

STUDENT HANDOUT — Seminar 2, Session 2

Marriage 101

INTRODUCTION

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

I. What is the secret of a successful marriage?

The secret of a successful marriage is to have the same _____
_____ that Jesus Christ possessed.

Our proper position in a successful marriage is that of _____
_____ to our spouse.

II. What are the reasons we are having so many problems in our marriages, including the evangelical church world?

Let's look first at some very alarming statistics:

Statistics of American Marriages

_____ % marriages will fail

_____ % compared to 1967

_____ % of marriages will permanently separate

_____ % of married couples will experience some kind of marital unfaithfulness.

_____ % of today's children will see parents divorce by the time they are 8 years old. Most children will spend part of their lives in a single parent home.

A. Many couples enter into marriage to _____ to make it work.

Evidence of immature couples:

1. The _____ into marriage.

2. They believe that _____ is part of the marriage scheme.

3. They often confuse _____ with _____.

B. Too often we _____ on our self instead of focusing on our _____.

C. We wake up to _____ out who _____ really are.

D. We then _____ out who our _____ really is.

Men and women really are different. Look at some of the standard differences:

Men

Women

Often more logical

Often more emotional

More proud - difficulty admitting fears

Less proud - able to admit fears

More objective

More intuitive

Have a "wandering" tendency

Have a "nesting" instinct

Forgets the "little things"

Remembers the "little things"

More independent

More relational

Respond to sight

Respond to touch

E. We do not understand marriage _____ balanced with our _____.

Incorrect perceptions about intimacy:

1. It is easy to _____ my mate.
2. Intimacy means that we are just _____.

Proper steps for intimacy:

1. You should give your companion _____.
2. You should help your companion to _____.

F. We _____ working on the marriage.

CONCLUSION

The stages of too many marriages:

1. The honeymoon period
2. The time when specific irritations begin to occur
3. A time of general discomfort
4. A try harder time
5. The exhaustion stage
6. The separation story

Here is what can be done to keep your marriage from going to step 5 and 6:

1. Determine to do everything you can to have a successful marriage.
2. Give unconditional love to your companion.
3. Consider every possible way to improve your marriage.
4. In the heat of the battle share this phrase from your heart, "I AM YOUR BEST FRIEND."

You will have a wonderful marriage if you both will serve each other.