

Building

A Great



Marriage!

Building/Restoring Hope In Your Marriage

1st Session



It's All About M.E. (Marriage Enrichment)

Presenter: Pastor LeRoy Thomas

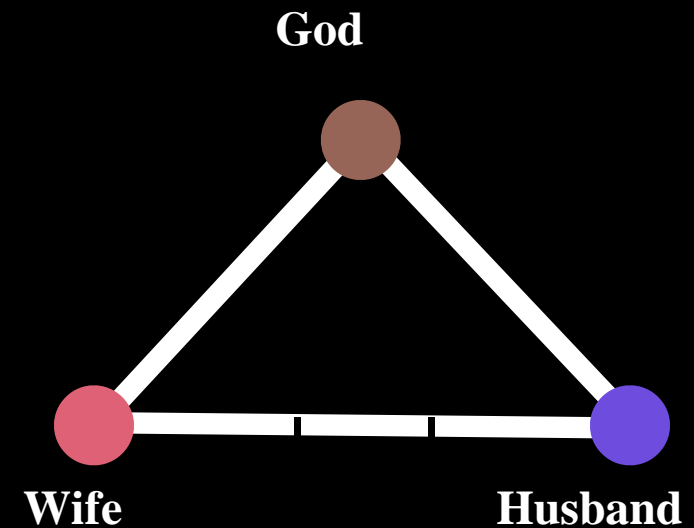
Two Pictures of Marriage

The Secular View



This is the world's concept of marriage—only a legally-binding **contract** between husband and wife.

The Biblical View



This is God's concept of marriage—a God-created **covenant** uniting a man and a woman before Him for life.

The Marriage Trio



Marriage truly is a triangle of relationships involving God, the husband and his wife.

Governmental laws help protect the marriage.

God's Design of Marriage

Every marriage is spiritual in nature because of God's declaration.

“For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

In Mark 10:9 Jesus states that every marriage has been joined together by God. No person should treat marriage as a mere man-made union.

“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

(by Jesus) Mark 10:9

Good marriages follow God's design.

Bad marriages do not follow God's design.

Mediocre marriages have not fully embraced God's design.

We safely can assume several things from the Bible

- **God wants to build great marriages.**
- **God has a way to restore a broken marriage.**
- **God works with those who are listening to Him.**
- **God leads us back by living by His design.**





What Each Partner “Brings to the Table”

Video Clip



What Each Partner “Brings to the Table”

- **FAMILY HISTORY DYNAMICS**
- **BELIEFS & ATTITUDES**
- **PERSONAL HISTORIES**
- **MARRIAGE EXPECTATIONS**

Family History Dynamics



“You can’t marry Marilyn without getting the Munsters!”

Impact of Family of Origin

- Since families are units, what happens in families affects every member of the family
- We are affected . . . positively or negatively
- Unhealthy relationship patterns . . .
Continue or Stop?
- Not responsible for our ancestors and their choices . . . we are responsible for what we choose and do

Family History Dynamics Interaction Exercise. . .

What TV family most closely resembles your family of origin? Explain . . .

- The Blue Bloods
- The Huxtables
(The Cosby Show)
- The Waltons
- Sanford & Son
- Mike & Molly
- Family Affair
- Modern Family
- My Three Sons
(Douglas Family)
- The Jeffersons
- The Osbournes
- Family Matters
- Others

How about movies?



Family History Dynamics Interaction Exercise. . .

**Communication Patterns
In
Your Family of Origin**



Marital Expectations

***Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life
– Hebrew Proverb***



Marital Expectations

- Recognizing the sources of our expectations
 - *Family of Origin*
 - *Past Relationships*
 - *Cultural Factors*
 - *Society's Views & Values*
 - *Other Factors?*



Marital Expectations

- Recognizing how expectations affect our relationships
 - *Big issues and small ones*
 - *Key part of marital fulfillment and happiness*
 - *Unmet expectations and related emotions . . .*
 - *Events can TRIGGER CONFLICT around significant ISSUES*

Marital Expectations

- How to manage our expectations
 - *Being AWARE*
 - *Being REASONABLE*
 - *Being CLEAR*
 - *Being MOTIVATED . . . to help meet your partner's expectations that are personal and reasonable*





Marital Expectations

Video Clip



Clarifying Purposes and Roles in Marriage

Covenant & Oneness

- The word "covenant" is defined as "a solemn agreement" . . . it carries legal authority
- A "covenant" is made up of conditions . . . there is no such thing as an "unconditional" covenant
- The word "unconditional" (*without conditions*) is a contradiction of the word "covenant"
- To imply that a marriage covenant has no conditions is a corruption of the marriage institution itself



Covenant & Oneness

***Establishing a Covenant
is different than
Fulfilling a Covenant***

Covenant & Oneness

❖ *Vows: Conditions of the Marriage Covenant*

- First foundation: Premarital exchanges/agreements
- The vows of a marriage are the conditions of the covenant set forth before the marriage takes place
- Marriage **IS** a lifetime commitment; however, it is not a lifetime commitment without conditions
- The ability to keep one's promise to "love" is rooted in a true, wholesome, and honest character along with just standards and behavior
- The vows must have meaning . . . vows determine the depth and scope of the covenant

Covenant & Oneness

❖ *Covenant is Relationship*

- "Relationship" in its very definition carries the fact that there is mutual love, care, and moral obligations between each party and the fulfilling of responsibilities with each other
- Covenants are protected in multiple ways:
 - 1) By the established terms and conditions of the pre-marital discussions and marriage covenant
 - 2) By the covenant partners
 - 3) Other ways?

Covenant & Oneness

Sample of a False Covenant

The man says, "I take my wife, to have as I wish, to meet all my needs, to disregard her needs and desires, and to disrespect and hurt her as often as I desire because she is now my wife and cannot escape. She is mine to treat as I wish. I can do as I please, without regard as to how this will affect my wife and family, because I am the head of the marriage and family."

The woman says, "I take my husband to have and to hold, cherish, love, and respect, in sickness and in health, for better and for worse, seeking ways to grow in our relationship till death do us part."

What should the man's vows and actions be?

Covenant & Oneness

Minimum Covenant Standards . . .

covenants stand upon truth and justice
rooted in moral behavior, especially so in
marriage covenants where true love is the
foundation

WARNING:

*Watch out for misconceptions of the
Marriage Covenant being “Unconditional.”*

*Let us change our terminology from
“Unconditional Love” to STEADFAST LOVE.*

Covenant & Oneness

❖ *Attributes of STEADFAST LOVE*

- Provides a foundation of mutual acceptance of one another
- Exhibits forgiveness and appropriate reconciliation throughout a lifetime of oneness and togetherness
- Honors covenant standards and requirements
- Exhibits enduring love and commitment to marriage covenant



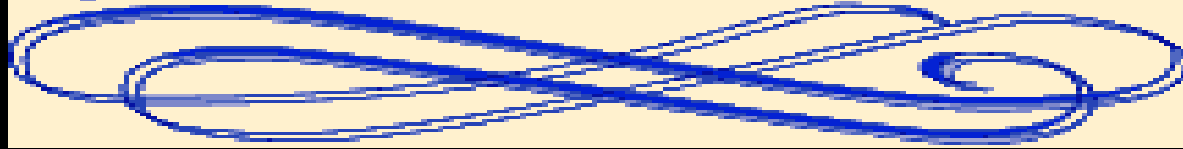
Covenant & Oneness

- * In times of newlywed bliss, the excitement of a new home or a new baby, it is not common for couples to think of breaking covenant vows or pursuing divorce
- * How couples respond to challenges depends on what they really believe and helps expose this
- * Couples can “weather storms together” and sort things out by focusing on the basic truths of their oneness, covenant, and joint purposes
- * Couples need to set their hearts upon living by their agreements and marriage vows

Oneness Forever

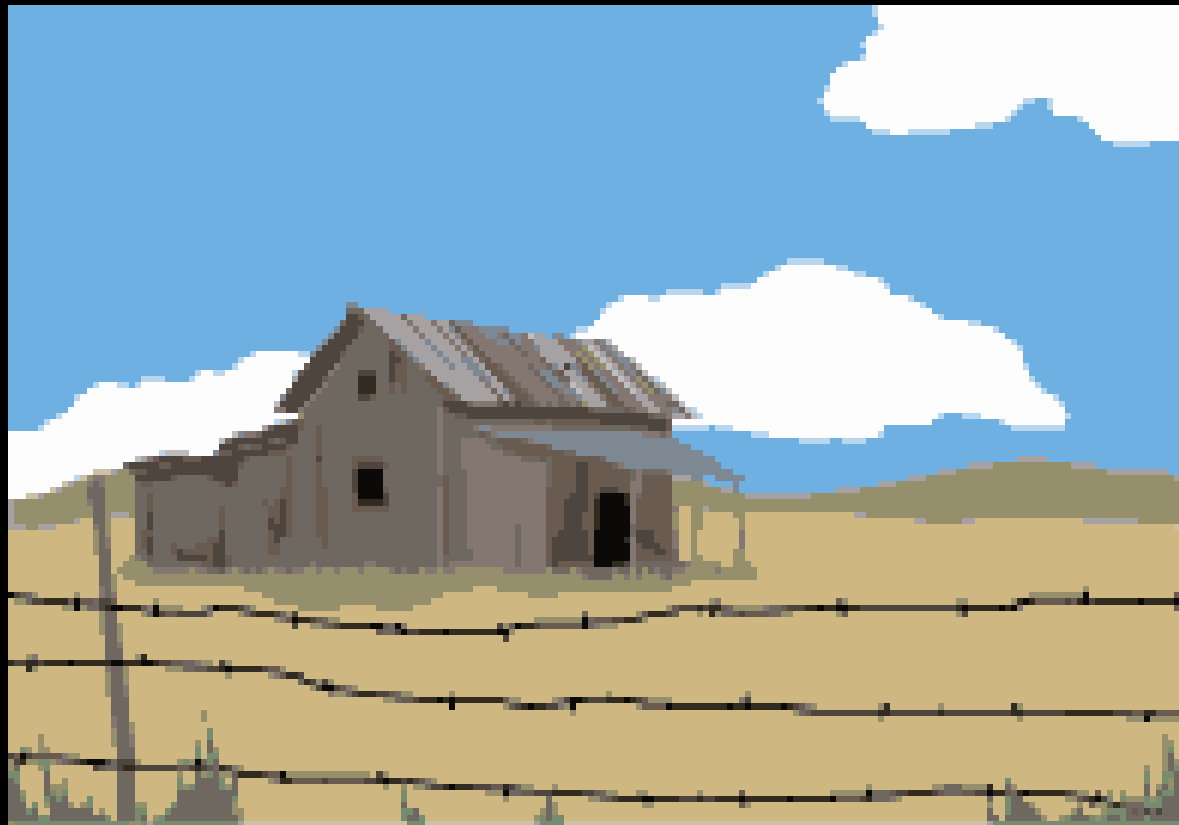
- * Special forces and foundational principles beneath healthy and thriving marriages
 - *The first three foundational principles are:*
 - 1) *Steadfast Love*
 - 2) *Humility*
 - 3) *Responsibility*
 - *The fourth foundational principle comes from what is conveyed in many wedding vows . . .*
“that a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh”
 - *The “living out” of these foundational principles is essential for a great marriage*

Oneness Forever



- Determine to only love my spouse as my mate and “other half”
- Fight temptation by regularly and openly affirming my love for my spouse
- Trust the marital process and timing to fulfill my own desires and needs . . . this helps guard me from frustration and impatience
- Refuse to get bitter . . . and embrace “tabling issues” to achieve genuine reconciliation
- Quickly apologize for our wrongs . . . and demonstrate the desire to work together
- The greatest joys come through being in harmony with your spouse, living life together, and fulfilling purposes

The Ranch





Marriage Covenant

Personal Experience



Marriage Questions

What are some goals of marriage?

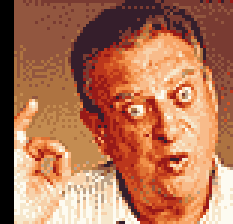
What are couples and their families aiming to achieve?

What words describe the complementary roles of husbands and wives?

ROLES: Love & Respect



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ROLES: Love & Respect

- **Wives need to be loved, cherished, and understood by their husbands**
- **Husbands need to be appreciated and respected/honored by their wives**

Sample of Marriage Seminar

This slide presentation is an example of the marriage seminar created to:

- **Take marriages through a diagnostic checkup**
- **Enhance couples knowledge of marriage before they made plans to “Jump the Broom” (get married)**
- **Enrich and enhance couples in their relationships who were already married**

This is not the entire seminar; seminars can be tailored.

- There are no charges for these seminar, ask only that expenses are covered.
- Love Offerings are accepted to bless this ministry for those who have not.

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