

What Did You Expect?

1. Commit to building a relationship of love

a. What is love?

- i. You can't really understand love and love without knowing God **I John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for **love is of God;** and every one that loveth is **born of God, and knoweth God.** **8** He that loveth not **knoweth not God;** for God is love. **9** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. **10** Herein is love, **not that we loved God, but that he loved us,** and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one** another. **12** No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. **13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and do testify that the

Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because **he first loved us.** 20 If a man say, I love God, and **hateth his brother, he is a liar:** for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, **That he who loveth God love his brother also.**

1. Love is willing [John 10:18](#) No man taketh it from me, but **I lay it down of myself.** I have power

to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

2. Love is self sacrifice
 3. Love is thinking about the good of another
 4. Love is giving without thinking of what you get back
 5. Love is loving when it is undeserved
- ii. Have you realized that you can't love like what the Bible teaches until God does a work of grace in you [7](#)

Beloved, let us love one another: for **love is of God;** and every one that loveth is **born of God, and knoweth God.**

- iii. Do you see how love has more to do with a commitment than with a feeling
- iv. Will you commit to work on the action and wait on the emotions
- b. Some commitments you are called on to make
- i. You will not make any personal decisions or choices that might harm your marriage or hurt your spouse
 - ii. You are no longer independent. You cannot make personal decisions

- iii. Decide not to be self focused or demanding but see what you can do to serve, support, and encourage
- iv. Acknowledge your need of God and His help to be the spouse you should be

- 2. Commit to dealing with your differences with appreciation and grace
 - a. Refuse to see the differences as right or wrong
 - b. Commit to respond to your differences with appreciation and respect
 - c. Find out where your differences cause difficulty and decide to work on oneness in these
 - d. Work on allowing these differences to cause you to grow
 - e. Understand that God is in control of our lives. He put us together. He will work in us for His honor and glory

Romans 8:28 And we know that **all things** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. **29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did **predestinate to be conformed** to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- i. He has a purpose for the situations and locations where He puts us
- ii. Marriage is a primary tool for making us grow and apply spiritual truths
- iii. I will begin to grow and change when I see the differences between us as opportunities for God to show His power in my life
- f. Be honest and biblical about yourself
- g. Deal honestly with your anger **Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.**
- i. Keep short accounts. Ask for forgiveness quickly. Fix things before they get bigger
- ii. Communicate in ways that build each other up **Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**
- iii. Resist the lies of the devil
 - 1. It's not my fault
 - 2. I can't fix my marriage
- h. Start over
 - i. Admit your mistakes

- ii. Humbly ask for help
- iii. Work at falling in love again

3. Work to protect your marriage

- a. Communication costs. Be willing to lose sleep, turn off the TV or whatever to talk
- b. Listen and think instead of preparing to argue
- c. Try to meet your spouse's needs
- d. Work at communicating patiently and kindly
- e. Work at forgiveness and reconciliation
- f. Show respect and appreciation at all times
- g. Make time for physical intimacy and friendship
- h. Keep up the romantic pursuit
- i. Fix problems before the sun goes down
- j. Use the right kind of words
- k. Don't let busyness keep you from doing what you should in your marriage
- l. Never stop working on your marriage

Comfortable Communication

Ephesians 4:29 Let **no corrupt communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the **use of edifying**, that it may **minister grace** unto the hearers. Hosea 2:14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, And bring her into the wilderness, And **speak comfortably** unto her.

1. Comfortable communication costs

- a. You must set aside time to communicate—Hosea took her to the wilderness Hosea 2:14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, And bring her into the wilderness, And **speak comfortably** unto her.
 - i. Turn off the TV
 - ii. Shut down the computer
 - iii. Stop doing whatever it is you are doing that hinders your communication
- b. You must realize that you are communicating without words
 - i. Moans, sighs, and other sounds
 - ii. Facial expressions, posture, even movement

- iii. Attentiveness—looking into the eyes, repeating in your mind what your spouse is saying, not preparing your next round of arguments
 - c. You must realize that what I say or mean is not always what she hears or understands **Psalm 120:7** *I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.*
 - d. You must realize that actions speak louder than words **Matthew 15:8** *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.*
2. To communicate comfortably you must realize the power of your words
- a. Words can build up or tear down **Ephesians 4:29** *Let **no corrupt communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the **use of edifying**, that it may **minister grace** unto the hearers.*
 - b. The right answer can stop a fight **Proverbs 15:1** *A soft answer turneth away wrath: But grievous words stir up anger.*

- c. Words can inspire to do right or wrong [Proverbs 18:21](#)
Death and life are in the power of the tongue: And they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
 - d. Environment and preparation communicate—Esther and her banquet
3. To communicate comfortably you must learn to think the right thoughts
- a. Your mouth only speaks what your heart really thinks
[Luke 6:45](#) **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man **out of the evil treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.
 - b. Love your partner in your heart—you choose what to think about, remember and see in your partner
 - i. The Lord doesn't remember our sins anymore
[Jeremiah 31:34](#) **And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: For they shall all know me, From the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord:**

For I will forgive their iniquity, And **I will remember their sin no more.**

- ii. The Lord doesn't relate our sins to our persons—he separates the sin from the sinner **Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**
- iii. When He sees us He doesn't take into account our sins **II Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;** and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
- c. When you love in your heart you believe certain things **I Corinthians 13:4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.**

- i. Always the best about your partner **7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things**
- ii. Never that your partner has the wrong intention **5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;**
- d. Thinking right thoughts means that you will be careful not to entertain wrong thoughts—doubts, jealousy, criticism
Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.
- e. Thinking right means that you will use your communication to resolve conflict rather than stir it up
Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.