

Marriage Relationship

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I. Introduction.

A. There comes a time when your children will come to you and ask questions. (Deuteronomy 6:5-6)

B. A boy learns by trying, and when he is trying and has not done well he can be taught easier. A man cannot teach a boy much what he has not tried to do himself.

C. We are to let our children make some of their own mistakes first.

D. Possible future threats: multiple marriages, increases in divorces, the death of the family, marriages will include clauses to automatically terminate at a certain age, abortion will be forced.

II. Marriage.

A. It is the most sacred relationship in life—God ordained and a picture of a spiritual relationship between Christ and the church.

B. We must daily work at our marriage because the enemy is daily at work to destroy our marriages.

III. Spouse time.

A. Do I communicate with my spouse?

1. The problem is that a spouse often does not want to talk about problems when he or she gets home from work.

2. It is important to share so long as it is not too late because problems tend to be magnified past a certain time.

B. Am I transparent and honest with my spouse?

1. Silence and dishonesty is more difficult. (Psalm 32:3)

2. The most frequent fault in marriages is having secrets. We are to confess our faults to one another. (James 5)

3. We exchange growth and progress equally for being truthful and honest. (Psalm 51:6, Ephesians 4:15)

4. We need this to have strength to flee temptation. (Genesis 37-51)

C. Do you love me?

1. God loves us and His love is a model. (John 3:16)

2. God articulates His love for us. (Jeremiah 31:3, John 15:9)
3. God's love is both demonstrated too. (Ephesians 5:25-26)
4. Love is the key to transparency.
3. It is easy for our love to grow cold. (Revelation 2:4)

D. Do I forgive?

1. Mercy and forgiveness is the most visible characteristic of God that differentiates Him from man.
2. Marriage is the union of two good forgivers. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

E. Do I exercise an understanding heart?

1. Wisdom is the principle thing. We are to spend our lives seeking for wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding. (Proverbs 4:7, 2:9-10)
2. We are not only to know but apply.
3. A man ought to praise his wife in public. (Proverbs 31:28)
4. God promises to give us wisdom if we seek it. (Proverbs 15:14, 16:22)

F. Do we pray together?

G. Do we go away together?

1. Marital happiness is a goal to strive for not something given at the outset.
2. The foundation of a good marriage is the Word of God, prayer, and Jesus Christ our Lord. Building upon this will bless us and make us a blessing.

Application questions.

1. Review the questions. Which one is of greatest conviction to you personally? Explain.

2. Explain the importance of transparency. How should this look in a marriage?

3. What principle will you work on in detail in light of this discussion? What three things can you do this week to further achieve your goal?
