

STUDENT HANDOUT — Seminar 2, Session 5

Warning Signals of a Crumbling Marriage

Scripture: I Corinthians 13

I. The love chapter describes the kind of love we should be expressing to companions.

A. This chapter is extremely important to establish as a goal for our relationships.

B. No matter what your past may be there is certain hope for the future if you will correct certain things.

C. Someone has said, "Though I cannot go back and make a brand new start my friend, anyone can start from now and make a brand new end."

II. There are at least four stages of a crumbling marriage.

A. The _____ - this is when the partner thinks that marriage is going to be easy.

B. The _____ stage - this is the stage where the partner realizes that marriage isn't what they thought it would be.

C. The _____ stage - this is the stage where every issue in the marriage is negatively blown out of proportion.

D. The _____ stage - this is when a mate intentionally provokes his or her companion.

III. Ten warning signals of a crumbling marriage.

1. _____

There are two basic signs for this behavior:

a. _____

There are two basic kinds of people in this world:

1) _____

2) _____

b. _____

2. _____

Six common characteristics of this kind of family:

a. _____ - this is when someone controls all interactions, feelings and personal behavior at all times.

b. _____ - this demands that everyone must always be right in everything they do.

c. _____ - this occurs whenever things don't turn out as planned and family members blame themselves or others.

d. _____ - this is when families deny feelings, perceptions, thoughts, wants, and especially negative feelings by not talking about them and acting as if they do not exist.

e. _____ - this is when family members never complete transactions, but instead keep the same fights and disagreements going on for years.

f. _____ - this is because no one gets their needs met, so the trust level is very low.

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Signs of inattention:

a. You give answers to your companion without any _____.

b. You have stopped cultivating _____.

c. You would rather be with other _____.

d. You stop _____.

e. You avoid your _____.

7. _____

Warning signs of potential affairs: (ask the questions)

- a. Is my marriage _____ apart?
- b. Do I make _____ to be with someone else?
- c. Am I _____ with thoughts of someone else?
- d. Do I put myself in _____ ?
- e. Do I send out improper _____ ?

Steps to affair proof your marriage:

- a. You must know the _____ when you are the most vulnerable.
 - 1) Early in career building
 - 2) A new baby in the home
 - 3) At age transitions
 - 4) When there are unmet needs for intimacy
 - 5) Mid-life crisis or mid-life re-evaluation
 - 6) Having to deal with an aging body
 - 7) Moving transitions
 - 8) When wife enters or re-enters the job market
- b. You must stop _____ your marriage with others.
- c. You must continually work on _____.
- d. You must carefully choose your _____.
- e. You must never think, "this could _____ happen to me."

Most people who think it will not happen to them often fall into the trap.

We must live very concerned and very carefully that nothing even gets close to possible failure.

- f. You must look beyond the temptation to the _____ of your sin.

g. You must start your own affair at _____.

Follow these steps to have an affair with YOUR SPOUSE.

- 1) Value your _____.
- 2) Add _____ to your marriage.
- 3) _____ each other often.
- 4) Do the _____.
- 5) Give _____ to your companion.
- 6) Share _____.
- 7) Be _____.
- 8) Take _____ from responsibilities.
8. _____ conflict.
9. _____ conflict.
10. _____ - _____ to things other than my marriage.