

# Marriage

Give Marriage Questionnaire to fill out and discuss.

Teach:

## **A. Importance of Marriage**

1. First Institution Ordained by God
2. Foundation of our Society
3. The Only Acceptable Means of Reproduction

## **B. Difficulties of Marriage**

1. Trouble Will Come (I Cor. 7:28)
2. Closeness Creates Friction
3. Most Common Issues in Marriages Leading to Divorce:
  - a. Communication
  - b. Loss of shared goals
  - c. Sexual incompatibility
  - d. Infidelity
  - e. Excitement is gone
  - f. Money
  - g. Conflicts over children
  - h. Alcohol or drugs
  - i. In-laws
  - j. internet
4. What is the real problem?

***Self-centeredness or Flesh***

## **C. God's Purpose**

1. Glorify God (I Cor. 10:31)
2. Reflect His Image (Gen. 1:27)

## **D. God's Plan for Husbands**

1. Headship
  - a. What Does "Headship" Mean?
    - Eph. 5:23 (No requirements)
    - Appointed position, not acquired

- No one can “make him” be the head.

b. Effect of false belief regarding headship

- Man feels **guilty** because he is not functioning in the role of head
- Wife tries to **manipulate** to get him to be head

2. Function of the head

a. Love

**Husbands**, go all out in your **love** for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church --- a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything He does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor --- since they're already “one” in marriage. **Eph. 5:25-28 (The Message)**

b. **Cultivate** and **keep** Gen. 2:15

- Attend to
- Go along side of
- Care For
- Hedge about
- Protect
- Nourish

c. Make **provision** I Tim. 5:8 (spiritually and physically)

- Bring to maturity
- Cherish
- Brood over
- To treat as dear

d. Not be passive

- Refusing to choose is a decision. He is still responsible for that decision.
- The husband is responsible for the decisions deferred to the wife. (*Passive men can control by criticizing a wife's decision*).

How to resolve passivity

- Trust the mind of Christ.
- Be willing to fail or make wrong decision.
- Surrender the right to remain passive.
- Wife should surrender the right to make decisions.
- Wife should ask his direction prior to acting on a decision.

## E. God's Plan for Wives

### 1. Submit

*"Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22*

*"In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives". I Peter 3:1*

#### a. Defining Biblical Submission

hupotasso {hoop-ot-as'-so} 1) to arrange under 2) to subject 3) to subject one's self, obey 4) to submit to one's control 5) to yield to one's admonition or advice 6) to obey, be subject

A Greek military term meaning "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader". In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

#### b. Submitting to God First (Ephesians 5:22)

*Examples of Christ's Submission*

- Christ's Main Purpose was to do God's will (Hebrews 10:7)
- Christ's Joy (Psalms 40:8)
- Christ's Willful Sacrifice (John 5:30)
- Christ's Total Obedience (Philippians 2:5-8)

#### c. Aspects of Submission

- Abiding (John 15:4-5)
- Resting (Psalms 37:7)
- Leaning (Proverbs 3:5)
- Trusting (Isaiah 26:4)
- Adhering (Matthew 16:24)
- Obeying (John 14:15-2)

#### d. Submitting to Husbands

##### ➤ Misconceptions

- (i) Can a person be obedient without being submissive? (yes)
- (ii) Can a person be submissive and not obey? (no) except abuse

*Example – Peter and John (Acts 4:20)*

- How do submission and obedience differ?

*Submission is an attitude which leads to an act of the will resulting in obedience. A submissive wife sees herself under the authority and protection of her husband's position and delights to obey. Obedience without submission is only compliance.*

- Deceptions about submission.

(i) "If I submit, he might \_\_\_abuse me, take advantage\_\_\_\_\_."  
*Usually is thinking about men in general*

(ii) "A dominant person can't be submissive."  
*Submission is to position, not personality*

(iii) "Headship means that my husband is better than I am."  
*Even Jesus submitted to His authority*

- In reality, marriage is a partnership!

*Jesus submitted to his parents. "And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men". Luke 2:51, 52*

2. Respect – which is also unconditional

*... and let the wife see that she **respects** and **reverences** her husband --- that she **notices** him, **regards** him, **honors** him, **prefers** him, **venerates** and **esteems** him; and that she **defers** to him, **praises** him, and **loves** and **admires** him exceedingly. Eph. 5:33 (The Amplified Bible)*

## **F. Holy Intimacy**

1. Intimate Communication

- a. Speaking clearly

- Take time to clarify – make time
- Speak same language – like learning Spanish, takes time
- Share feelings and content – I feel like...

- b. Eliminate unfair techniques

- Dropping a bomb – say just to hurt
- Jumping to conclusions -assuming
- Counterattacking – you did this...worse than me
- Numbers game – keep score

- c. Clear channel
    - Reduce noise – no TV, computer, etc...
    - Create a safe environment - no kids
    - Find mutually agreeable times and locations
  - d. Listening
    - Seek first to understand and then to be understood
    - Avoid evaluation- judgment
    - Be sensitive to feelings
    - Agree to have areas of disagreement
2. Intimate Companionship
- a. Requires trust
    - That my spouse will protect my weaknesses
    - That my spouse is a person of proven integrity
  - b. Fostered by transparency and vulnerability

Ask: What are you going to do to be OK if nothing ever changes?

### **G. The Real Source of Conflict (read - James 4:1-4)**

#### 1. Pleasure Seeking

*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? James 4:1*

- a. Adam and Eve were faced with a dilemma - Tree of life or Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil
- b. Three point temptation
  - i Pleasing to the eye
  - ii Good for food
  - iii Power
- c. Our Temptation

*“For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the boastful **pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” I John 2:16*

#### 2. Irrational Reactions

*You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. James 4:2*

- a. Revenge motivates us to make the punishment greater than the sin.
- b. God established the OT law of retaliation, *lex talionis*,
  - i. Punishment must equal the crime
  - ii. "An eye for an eye"
- c. Christ went beyond that law

*"But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you* **Matt. 5:44**

- d. Paul reinforced that in Romans 12:19-21

*"Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord. "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

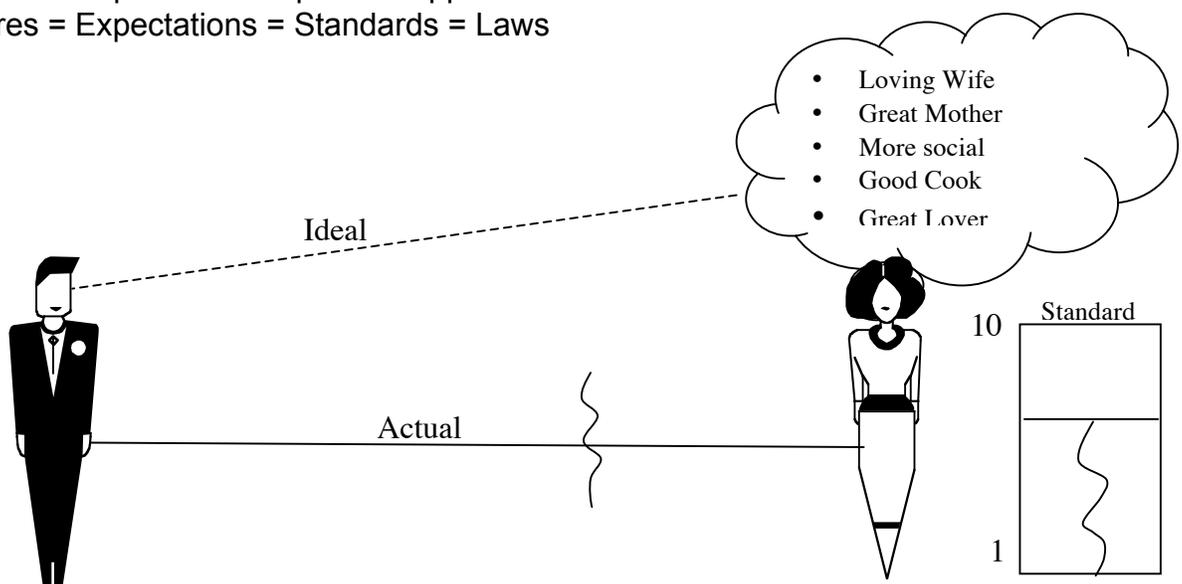
### 3. Unmet Expectations

*You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.* **James 4:3**

- a. Plans frustrated
- b. Expectations are based on
  - i. Desires for self-realization
  - ii. Self-actualization
- c. Motives are often to fill our empty lives
  - i. An abundance of pleasure
  - ii. By changing others

#### d. The process

- "If only she/he would \_\_\_\_\_"
- Fulfilled expectations equals "love"
- Unfulfilled expectations equals disappointment.
- Desires = Expectations = Standards = Laws



## H. Results of “Law-based” lifestyle

1. Rom 4:15 *Wrath*
2. Rom 5:20 *Increased Sin*
3. Rom 7:5 *Arouses Sinful Passion*
4. Rom 7:10 *Death*
5. James 2:10 *Guilt*
6. Gal. 3:10 *Curse*
7. I Cor. 15:56 *Power of Sin*

## I. What to do with expectations

1. Pray about them
2. Discuss them honestly and openly
3. Surrender rights for spouse to ever meet them
4. Choose to accept or receive your spouse without strings

## J. Forgiveness

*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Eph. 4:32*

*Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, **does not take into account a wrong suffered**, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. I Cor 13:4-7*

1. Forgiveness is “releasing the debt”
  - a. It releases the offender
  - b. As important, it releases the forgiver.

## K. Walking in Forgiveness

1. What if this person hurts me again? *(I forgive and keep accounts at zero)*
2. What if the person never changes? *(That is God’s problem.)*
3. What if I forgive and my feelings don’t change? *(That is God’s problem.)*

## L. Forgiveness Assignment



## The Apology/Forgiveness Process

1. Sitting with your spouse and holding hands, **follow these twelve words with your own actual words:**

- "I was wrong" (Acknowledge the event or circumstance)
- "I am sorry" (Acknowledge the perceived hurt or damage to identity)
- "Please forgive me" (Ask for sincere forgiveness)
- "I love you" (Reaffirm your commitment to your spouse)

2. The spouse now forgives

- "I forgive you, \_\_\_\_\_." "The debt is canceled - paid in full - satisfied by Christ at the cross and you owe me nothing further."

(Avoid saying "I want to . . . I would like to, etc.)

- "Being in Christ, I am willing to risk that I may be hurt by you again."

*But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. . . for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. Jer. 31:33,34*

Suggest Resources:

*Five Love Languages*

*Christ- Centered Marriage*

*For Men/Women Only*

*Love and Respect*

*Love Dare*

*His Needs, Her Needs*

Gracefull Communication in Marriage (CD)

Seven Powerful Discoveries to Strengthen Any Marriage (7 CDs)

## Counterfeit to Spiritual Roles

### A. Male Roles

Function	Spiritual Man	Carnal Man	
	Head	Dictator (Dominating)	Doormat (Passive)
<b>Leadership</b>	Do as I do	Do as I say, not as I do	Do something I can't
<b>Loves</b>	Loves Christ, himself, family , and others.	Loves himself first	Hates himself
<b>Develop and Nurture</b>	Cultivates the gifts of the family	Exalts his own gifts; Puts down others	Denies his gift
<b>Teacher</b>	Knows the Word and teaches by example	"Preaches" the Word, but lives poor example	Remains ignorant of the Word
<b>Provider</b>	Manages wisely; consistent with financial plan	Saves and spends only on his own terms	Poor provider depends on wife or others to meet family needs
<b>Protector</b>	Sets limits on basis of family spiritual welfare	Sets limits on basis of personal convenience	Refuses to set limits; waits for others to meet family needs

B. Female Roles

Function	Godly Woman	Carnal Woman	
	Help-Mate	Dictator (Dominating)	Doormat (Passive)
<b>Leadership</b>	Supports and assists husband in his role	Usurps authority from husband	Refuses responsibility; acts only on "orders"
<b>Loves</b>	Loves Christ, herself, family, and others.	Loves herself first	Hates herself and fears others
<b>Develop and Nurture</b>	Cultivates the gifts of the family	Emphasizes her own talent	Denies all abilities in self and envies others
<b>Teacher</b>	Knows the Word and teaches by example	"Preaches" the Word, but lives poor example	Remains ignorant of the Word
<b>Provider</b>	Manages wisely; consistent with financial plan	Serves family, saves, and spends on her own terms	Serves family on their demand; leaves money management to husband
<b>Protector</b>	Supports and assists in setting limits	Sets limits on basis of personal convenience and private opinion	Refuses to set limits; waits for others to meet family needs

His needs: sexual fulfillment, recreational companionship, attractive spouse, domestic support, admiration

Her needs: affection, conversation, honesty&openness, financial support, family commitment

Him

Her

Significance  
Respect

Security  
Love (Eph 5:33)

Both

Be subject (Eph 5:21)  
Rivers of living water (Jn 7:38)  
Be filled with Spirit (Eph 5:18)

**\* watch video “Slow Fade”**



12. What are your goals or aims in life? (List 2 or 3) Have you discussed these with your mate?

- a.
- b.
- c.

## **SOCIAL**

1. What are two activities (recreation, social, etc.) that you have in common?

- a.
- b.

2. Should each of you be permitted one night a week for your own interests? Why?

3. How important are certain dates (anniversary, birthday, ect.) to you?

4. Do you dislike any of your mate's family or friends? If so, who?

5. Do you have mutual friends? If so, how often are you together?

6. How much education has each of you had? Do either of you plan on continuing your education?

## **FAMILY AND HOME**

1. Has divorce occurred in your family?

2. What was your response to your parents' method of handling their problems? What is your plan for settling problems?

3. How much influence should in-laws have on your marriage?

4. How do you feel about having children?

5. How many children do you or would you like to have?
6. What is your belief regarding birth control?
7. What would you say makes a good parent?
8. What does it mean for the husband to be the head of the home?
9. How do you think children should be disciplined?
10. How do you feel about the wife working outside the home?
11. Are there any secrets that you should ever keep from each other?  
Specify.
12. If your mate were to become permanently paralyzed, would you be willing to care for him/her the rest of your life?
13. What is your belief regarding abortion? (Check one or more)
  - Should be the decision of the woman
  - Totally opposed under any circumstances
  - Opposed unless it is necessary to save life of the mother
  - Opposed except in cases of rape
  - Opposed unless child has severe handicap

## **SPIRITUAL**

1. Do you have a relationship with God, having received Christ as your own savior? When did this occur?
2. Are your parents Christians?
3. Are you certain that your mate is a Christian? Explain.

4. What is the greatest thing God has ever done for you?
5. How do you think God looks at your right now?
6. What would you like to see God do in marriage?
7. What does it mean to be the spiritual leader of the home?

### **FINANCES**

1. Have you and your mate agreed on how much you will need to operate your household?
2. What do you feel is the scriptural approach to giving back part of your resources to the Lord?
3. Which of you is handling the money and the payment of bills?
4. What is your opinion of buying on credit?
5. Should you or your mate be allowed to have money for personal expenses? For what items?
6. Have you planned any kind of budget? Will? Insurance program?

### **SEXUAL**

1. What books have you read or tapes have you listened to on the subject of sex in marriage?
2. Do you think your knowledge of sexual and physical relations is excellent, good, fair? (circle one)
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being least important, 10 being the most important, how important is sex in marriage?

4. Does your mate know of any sexual experiences you may have had in the past?
5. Do you think your mate is sexually adjusted?  
List two reasons for your answer.
  - a.
  - b.
6. Do you think you are sexually adjusted? List two reasons for your answer.
  - a.
  - b.
7. Are there any things sexually that make you embarrassed or inhibited?
8. In your opinion, what should be the limitations to a physical relationship while married? Give specifics.

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