

Marriage Matters

Hebrews 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;
Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Intro:

1. Saboteurs - stupid things. "O" rings in the space shuttle, but such a little thing. Enrico Firme Plant in Michigan - coke can in cooling rods. Time bombs waiting to happen.
2. Marriage Matters to God !!! - Genesis 3 "*It is not good for man to be alone(lonely).*" *And God hates divorce!* – Malachi
3. No one teaches Marriage - marriage license but the keys are all here in the Word of God. Like buried treasure they must be dug up, uncovered. Ephesians 4-5 have all that we need to know for relationships of every kind.
4. Scripture: Eph 4:31, Ephesians 5:21-32, Col 3:19, Heb 12:15, I Peter 3:1-9

Matthew 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Malachi 2: 16. "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith (break the vow).

Marriage Today

Marriages in Crisis

- More than half of Christian marriages end in divorce!!!
- Waiting too long before seeking help.
- Much is against marriages working today - easy divorce, role models, society's attitudes, prevalence of lust, busy-ness, working couples, lack of boundaries, no absolutes, lack of discipline.

Who Teaches Marriage?

- Schools?
- Churches?
- Parents?
- Television - the great American babysitter, mentor, teacher, tempter

We are taught everything else, potty, eat with fork, walk, whistle, play sports, use the VCR or digital device, ride a bike, shoot a gun, drive a car, even sex education.

Marriage Maintenance

- Houses -
- Cars
- Garden

We maintain the house, the car, the garden better than our marriages

Marriage License

"If marriage license required a competency test, would you pass?"

Areas of Marital Breakdown

1. Unrealistic Expectations - I Cor 13, 2 Cor 12:15 Love is... Define Love... Love is a decision.
2. Thinking Disorders - As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Dysfunctional thoughts – thoughts that are “untruthful” distortions, lies, exaggerations, fabrications, – always lead down the path of destruction.
3. Personality Differences - adjusted, attitudes, sanctified personality. “Help Meet” It is not good for all men to be alone - some are better off alone. Personality types. Opposites attract and opposites attack. Fitting the pieces together = completion ONE. Strengths and weaknesses of every personality, godly, wholesome, good, useful, positive and ungodly, destructive, negative, and unhealthy.
4. Communication Difficulties - non expressor, non communicator, “let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouths.” Levels of communication. Physical, verbal, emotional, and spiritual.
5. Conflict Resolution - be angry and sin not. Anger and seething bitterness, hurt feelings, chronic pain and pretending... How do you resolve anger, disagreements, hurts?
6. Affairs of the Heart - intruders into the relationship, infection diseases of the heart, wandering eye, longing desire for friendship, appreciation, attention, to be worshipped and adored.
7. Choosing Right Mate - Isaac’s Example starting on the right foot. Choose wisely my son.

God Too Speaks of Common Marriage Problems.

1. Self-centeredness
2. Bitterness
3. Anger
4. Jealousy
5. Harsh words
6. Critical spirit
7. Neglect !

What significant investment have you made in your marriage this past year?

What have you done that is significant for your marriage in the last 30 days?

No Deposit, No Return - Garbage in, Garbage out - No pain, no gain - No investment, no return

Marriage Questionnaire

How Is Your Marriage?

My marriage is fine...

- There is nothing to fix.
- There are no problem areas.
- My spouse is satisfied with me just the way I am.
- I am satisfied with my marriage the way it is.
- My marriage is close to perfect.

My marriage could use a tune-up and regular maintenance...

- There are a few things to improve, they are...
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- There are a few problem areas that need to be addressed.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- I'm not completely satisfied with my spouse in these areas...
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- I'm not completely satisfied with me in the following areas...
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

If you are not married replace "marriage" with relationship, and "spouse" with friend.