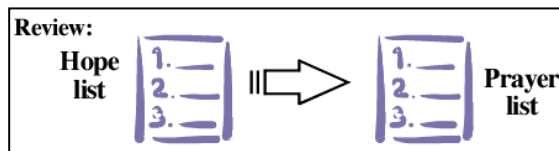




Unconditional Love

Life Principle #1

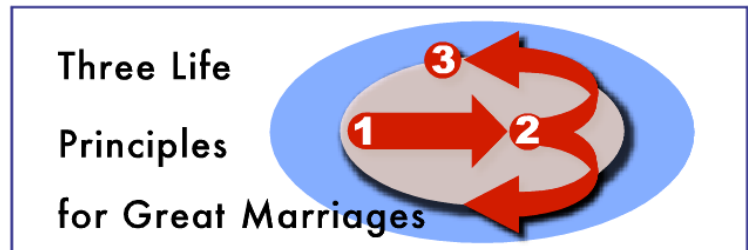
Handouts: Chapter #2



* Why are there so many bad marriages?

Is it because a bad design of marriage? No. The problem is a _____ problem!

Couples are not building according to design. If they would build according to God's design for marriage, then they would have great marriages.



(1) Unconditional love, (2) Humble Submission, (3) Forever Together.

* God's Design for Marriage



"For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32).

* God's Purposes for Marriage

- Neatly organize society
- Create joyous couples
- Produce nurtured children
- Develops financially stable homes
- Develop companionship
- Reveal and pass on truth

Three Marriage Analogies

- (1) Christ left His heavenly Father
Husband leaves his father
- (2) Christ secured a bride (with His life)
Husband secures a bride (with dowry)
- (3) The church (His people) belongs to Christ
The wife belongs to her husband

* God's Love Described

God's love - "We love, because He first _____ us" (1 John 4:19).

God's love through Christ



(a) Unconditional love

His love was not dependent on a good or proper response to Him from His people.

(b) Compassionate love

Compassionate love is only one way of describing God's tenderness, mercy, grace, kindness and goodness toward us in Christ.

(c) _____ love

A devoted love reveals a priority of kind action in spite of the challenges and distractions of life.

* God's Love Compared

Love is the supreme choice. A man has two possible responses to God's love through Jesus Christ. He can accept it or reject it. He can be influenced by God's love or shun it.

* Three NT Greek Words for Love

Love: Three Greek words	<i>Agape</i>	<i>Philia</i>	<i>Eros</i>
Description	Unconditional love	Social love	_____ love
Mindset	Loves because of commitment	Loves as one is loved	Loves to get loved
Motivation	Motivated by God's command and other's need.	Motivated by expectations of others	Motivated by self pleasure
Heart	Willing to make sacrifices	Tries to make an even trade-off	Willing to sacrifice others
Impact on Marriage	Built on God's love	Built on _____	Built on lust
Marriage problems	Forgive and keep loving	Offenses lead to bitterness	Look elsewhere for satisfaction

* Covenant love in Marriage

- Describe covenant love

- Unconditional love
- Source of love outside ourselves
- Great marriages

Forgiving love

- Love keeps no record of wrongs (more later)
- God will _____
- Our duty to love
- Love covers a multitude of sins

- ✦ We forgive as Christ forgave
- ✦ We accept as Christ accepted
- ✦ We hope as Christ hoped



* Questions on Unconditional Love

- ✦ 1) What about the guy? How is he going to get fulfilled?

Belief	Selfishness	Commitment
He doesn't believe God's ways are ultimately best because of the circumstances he (she) finds himself in.	Because of his doubt, he holds back on his commitment.	Because he cannot be sure of God's love and help, he uses his 'love' as a means to get love back. This then is no longer love!

- ✦ 2) Doesn't the wife need to love?

- Unconditional love
- Life principle #1

- ✦ 3) Why does God give this command to the husband?

- ✦ 4) Can my love hold out?

- Man is designed to love.
- Demanding, bravery, courage, risk taking -like firefighter
- Sense of fulfillment and energy
- Lust empties; Love fulfills
- True for all but especially for men.
- Gaining faith to love

* Dealing with Difficult Wives

- ✦ Possibility #1 Breakthrough

God gives hope on how a husband's consistent love will break down the wife's mistrust (Ephesians 5) . Husbands not only have the mandate to constantly love their wives but also the hope that they can be used of God to bring her to a more holy state.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory."

✦ Possibility #2 Endurance

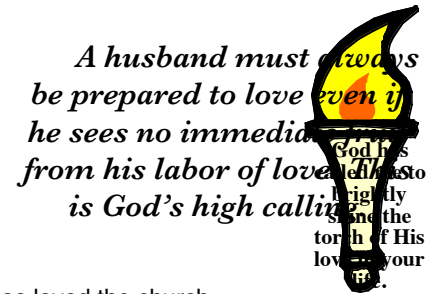
- Hosea
- Job
- Jesus & disciples

* A Husband's Pledge

"God has made me to love you my wife, truly and unselfishly. He has designed me so that every part of me can fully devote itself to you. I want your wedding dreams of that one man who would always and only love you indeed to come true. I am that faithful man for you.

At the very end of my earthly life, the Lord will know that I have been pure in my desire to wholly love you both before and during marriage. In faith I want to test the very foundational principles God has implanted in this universe when He made it. My mission will be to love you my wife as Christ has loved the church.

God has called me to brightly shine as the torch of His love in your life. Whether in poverty or wealth, youth or old-age, in health or sickness, I am determined to love you. Whether you, my dear, will be able to accept my love doesn't matter. I will constantly love and cherish you. I want my love for you to reflect Christ's love for His people. True love brings birth to great hopes."



* A Prayer of the Husband

"Dear Father in Heaven, I declare a holy war against my lusts. I have chosen the sure weapon of your enduring love. I have been designed to love. Away with the infernal selfish pleasure that betrays my loyalty to my God and wife! Away with each thought that would lead me into its condemned and greedy claws! Your time is gone.

I choose to love a pure love. I choose to live with a holy focus on my wife. I want with my love to penetrate the dark doors of death and confusion. With my constant and dedicated commitment to my wife I want to strip away all the fears and doubts that have been laid on her poor soul. God fill me with your Spirit. Cleanse my soul of sin for your call.

ing is high and lofty. Grant that I may live full specially chosen woman. I have only one wife. only one wife. By your divine grace and example will give her and her alone my constant care as long as we both shall live.

And now, Lord I ask that you would protect what is so great and beautiful. Lift up what is glorious so that hope, joy and love can again touch our miserable hearts. Let me join this race to run for your glory and nothing else. Lead me, Lord, with your precious example into a constant and flowing river of giving acts and words toward my wife. May I be pure, love and responsible. And may the glorious love of God be revealed on earth in and through my love for my wife. By the grace and blood of Christ, God's only Son, I pray. Amen.

BGM #2 Answers Unconditional Love
The problem is a construction problem
"We love, because He first loved us."
(c) Devoted love
Passionate love
Built on expectations
God will judge