

Small Group/Sermon Notes for Marriage 2017

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **God's Idea of Marriage**
- What if Christians led the world in how to do marriage the right way?
- Relationships at whatever stage are one of the most significant parts of this life!
 - This can be the greatest joy. A mighty mysterious blessing from God...or
 - Relationships can be a profound source of misery.
- What's the "right" way to do a Christian marriage? 3 biggies:
 - The man and the woman are both secure and confident in who they are in Christ. They don't "need" someone else to complete them.
 - They both have managed to avoid sabotaging the marriage before it starts with messy baggage.
 - They enter into a lasting life giving relationship where:
 - They always have someone rooting for them.
 - She is loved with an epic love fit for a novel.
 - He is the respected spiritual leader of the home.
 - I don't know that anyone completely has this...
- What is the classic "wrong" way to do a Christian marriage? Parallels of the 3 above:
 - **Two Empty Vessels:** Neither are secure and confident in Christ. They are both easily hurt or offended. He needs a dog to kick so he can feel powerful. She is so needy that she will settle for any type of attention.
 - **House Built on Sand:** Even though they are set up for failure, they figure that since they are both Christians it will somehow work out.
 - **Bad Fruit:** Over time he becomes a bully at home. She is dehumanized and unloved. They grow steadily more distant from each other. It never gets better but they learn to live with it.
- What does the Bible say?
 - I think we have a huge problem with unrealistic expectations in today's world.
 - I don't see the Bible describing what we should expect from marriage, but rather our individual responsibilities. Not a popular idea in 2017.
 - Guys job: **Ephesians 5:25, Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7**
 - So, guys, what is your job? Love, sacrifice, be considerate and honor, not harsh.
 - Guys, what do you think? Can you do that? How do you do that?
 - Ladies job: **Ephesians 5:21-22, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1-2**
 - So, ladies, what is your job? Said in a more politically correct way: be respectful of your husbands. How do you show respect?
 - Ladies, what do you think? Can you do that?
- Don't give excuses why you have to build your house on sand!
 - Love and Respect distorted is Lust and Violence. That's quicksand.
- How do you get God's Plan A to happen? Let me give you three things:
 - Learn to love others and respect others in the appropriate ways.
 - This comes from within you.
 - Don't expect your partner to give you these abilities!
 - Be respectable and lovable! Give them something to work with!
 - Be growing in who you are!
 - Only start relationships with someone you can love and respect. Not everyone can do this.
 - Set yourself up for success at the beginning! Fixing it is hard!
 - God can redeem a person. He can redeem a marriage too!! But, c'mon. Be smart.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!