

# Marriage Matters

- “By all means marry: if you get a good wife, you’ll become happy; if you get a bad one, you’ll become a philosopher” – Socrates
- Greatest foundation for spiritual children – godly parents [mother and father who love each other]
  - Timothy

# Why is this study so important?

- Marriage is God's plan, Gn.1-2 ... Mal.2
- Marriage reflects the relation of Christ and His church, Ep.5
- Marriage based on Scripture puts children on biblical path, Ep.6
- Marriage that neglects Scripture insults God and can hinder spread of the gospel, Hb.13:4
- Marriage that follows Scripture can encourage obedience to gospel, 1 Pt.3

# I. First Things First

# Way of world does not work

- Live together: fewer divorces
  - “No laws” = no crime
- Easy divorce: removes boundaries



# Bible

- “It is still the first book which fits the child’s mind when he begins to learn religion, and the last to which the old man clings as he leaves the world” – Ryle
- In between birth and death...
  1. **Pattern.** Gn.2 – Mt.19. Demands absolute commitment, faithfulness to God and partner
  2. **Pull.** Gn.29:9-12...20; cf. Ex.21:5
  3. **Passion.** 1 Co.7:2

I. First Things First

## II. Foundations Of A Good Marriage

# Remember affection of courtship

Talked ... Did things together ... Laughed

1. It's about time – quality time. Pr.5:18

## Three marriages

**Good:** Ruth and Boaz

**Bad:** Abigail and Nabal

**Wrong:** Herod and Herodias



# Remember affection of courtship

Talked ... Did things together ... Laughed

1. It's about time – quality time. Pr.5:18
2. Compliments. S.Sol.1:9; 2:14 . . .
3. Little things mean a lot. Ec.9:9

# In disagreement, use kind words

Ps.141:3

1. Edify. Ep.4:29

2. Do not tear down. Col.3:19

- “Embittered, irritated”
- “Never treat them harshly” – NRSV
- Do not be rude, cruel, or unkind

Always make sure your words are sweet;  
you never know which ones you'll have to eat.

# Communicate

- Wife assumes husband knows what she needs... 1 Co.2:11
- Husband assumes worst about wife... 1 Pt.3:7
- Be careful with criticism
  - Job 16:1-5; 19:1-2

Always be 'good-looking'

2 Sm.6:16-23, Michal

1 Co.13:7

Don't expect / demand perfection

Do not be afraid of  
loving a spouse too much

- Ep.5:25
- Tit.2:4

# Keep a sense of humor

- Don't take yourself too seriously
- Pr.5:18, Let your fountain be blessed, and **rejoice in the wife of your youth**

# Thirteen Rules For Happy Marriage (1/2)

1. Never both be angry at once
2. Never yell at each other unless house is on fire
3. Remember: it takes two to argue
4. Yield to wishes of the other if possible
5. If you have a choice, make mate look good
6. If you must criticize, do so lovingly

# Thirteen Rules For Happy Marriage (2/2)

7. Beware getting historical
8. Neglect the whole world rather than spouse
9. Never let day end without compliments
10. Never meet without affection
11. When you make a mistake, admit it
12. Never go to bed angry
13. Never, never, never give up