

Reading: I Peter 3:1-12

Topic: Marriage Maintenance

INTRODUCTION: Marriage is the first institution that God established on the _____ for the good of mankind and the establishment of a _____ and the family.

I. THE STAGES OF LOVE & RELATIONSHIP:

A. Romance:

1. The first stage of love and relationship is the _____ stage, where two people are attracted to each other by way of personality, _____, character, etc.
2. In this stage of the relationship, both the man and the woman put on their best _____ and appearance for each other, trying to make a good _____ to solidify the relationship.
3. During the _____ stage, the faults and negatives of the individuals are mostly overlooked as the couple lives in the _____ world that leads them to engagement and then marriage. Song of Sol. 4:1-7

B. Reality:

1. When the marriage takes place and the honeymoon is over, the couple then returns to _____ in the real world and the _____ idealism comes to a halt.
2. In the reality stage, the real person that you married begins to _____, and the faults that were barely noticeable during the _____ stage, now become glaringly evident.
3. The two different people from two different backgrounds with two different _____ now are no longer just courting, they are now _____ in the same house.

C. Readjustment:

1. When the reality stage sets in, it often leads to _____ (war) and the two lovers now find themselves facing hard choices as they struggle to try to _____ one another.
2. Eventually, both individuals in the marriage realize that if the relationship is going to _____, it will require compromise, give and take on both _____ and then come to points of agreement.
3. There are many different _____ over which conflicts may arise, but the three most major are:
 - a. Money – who controls what and spends and _____ for what.
 - b. Sex – men and women are very different in their _____ to making love.
 - c. Time – men and women are different when it comes to the _____ of time together.

II. THE MARRIAGE GARDEN:

A. The Planting:

1. The preparing time for marriage is done during the period of _____ as the seeds of love and romance are _____ to be put into the marriage soil.
2. The planting time occurs during the _____ itself as two people are united in marriage by law before God and family and _____ in a beautiful ceremony.
3. Unfortunately, many people make great _____ for the wedding with its ceremony and reception but very little preparation for the _____ itself.

B. The Growing:

1. Unfortunately, many people seem to have the idea that once they are married, all the _____ is now over and everything now will just be automatic in the _____.
2. However, marriage can be compared to a _____ that will not produce very much unless it is properly _____ for.
3. In order for a garden to produce, it must be watered, fertilized and the _____ pulled out on a regular basis, or else it will not produce.
4. Likewise, all marriages need maintenance and _____ if they are to survive – they will not last without time and effort being _____ on the relationship.

C. The Reaping:

1. When time and _____ is put into making a garden grow, it produces an abundant harvest of beautiful things that are healthy and _____ to eat.
2. Likewise, when time and _____ are put into the marriage, the marriage will produce many wonderful times for the present and many wonderful _____ for the future.

III. THE BASIC NEEDS FOR MARRIAGE MAINTENANCE:

A. Needs of The Wife:

1. The needs of the wife are different than those of the _____ and the Word of God describes the wife as “the _____ vessel,” not an inferior vessel. I Pt. 3:7
2. Because the psyche of the woman is of an emotional base, her _____ are as follows:
 - a. Time and attention of her husband – this is vital to her.
 - b. To talk – with her husband alone and share her day and her feelings.
 - c. Needs to feel needed by her husband – not taken for granted.
 - d. Needs regular assurance of her husband’s love. Col. 3:19
3. The husband is required by the Word of God to _____ for the needs of his wife and family, which includes the sacrificial _____ for his wife – giving up of himself for her. I Tim. 5:8, Eph. 5:25

B. Needs of The Husband:

1. The needs of the husband are much different than those of the _____, and the Word of God describes the husband as “the _____ of the wife,” not as a dictator, but as protector and provider.
2. The psyche of the husband is of a rational _____ rather than an emotional base and his needs are:
 - a. To have the support and respect of his wife. (Remember, respect is to be earned, not demanded)
 - b. To have encouragement, not criticism from his wife for the hard work that he does for her and the family.

C. Forgiveness:

1. No marriage will survive without the capacity of both partners to _____ one another and the use of the words, “I’m _____!” Mark 11:25
2. No one is right all of the _____ and if two people build walls instead of _____ the links of communication will be broken and trouble will come.
3. Pray, read the _____ of God and be Christians every day, not just in _____. Eph. 4:32

CONCLUSION: Marriage is not a one time _____ that is like making a purchase and the deal is done, but rather is like a garden that needs daily _____ and maintenance and when time and effort is put into it, it will produce something beautiful and lasting! Eph. 5:33