

# Strengthening Your Marriage

## Goal Of Our Class:

- To develop a Biblical view of Marriage.
- To facilitate better communication between husbands and wives.
- To strengthen marriages and families within our Church Body.
- To ultimately bring God glory in our Marriage relationships.

## Course Outline:

- God's blueprint of Marriage
- Love that lasts
- Roles and responsibilities
- Relational intimacy: Keys to better communication
- Conflict resolution
- Financial agreement
- Celebrating the differences
- Restoring romance and intimacy
- Family matters (Raising kids)
- Guarding your heart
- God's views on divorce and remarriage
- "Fireproof" (the movie)
- "The Newlywed Game"

## Core Convictions:

1. The Bible is our infallible standard for faith, doctrine, and practice. Those who resist its authority will be blown off course by their own feelings and cultural trends. (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17; 4:2-5; Eph. 4:14-16)
  2. Knowledge without application is lifeless. In order to be transformed, we must apply and practice the truth of God's Word in daily life. (Ja. 1:22-25; 1 Cor. 8:1-3)
  3. Application of these principles is impossible apart from the Holy Spirit. While we must participate in change, he is the source of our power. (Rom. 8:9-11,14-16; Jn. 14:26; 16:8,13,14; 1 Cor. 2:10,13)
  4. The Church is God's intended context for change. God never intended for us to live isolated from or independent of other Christians. Through committed participation in the local church, we find instruction, encouragement, correction, and opportunities to press on together toward maturity in Christ. (Rom. 12:5; Col. 1:28)
- (C.J. Mahaney, Why Small Groups? p.iv)

## Group Discussion:

1. How did you both meet?
2. How long did you date before you got married?
3. When did you know this was the person you wanted to spend the rest of your life with?
4. Why did you want to get married?
5. What did you hope to receive out of marriage that you wouldn't receive by remaining single?
6. Describe the details of your proposal/engagement.
7. How long have you been married?
8. What is the purpose of marriage?
9. What does a good marriage look like?
10. What has been the main influence in your life or example of what marriage should be? Have these been Biblically accurate?
11. Where does the Word of God need to have more influence in your marriage?
12. What part does our Church currently play in the development and growth of your marriage?
13. What is keeping marriage from being all that God designed them to be? (Why do they fail?)

## The Biblical View Of Marriage:

- What is marriage?
  - The union between a man and a woman for life  
Genesis 1:27,28; 2:18,21-24; Matthew 19:6
- What is the purpose of marriage?
  - \*\*Wrong views:
    - "Marriage is for my own personal satisfaction/happiness."
    - "Marriage is about making my spouse happy."
    - "Marriage is about us, not about your or my needs."
- What is God's purpose of marriage?
- God's Design In Marriage.
  - Proverbs 18:22
  - Genesis 2:18,20-25
  - Matthew 19:4-6
  - \* companionship (Genesis 2:18)
    - to combat loneliness - helper/suitable
  - \* to leave/cleave/united/one flesh  
(Gen. 2:21-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Mk. 10:7-9; Eph. 5:31)(4x)  
one + one = one

- experiencing oneness/marital unity
- "that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Phil. 1:27b)
  - "fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Phil. 2:2-4)
  - "Marriage between a man and woman is a total commitment and a total sharing of the total person with the other person until death."
    - Unity with diversity (differences should not hinder unity)
  - \* a very good thing/without guilt or shame (Gen. 1:31; 2:25)
    - transparency, openness, freedom, peace
    - sin brings shame, blame, hiding, curse, broken relationship
  - \* bound for life (1 Cor. 7:39; Rom. 7:2,3)
    - "faithful to the end" "till death do us part"
  - \* only with another believer (1 Cor. 9:5; 2 Cor. 6:14,15)
  - \* nothing should separate (Matt. 19:6)
  - \* reflect Christ's relationship with the Church (Eph. 5:22-32)
  - \* the basis of raising godly offspring (Mal.2:15; Gen. 1:28)
  - \* to be honored and protected (Heb. 13:4)
  - \* an exclusive relationship (1 Cor. 7:1-4,33-35)
    - relationship with spouse is your #1 priority (cleave)
    - sever the dependence upon parents. (leave)
    - parenting goal: prepare your children to someday leave
  - \* physical enjoyment (Prov. 5:15-19; Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:4,5)
  - \* marriage is a binding irrevocable covenant (Mal. 2:14; Prov. 2:17)
    - a promise to be faithful to each other regardless
    - it is a deliberate choice (SYM, Mack quote p. 4,5)
  - \* it will take work/it may be difficult (1 Cor. 7:26-29)

#### Questions:

- What do you desire your marriage to be? (dream)
- How much do you want to find God's best in your marriage? (Jn. 5:6)(a good God-honoring marriage takes work/sacrifice)
- Is your spouse the #1 person in your life? Ask your spouse.
- How have you left your parents? (leave/cleave)
- Is your response to your spouse based on certain criteria?
- Rate your marital oneness or intimacy (1=needs work - 10=good)
- Is there anything you are afraid to share with one another?
- What would you say are the strengths and weaknesses of your marriage relationship? What do you like or dislike?

- What keeps marriages together? Why will yours be any different?

### Spiritual:

- Describe your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- How are you keeping Jesus Christ at the center of your married life together? (Philippians 2:1-5; 1 Peter 3:7)
  - Spiritual disciplines
  - Involvement in your local church
  - Joint ministry opportunities
  - Couples Bible study/Impact group
  - Personal reading/discussion
  - Family devotions
- Who is ultimately responsible for the spiritual development of your family? (Ephesians 5:21,23, 25-27; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 18:19; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4; Proverbs 14:26; 1 Thessalonians 2:11; Isaiah 38:19; Psalms 78:3-8)

### Goal Of This Class:

- We need to submit ourselves to the transforming power of God's Word and yield our lives to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- We need to humbly acknowledge our true condition and need for the cross. (two sinful people needing Christ's forgiveness)
- We need to seek God's grace in our marriage (1 Cor. 4:7)
- We need to finish well. God desires us to finish strong - personally and in our marriages. There is no time like the present to start fresh. God is in the business of changing hearts and lives.