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## The Basics of Marriage KMI 2010

When an issue arises between you and your wife, what are your first thoughts? The purpose of this workshop is to give you some basic Biblical principles on which to build your marriage.

*One of the greatest misunderstandings in marriage is that it is 50%/50%. It has even been said that it is 100%/100%. However, from my perspective, it must be 100%/0%. That is, am I 100% of the time 100% committed and 100% effort because that is what I bring to the marriage table?*

*It is not that I look down the road as I bring my 100% to check to see if my wife is bringing her 100% and if she drops down to 50%, then I get to drop down to 50%.*

### YOUR IDENTITY IN MARRIAGE (10/20)

1. Genesis 2:24 Leave & Cleave “For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”
  - a. The establishment of a new **primary** allegiance in the context of the family unit
  - b. The establishment of a totally new family unit
  - c. The development of a new “go to” person to depend upon
  - d. The development of a new bond never before personally experienced
  - e. *Expect opposition to this...from your own family.*
  
2. Proverbs 18:22 Blessing of a Wife “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.”
  - a. From the beginning God has intended the wife as a good thing for the husband
  - b. The favor of the Lord is upon the man whom God blesses with a wife
  - c. The word find here implies that there is a search
  - d. Our wife should follow our salvation as our greatest blessing
  - e. *Do I view my wife as a good thing...as a blessing?*

3. Ephesians 5:22 Submission and Leadership “Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord”
  - a. For husbands this verse is about leadership...*stay tuned.*
  - b. For our wives this verse is about operating under her husband’s authority
  
4. Ephesians 5:25 Sacrificial Love “Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”
  - a. Husbands remember this is not the “me first” kind of love
  - b. Remember that as a husband you are being called upon to sacrifice your life if necessary on behalf of your wife
  - c. My commitment is no longer to myself, but to my marriage.
  - d. *I have NO right to expect submission, if I am not loving sacrificially.*
  
5. Ephesians 5:33 Love and Respect “Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.”
  - a. Remember the wife’s primary need in the relationship is to be and feel loved
  - b. The husband’s primary need in the relationship is to be and feel respected
  
6. I Peter 3:7 Equal Worth “You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”
  - a. For the husband, understanding his wife may be the greatest challenge of all that he is charged with in the marriage relationship
  - b. Husbands the study of your wife will be a lifelong assignment...*perhaps a personality inventory...not just what pushes her buttons.*
  - c. Husbands are to make it a high priority to be their wife’s number one encourager, especially in the area of her spiritual development
  - d. Honoring his wife is one of the keys to a man having an effective prayer life



## GUARDING YOUR MARRIAGE (7/15)

7. Job 31:1 Our Eyes “I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could a gaze at a virgin?”

- a. We know that men are stimulated sexually by what they see
- b. We know that today’s culture is out to give men an eyeeful
- c. As husbands we must take steps to guard our eyes with regard to what we allow them to see
- e. Be prepared to be ambushed
- f. *How seriously do we take this? Look at Job 31:9-10 “If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor’s door, then may my wife grind another man’s grain and may other men sleep with her.”*

8. Proverbs 4:23 Our Heart “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life.”

- a. If the heart is the seat of the emotions it seems this verse is especially a warning with respect to women
- b. Men beware of the way you engage other women in conversation
- c. Also beware of physical contact with other women
- d. Men beware of becoming enamored by what you see in other women

9. Proverbs 5:18 Sexual Enjoyment “Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be exhilarated with her love.”

- a. As married couples we should capitalize on the pleasure God intended to be associated with sexual intimacy
- b. Here perhaps more than any other place the husband needs to practice the kind of love Ephesians 5:25 calls for
- c. Two books by Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn really stand out in this area – FOR WOMEN ONLY and FOR MEN ONLY
- d. A healthy relationship of sexual intimacy will serve as a hedge against marital infidelity
- e. *Real discussions about sex should occur with your spouse during a non-sexual time. Set some time aside to specifically talk about only this.*

10. Proverbs 22:7 Indebtedness “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.”

- a. Society pushes credit on us relentlessly
- b. Remember that it is God who is our provider, not our creditors
- c. Consider checking into Crown Financial Ministries and Financial Peace Ministries
- d. A family budget is a good beginning to managing the family’s finances. *This should be viewed as OUR money from OUR income.*
- e. *If financial stress is one of the biggest things that leads to divorce, then we should intentionally guard against this.*

## **BUILDING YOUR MARRIAGE (7/15)**

11. Ephesians 4:15 Communication “but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,”

- a. As with any relationship truth is an essential element
- b. Remember husbands that our wife hears both our words and our emotions
- c. As this verse indicates this is an area of growth in our lives
- d. *If we go into marriage as divorce is not an option and commitment is a given, then communication is a freeing event and not a cautious concern.*
- e. *Soccer Tryout: 6 trying to make it, 6 know they are on the team.*  
*Freedom – Able to make great plays, enjoy the game, looking out for the betterment of the team.*  
*Concern – Did I make the fatal flaw? I have to make sure that I shine.*



12. Colossians 3:13 Forgiveness “bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

- a. There is an element of cost in forgiveness
- b. There needs to be the completeness in forgiveness described in Psalm 103:12
- c. There will be complaints
- d. This will involve work – *ongoing, continual, back to communication*
- e. *Releasing your hand from the throat of the offender.*

13. Ephesians 4:26, 27 Reconciliation “Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

- a. Because of The Fall we will make each other angry
- b. Establishing a window of time for reconciliation is of great importance. *This could be set up as a permanent time-frame.*
- c. A cooling off time may be necessary
- d. Remember the seven most important words to prevent the accumulation of offenses
- e. *If it's not important enough to bring up within the 24 hours, then it's not important enough to hang on to.*
- f. **It is not about what is good for my wife, but what is best for our marriage.**

14. Psalm 127:1 Dependency “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it, unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain”

- a. We need to admit that building a good marriage is beyond our capability
- b. Both the husband and the wife need to be committed to the personal Lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives and in their marriage
- c. Both the husband and wife desperately need to be making daily time in prayer coupled with intake of the word their top priority
- d. As husband and wife our closet friends need to be couples who share our core values and purpose in life

*Going on:*

*Having the same vision of ministry*

*Investing in other couple's marriages*

*Recognizing the importance and place of parenting*

*Unity in parenting*

*Resources:*

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**YOUR IDENTITY IN MARRIAGE**

1. Genesis 2:24

2. Proverbs 18:22

3. Ephesians 5:22

4. Ephesians 5:25

5. Ephesians 5:33

6. I Peter 3:7

**GUARDING YOUR MARRIAGE**

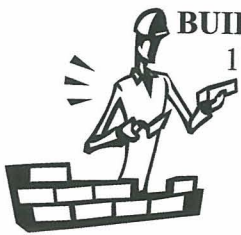
7. Job 31:1



8. Proverbs 4:23

9. Proverbs 5:18, 19

10. Proverbs 22:7



**BUILDING YOUR MARRIAGE**

11. Ephesians 4:15

12. Colossians 3:13

13. Ephesians 4:26,27

14. Psalm 127:1