

How Two Become One

MARRIAGE 101

Genesis 2:22-25/ Matthew 19:3-6/ Malachi 2:13-17

- ❶ **Who we marry** isn't as important as **how we do marriage**
- ❷ Opposites **attract** – then they **attack**
- ❸ The three keys to success (or survival): *Leave, Cleave & Weave*
 - (1) Some things have to be **left behind**
 - (2) Staying connected has to become a **priority**
 - ✓ **Emotionally**
 - ✓ **Intellectually**
 - ✓ **Physically**

PRACTICAL ADVICE FROM AN OLD MARRIED GUY

- ❶ If you don't learn to **celebrate** your differences – you'll **fight** over your differences
- ❷ If you expect your mate to meet all of your **needs** – you'll be **bitterly disappointed**
- ❸ If you don't share the **little stuff** each day – it will become **big stuff** over time
- ❹ If you're **stuck** – get **help**
- ❺ If you want someone to feel **loved** – you have to learn their **language of love**

TAKING IT HOME

1. Which of the five points of practical advice from this week's sermon are most important for you to remember in your marriage or relationships?

2. Regardless of your marital status, research shows that each of us has primary "love languages" (something that tells us, "I'm thinking of you and I care about you"). Below is a list of some of the most common "love languages." After reading them, answer the questions that follow.

- 1) Words of Affirmation
- 2) Gifts
- 3) Time Together
- 4) Physical Touch
- 5) Helping Out
- 6) Public Loyalty (being on the same side)
- 7) Connecting Emotionally
- 8) Meeting Material Needs
- 9) Supporting Dreams & Goals
- 10) Sharing Interests & Hobbies (entering my world)

Which of the love languages is easiest for you to express? Which is most challenging?

If you are married, which of these do you think your spouse will identify as his or her top three love languages? If single, apply the same question to a good friend or family member.

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- ❶ _____ isn't as important as _____
- ❷ Opposites _____ – then they _____
- ❸ The three keys to success (or survival): *Leave, Cleave & Weave*
 - (1) Some things have to be _____
 - (2) Staying connected has to become a _____
 - ✓ _____
 - ✓ _____
 - ✓ _____

PRACTICAL ADVICE FROM AN OLD MARRIED GUY

- ❶ If you don't learn to _____ your differences – you'll _____ over your differences
- ❷ If you expect your mate to meet all of your _____ – you'll be _____
- ❸ If you don't share the _____ each day – it will become _____ over time
- ❹ If you're _____ – get _____
- ❺ If you want someone to feel _____ – you have to learn their _____

NORTH COAST
community  service

Annual Buena Vista Creek Clean-Up – Saturday, May 22 from 8:30 AM-1:00 PM. Sign up for this project on the community service website, www.northcoastchurch.com/service or contact Melissa for further questions, 760-724-6700 x 206 or melissaw@northcoastchurch.com. **This is a "family friendly" event.**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 18, 2010

Special Note About this Week's Topic of Marriage: This week's homework and Growth Group discussion is designed to be helpful for all of us regardless of our marital status. For those who are not married, it could be helpful in preparing for a possible future marriage or providing insights for growing relationships with family and friends.

QUICK REVIEW – Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. As you think about your spouse or a close friend, what are some ways the two of you are similar and ways you're different? (Remember, keep it positive)

Similarities	Differences

Which of the similarities and differences do you easily enjoy? Are there any differences (and similarities) that cause some conflict in your relationship? Any ideas why?

2. Can you think of any expectations or assumptions you have had about marriage that have changed over the years? Where do you think these expectations came from?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Keeping in mind the value and worth of the other person is key to building a healthy relationship. Unfortunately, conflict, failed expectations, and miscommunication can cloud our view of seeing any positive qualities in the other person and can send us into a downward spiral. How do the following verses help us keep in mind the other person's positive qualities?

Genesis 1:27

Ephesians 2:10

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 2:3-5

Write down 3-5 positive character qualities of your spouse or close friends that are important to remember.

2. One of the challenges to tuning into others' needs is understanding the other person's point of view. After you read each verse below, write a guideline based on the verse to help you focus on understanding others.

Proverbs 2:11

Proverbs 11:12

Proverbs 20:5

1 Corinthians 10:24

Proverbs 16:22

As you look back at the guidelines you wrote, how would you rate yourself on each (Good, Fair, Needs Improvement)?

3. We heard this weekend that when you're stuck on something that's becoming a problem, as a couple or as friends, you need to get help. How do the following verses reinforce the importance of this idea?

Proverbs 19:20

Galatians 5:14-15

Hebrews 3:13

Assuming we all struggle in our relationships at times, why do you think we find it difficult to allow ourselves to get input from others?

At what point would you be willing to seek input from someone regarding an issue you were dealing with in your relationship?

Can we ever become too dependent on input from others?