

MARRIAGE SYLLABUS

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Dear Friend,

No one sees marriage as more important than God does. After all, He is the one who created marriage! It was not man's idea it was God's masterpiece. Marriage is so important to God that the Bible both opens and closes with a wedding. In the opening chapters of the book of Genesis we have the very first wedding as God Himself officiates the wedding of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Then, in the closing chapters of the book of Revelation we see the final wedding – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb as Christ is united to His church for all of eternity.

Whether you are engaged, newly married, or have been married for a long time, you can benefit by strengthening the Biblical foundation of your marriage. That is what this seminar is all about – reinforcing what the Bible says about the vital aspects of a healthy and successful marriage. Over the course of these four sessions we will walk through together what the Bible says about these crucial areas:

Session 1: Love
Session 2: Marriage Roles
Session 3: Communication and Conflict
Session 4: Temperaments and Acceptance

A few of the sessions have with them a pre-assignment. Though these are not vital to understanding the concepts we will discover, they are fun and will create some great communication between you and your fiancé or spouse. As we go through these sessions, please know that I will be praying for you! If you have any questions along the way, feel free to email me at folkslisten@miefree.org.

Pastor Scott

Pre-Assignment for Session One

Before you watch session #1, look up the following references in the Bible and next to each write out the Biblical concept of love that is presented. If you are married or engaged you can do this separately or do it together as a couple. The first one is done as an example for you

1. Proverbs 17:17 - Love happens at all times
2. Matthew 6:24
3. Matthew 22 :37-39
4. Luke 6:27-35
5. Luke 10:25-37
6. John 3:16
7. John 13:34
8. Romans 13:8-10
9. Romans 14:15
10. I Corinthians 8:1
11. Galatians 2:20
12. Galatians 5:13
13. Galatians 6:2
14. Ephesians 4:2
15. Ephesians 5:2
16. Ephesians 5:25
17. Titus 2:3-5
18. I Peter 4:8
19. I John 3:16-18

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SESSION ONE

*Pastor Scott Distler
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The Definition of Love

WEBSTER: “A strong affection or feeling for someone or something!”

QUESTION: “Is a strong affection like you may have for an object enough to make a marriage work?”

God’s View of Love

1. “PHILEO” - Tender Affection
 - a. Also used of things (like Webster’s definition)
 - b. Biblical example seen in Matthew 23:6
2. “PHILANTHROPIA” - “Phileo” + “Anthropos” (which means man)
 - a. Used of love for mankind
 - b. Biblical example seen in Acts 28:2
3. “EROS” - Sexual Intimacy
 - a. May or may not include true love
 - b. This word is not used in the New Testament (but this does not mean that the Bible has nothing to say about the sexual relationship within a marriage)
4. “AGAPE” - Unselfish Love Ready to Serve
 - a. Describes God’s love for us (seen in I John 4:8)
 - b. Describes love in marriage (seen in Ephesians 5:25)

NOTE: Loving your mate with the same exact kind of love that God loves you with is the only love that will make a marriage work!

The Distinction of Love

1. Some will only love “IF”... (this is loved based on **PERFORMANCE**)
2. Some will only love “BECAUSE”... (this is love based on **PERSONALITY**)
3. Few will love “INSPITE”... (this is love based on the **PERSON**)

NOTE: The first 2 distinctions are NOT characteristics of true love!

The Description of Love

(I Corinthians 13)

1. Love is **PATIENT** v4
 - Means being patient with people
 - Describes a person who is wronged and has the power to retaliate, but doesn't
 - Joseph is a good example (Matthew 1:18-19)
2. Love is **KIND** v4
 - Root word means “useful”
 - Describes a person who lives to benefit others by being useful to them
3. Love does not **ENVY** v4
 - Jealousy desires to have the same thing another has
 - Envy tries to deprive another of what they already have
 - Describes a person who will not try to deprive you of something due to jealousy
4. Love does not **BOAST** v4
 - Root word means “windbag”
 - Describes someone who does not verbalize their own accomplishments in order to make themselves look superior or you look inferior

5. Love is not **PROUD** v4
 - Boasting is the verbal action of pride while this is the inner attitude of pride
 - This describes a person who does not think that they are better than you and who would rather focus attention on you rather than themselves (see Philippians 2:3-4)
6. Love is not **RUDE** v5
 - Word means to act in an unbecoming manner
 - Deals with lack of manners and self-discipline
 - Describes a person who has excellent manners towards you
7. Love is not **SELF-SEEKING** v5
 - Describes a person who is not interested in their own things, but rather those things that interest you (again seen in Philippians 2:3-4)
8. Love is not **EASILY ANGERED** v5
 - Word means a sudden outburst
 - Describes a person who does not get angry easily and who is not always ready to fight or argue at the drop of a hat
9. Love **KEEPS NO RECORDS OF WRONGS** v5
 - Word means to keep a mathematical calculation
 - Word also means to write in a ledger
 - Same word used describing God's forgiveness
 - Describes a person who does not keep a mental record of what you have done wrong in order to use against you in the future
10. Love does not **DELIGHT IN EVIL** v6
 - Word means unrighteousness or sin
 - Describes a person who does not want sin in your lives or relationship
11. Love **REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH** v6
 - Describes a person who wants to see the truth of God's word lived out
 - This along with #10 describes a person who cares about your spiritual condition

12. Love **PROTECTS** v7
 - Describes a person who doesn't drag your faults in front of others
13. Love **TRUSTS** v7
 - Describes a person who believes in you and is not always suspicious of you

Note: The next 3 characteristics of true love increase in intensity like building blocks!
14. Love **HOPES** v7
 - Describes a person who does not bail out at the first mistake or misfortune
15. Love **PERSERVERES** v7
 - Describes a person who is willing to endure great opposition and still love you
16. Love **NEVER FAILS** v8
 - Describes a person whose love never falls to ruin or destruction

Assignments

1. What 3 characteristics of love are evident in your life as you relate to your mate or fiancé?

2. What 3 characteristics of love come difficult for you that you need to concentrate on?

3. What 3 characteristics of love do you see in your mate or fiancé as he/she relates to you?

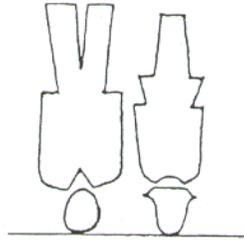
The Three Stages of Marriage

(Taken from book by Roberts and Wright)



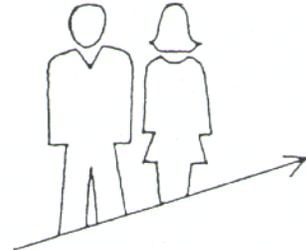
Enchantment

On Cloud 9
Perfect
Just right
Forever
Infatuated
Idolize
Numb
Fascinated
Charmed
Captivated
Ecstasy
Thrilled
Preoccupied
We've arrived



Disenchantment

Upset
Terrible
Absolutely wrong
I quit
Hurt
Put down
Splintered
Irritated
Wretched
Burdened
Uncomfortable
Bitter
Trapped
We'll never make it



Maturity

Feet on the ground
I need you
How do you see it?
Let's work it out
I'll help you
Encourage
Whole
Refreshed
Thankful
Free
Comfortable
Friendly
Growing
Together, we can make it

Pre-Assignment for Session Two

Circle the number which corresponds best with your belief. If you are married or engaged, do this separately then compare your answers

(taken from the book by Roberts and Wright)

(1) Strongly Agree

(2) Mildly Agree

(3) Not Sure

(4) Mildly Disagree

(5) Strongly Disagree

- 1 2 3 4 5 a. The husband is the head of the home
- 1 2 3 4 5 b. The wife should not be employed outside the home
- 1 2 3 4 5 c. The husband should help regularly with dishes
- 1 2 3 4 5 d. It is alright for the wife to initiate lovemaking
- 1 2 3 4 5 e. The husband and wife should plan the budget together
- 1 2 3 4 5 f. No purchase over \$50 should be made without consulting each other
- 1 2 3 4 5 g. The father is responsible for disciplining children
- 1 2 3 4 5 h. It is the husband's job to do the yard work
- 1 2 3 4 5 i. The husband should take the wife out at least twice a month
- 1 2 3 4 5 j. Money that the wife earns is her money
- 1 2 3 4 5 k. Children develop better in homes with strict discipline
- 1 2 3 4 5 l. The mother should be the teacher of values to the children
- 1 2 3 4 5 m. The husband is responsible to his job while the wife is responsible to the home and the children