

STUDENT HANDOUT — Seminar 3, Session 2

How To Understand My Mate

SCRIPTURE: I Peter 3:1-7; Romans 12:10

INTRODUCTION

1. God made marriage relationships with such a mystique about it that if it is not searched out and uncovered, the closeness that God desired for us will never truly be enjoyed.

2. I want to begin this lesson by saying, “You can understand your mate.” On the heels of that statement I must quickly add that it takes time, energy, and effort on your part to gain that knowledge. But when you do, the reward for the effort is so overwhelming that it takes the marriage relationship to a much higher level.

I. We Must Understand that Men and Women are _____.

Men are not _____ than women.

Women are not _____ than men.

We are both _____, yet both are needed to _____ the marriage unit.

Marriage is one of the only major arenas of life that routinely sets a high level of expectation for people to hang their hopes on.

Then at the same time, marriage can be one of the saddest places for people to have heartaches, disappointments and dashed hopes.

What is the definition of a marriage:

Marriage is two imperfect people entering into a committed relationship, diligently pursuing intimacy under the loving rule of God.

II. We Must Understand that the _____ is probably not your _____.

What are some specific problems that can hinder companions from understanding each other?

1. We lack _____ in our relationship.

2. We are more concerned about fixing the _____ on our mate rather than fixing the problem.

3. We do not allow each mate the right of _____ in the major decisions of the family.

4. We _____ from our mates and fail to give them full disclosure.

5. We fail to _____ in the responsibilities of the home.

6. We fail to have a good system to _____ our family _____ which are inevitable.

7. We fail to help our companion _____ or _____ in their area of _____.

8. We are unwilling to take the responsibility for the _____ of our companion.

9. We fail to make our relationship with our partner our number one _____.

III. We Can Understand Our Mate If We Will Implement Some Very Important Biblical Principles.

Scripture: I Peter 3:1-7; Romans 12:10

Principle #1 - Wives _____ accept the _____ of your husbands.
Vs.1

Principle #2 - Husbands _____ your wives. Vs. 7

1. Honoring is an _____.

2. Husbands must be _____ and _____ of their wives if they expect to have their prayers answered.

3. Husbands treat your wives with _____.

Principle #3 - Both of you _____ each other with genuine _____.
Romans 12:10

[] List of some of the common dishonoring acts in a home.

1. You ignore or degrade your mate's opinions, advice, or beliefs.

2. You disregard your mate's or children's effort of trying to communicate with you by burying yourself in your newspaper or whatever else you are trying to do.

3. You create jokes about your mate's weak areas or shortcomings.
4. You treat your in-laws or other relatives as not important in your planning or communication.
5. You ignore or will not express appreciation for any kind deeds done for you. Don't take each other for granted.
6. You continue to practice distasteful habits in front of your family even after they have expressed a desire for you to quit.
7. You practice overcommitting yourself to other projects or people and demonstrate that everything outside the home seems more important than those inside the home.
8. You and your mate experience power struggles that leaves on of you feeling that you are the child and is being controlled by the other.
9. You are unwilling to admit that you are wrong and will not ask for forgiveness.
10. You make regular verbal attacks on your mate. You are critical (Bobby/butter in corn), judgmental, and a giver of uncaring lectures.

[] There are many more Biblical principles to follow that will help you understand your companion. Here are thirty additional principles you must consider following. If you will follow them I truly believe you will really advance in understanding your companion.

1. Love one another - John 15:12
2. Do not pass judgement on one another - Rom. 5:8
3. We are to be members of one another - Rom 12:5
4. We are to be devoted to one another - Rom. 12:10
5. We are to honor one another - Rom. 12:10
6. We are to live in harmony with one another -
7. We are to build up one another - Rom 14:19
8. We are to be like minded toward one another - Rom. 15:5
9. We are to accept one another - Rom. 15:7
10. We are to care for one another - I Cor. 12:25
11. We are to serve one another in love - Gal. 5:13
12. We are not to destroy or hurt one another - Gal. 5:26
13. We are not to provoke envy in one another - Gal. 5:26
14. We are to bear one another's burdens - Gal. 6:2
15. We are to be kind to one another - Eph. 4:32
16. We are to forgive one another - Eph. 4:32
17. We are to submit to one another - Eph. 5:21
18. We are not to lie to one another - Col. 3:9

19. We are to bear one another's burden - Col. 3:13
20. We are to abound in love toward one another - I Thess. 3:12
21. We are to comfort one another - I Thess. 4:18
22. We are not to hate one another - Tit. 3:3
23. We are to urge, admonish, or encourage one another - Heb. 3:13
24. We are to stir up one another to love and good deeds - Heb. 10:24
25. We are not to speak evil of one another - James 4:11
26. We are not to bear grudges against one another - James 5:9
27. We are to confess our faults to one another - James 5:16
28. We are to pray for one another - James 5:16
29. We are to greet one another with a kiss or mutual affection - I Peter 5:14
30. We are to fellowship one with another - I John 1:7

CONCLUSION

Prayer of commitment to God's principles