The View From Here

April 2011 Volume 12, Issue 7

## IS YOUR GRACE SHOWING?

Have you noticed that some people are jumpy, insecure, and unsure of themselves. They get their feelings hurt easily, tend to be condescending, and—when in position to do so—seem to take a perverse delight in putting others down or humiliating them. Is it just me or are there becoming more and more of these types of folks?

Several news outlets have carried the story of an awkward moment between White House adviser Valerie Jarrett and the second-ranking general in the United States Army. It took place at a White House dinner where both were guests.

Four-star Gen. Peter Chiarelli happened to be walking by the

table at which Ms. Jarrett was seated. Seeing only the striped pants of his dress uniform, she made the mistake of thinking he was a waiter—and asked him to get her a glass of wine. Uh, did I say earlier that this was the story of an "awkward moment"? It takes very little imagination to imagine what might have happened at that self-conscious moment! Chagrin? Rebuke? Embarrassment?

But that's not what happened. The general smiled, walked away briefly, and came back with the glass of wine that had been requested. Advised of her blunder during his brief absence, Ms. Jarrett began to apologize with a red face and an acute sense of needing to set the matter right.

With secure good humor and in order to defuse her discomfort, Gen. Chiarelli dismissed her honest mistake and invited her to a meal at his home.

"It was an honest mistake that anyone could have made," the General told a CNN reporter who questioned him about the gaffe. "She was sitting. I was standing and walking behind her, and all she saw were the two stripes on my pants—which were almost identical to the waiters' pants, really. She apologized and will come to the house for dinner, if a date can be worked out in March."

You learn a lot about a mom or dad whose awkward toddler spills milk at the table or a boss whose employee spills milk of another kind in the office or plant. The one whose anxious concern is her own embarrassment may smack the kid or berate the worker. The one whose mature reaction is to be concerned for the child or perplexed member of her staff will seize upon a way to defuse the potential for humiliation and move

through it without damage to the other.

Thank you, Gen. Chiarelli, for displaying what columnist Bob Greene captured beautifully in a title: *"4-star general, 5-star grace."*

The Bible says: *"Serve each other in humility, for 'God opposes the proud but favors the humble.'"*  
(1 PETER 5.5 NLT)

**How are you doing with that command?**

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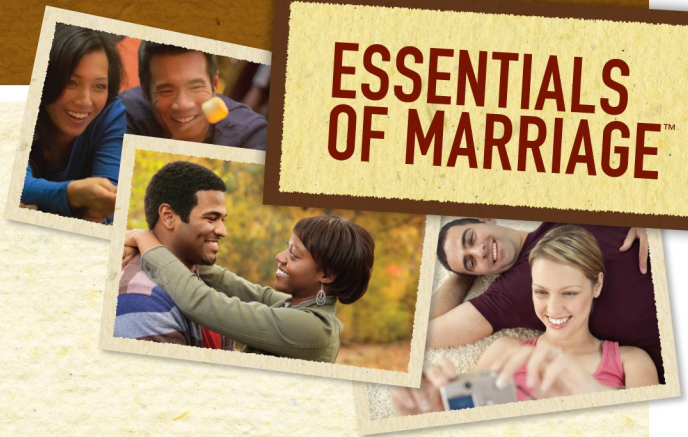
### THE CROSS

In a recent issue of his *Key Life* magazine, Steve Brown observed, "The source of almost all spiritual problems is an inappropriate effort to avoid the cross. When we, as the Church, turn away from the cross, we miss the path that God has given us -- the path to freedom, joy, faithfulness and forgiveness.

"We think the cross is fine and necessary for those who aren't saved...but once we're saved, it is no longer relevant to our lives. We, as Christians, forget the cross is the very paradigm for who we are and everything we do, think, feel and believe."

# SEE YOUR MARRIAGE THROUGH GOD'S EYES

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Beginning May 1 @ 9 AM, in the Faith Café, Pastor Jack will present the Focus on the Family series, “*Essentials of Marriage.*” Key foundational biblical principles, advice, tactics, and tools will be presented for anyone, any age, who may one day be married, is engaged to be married, or is currently married. Our goal is to build stronger, more godly, enduring marriages. Join us!

## The Word of Truth



### Revelation: The Last Word

April 03	<b>THE LAST WORD</b> <i>The Last Word On Heaven</i>	<i>Revelation 21.1-22.5</i>
April 10	<b>THE LAST WORD</b> <i>The Last Words</i>	<i>Revelation 22.6-21</i>
April 17	<b>THE DEATH OF LIFE</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>John 19.18</i>
April 24	<b>ESCAPE FROM THE CAGE</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>Transformation in Revelation</i>

### POWER FROM ON HIGH

May 1	<b>POWER FROM ON HIGH</b>	<i>The Person of the Holy Spirit</i>
May 8	<b>POWER FROM ON HIGH</b>	<i>The Holy Spirit and the Bible</i>
May 15	<b>POWER FROM ON HIGH</b>	<i>The Holy Spirit's Work in the Old Testament</i>
May 22	<b>POWER FROM ON HIGH</b>	<i>The Holy Spirit and Jesus</i>
May 30	<b>GUEST SPEAKER</b>	<i>Jack is on vacation</i>