

Why Did I Get Married?

Alfred Street Baptist Church

Christian Life Institute

July 20 – 24, 2009

Facilitators,

Pastor Howard-John & First Lady Debbie Wesley

Marriage Isn't Easy

- ✓ Since the mid-60s nearly half of all marriages, Christian and non-Christian, have ended in divorce
- ✓ +90% of all marriages have *seriously* contemplated divorce more than once in their first 7 years

Marriage Isn't Easy

- ✓ In most homicide cases the spouse is the primary suspect
- ✓ It takes more than falling in love to make a marriage work – it takes staying in love
- ✓ Some people are not strong enough and/or ready to make marriage work

Divorce

- ✓ Is an option that no longer carries the same negative stigma that is used to – it is no longer a terminal condition
- ✓ It is easier to get a divorce than get out of a leased vehicle
- ✓ Can become inevitable as a result of neglect, abuse, and adultery

Divorce

- ✓ Can be a generational curse that can be broken
- ✓ Can greatly hinder our Christian witness to the world – it affects:
 - ✓ Church community
 - ✓ Children
 - ✓ Performance on our jobs
 - ✓ Motivation for evangelism

It is God's desire for marriage to
last a lifetime

We are *not* marriage counselors –
we cannot save any marriage, but
you can build a successful marriage
with a commitment to and daily
practice of certain principles

“Successful” Marriages:

- ✓ Are not problem or fight free
- ✓ Are equipped with fire hoses
- ✓ Are ones that continue to find a way to make love last
- ✓ Attempt to honor God daily
- ✓ Are built upon and practice biblical principles

Institute Goals

- Share biblically-based principles for building a Christian marriage
- Develop strategies for overcoming everyday marital issues and problems
- Discover healthy patterns of communication and principles for handling conflict and anger
- Increasing the things that strengthen marriage and decreasing the things that weaken a marriage

Institute Goals

- ✓ Always sit with your spouse 😊
- ✓ No “I told you so”, “See!”
- ✓ Come prayerfully open to receive and to share
- ✓ Prayerfully digest what you receive
- ✓ Go home with a commitment to making love last

Monday:

5 Biblical Principles of
Successful Marriage

Tuesday:

Marriage Busters – Resolving
the most common causes of
conflict in marriage

Wednesday:

What a Man Wants, What a
Woman Needs

Thursday:

The Thrill Is Gone –
Restoring intimacy in your
marriage

Friday:

Can You Hear Me Now? –
Developing healthy
communication

Who this course is for?

Leave and Cleave

Genesis 2:24

Leave and Cleave

- Everything/everyone, except God, must come second to the marriage
 - Children, job, friendships, money, being right
- Me and mine must become us and ours
- Marriage is not a best kept secret
- Navigate the balance between individuality and co-dependency
 - Oneness is not a loss of individuality

The 100/100 Rule

Ephesians 5:22-33

The 100/100 Rule

- Marriage is a covenant between a husband and a wife
 - Both have responsibilities
- Requires 100% effort on both parts or they will be unequally yoked
 - One person cannot pull all the weight
- Submission to Christ and accountability to God is the foundation of marriage

Naked and Not Ashamed

Genesis 2:25

Naked and Not Ashamed

- Marriage requires vulnerability not a defensive spirit
- Marriage requires complete honesty:
 - Can I be totally honest with you?
- Respect and negotiate privacy without secrecy
- Sexuality and intimacy are Godly parts of a growing marriage
 - Hebrews 13:4

Let It Go

Matthew 6:14, 11:25

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:13

Let It Go

- Offense is inevitable, forgetting is impossible, and yet forgiving is mandatory
- Forgiveness is the starting line, restoration is the goal
 - Remembering without reliving
 - The bedroom cannot be the doghouse
 - Requires patience on both parts
- I Corinthians 13:5

3 in 1

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Matthew 6:33

3 in 1

- Marriage takes a strength other than your own
- A husband and a wife submitted to and seeking God will grow stronger
 - Prays together
 - Worships together
- God must be in the center of your marriage
 - See your spouse through God's eyes, as a disciple of Christ, a vessel of the Holy Spirit, and an extension of yourself

