

## THE BEST PERSPECTIVE OF MARRIAGE

### 1. The Greatest Challenge: Confronting the Selfish Heart

**Eph 4:22-25** *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your **old self**, which is being corrupted by its **deceitful desires**; to be made **new** in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the **new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood and speak truthfully** to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.*

#### “WHEN IS THE HONEYMOON OVER?”

- When the SELFISH HEART kicks in.
- When we begin to LIE.

#### RESULTS:

- Erratic intimacy . . . .Hot/ Cold
- Communication Breakdown
- Communication Distortion (Volume, tone and inflexion levels are off balance in both Sender and Receiver; Amplification issues)
- Visual Distortion (Perspective is warped, Fight the Mirage Syndrome, Magnification issues)
- Unwillingness to change
- Increase in Confrontation Escalation
- Loss of Trust

#### FACTS ABOUT THE SELFISH HEART.

**It is full of. . . . .**

- **Self-control**. . . unwilling to compromise or change.

**Phil 2:3** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves*

- **Self-sustaining**. . . .Acts independently

**Col 3:1-2,9-10** *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

*Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

- **Self-protecting**. . . .Response to confrontation with either Fight or Flight, Turtle or Tangle

**Phil 2:1-2** *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose*

## 2. The Greatest Damage: Confronting the Fall

**Genesis 3:16-19** *To the WOMAN he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”*

*To ADAM he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

### **TWO THOUGHTS:**

- **To EVE:** The Hebrew words are in future progressive tense; meaning that there will be an ongoing pain with your children and an ongoing desire for your husband.
- **To ADAM:** The Hebrew words are the same; thus creating frustration and a sense of futility.

### **TWO MAJOR ISSUES**

- **Isolation:** The feeling (fear) of being disconnected, not having the ability to deeply connect with the one you love. The aloneness that comes from not having access, mentally, emotionally or physically to the one you love. Being shut out, shut up and shut down.
- **Powerlessness:** The loss of choices. The loss of control. The inability to change, fix or undo what is happening to you or around you. The frustration that comes from repetition without results.

**All of our FEARS**  
**All of our CONFLICT**  
**All of our PAIN**

**In marriage will stem from one or both of these.**

### **3. The Greatest Love: Confronting God**

**Eph 5:21-30** *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

*In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—*

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”*

#### **1. Perception Correction:**

- **Our Marriage becomes the platform in which we act out our relationship with God.**
  - **If we feel that God is disappointed in us. . . . .**
  - **If we have problems trusting God’s best for us. . . . .**
  - **If we see God as passionately pleased with us. . . . .**
  - **If we enjoy the freedom that comes from His forgiveness. . . . .**
  - **If we deeply absorb His mercy and grace. . . . .**
  - **If we long to discover the heart of God . . . . .**
  
- **Our Marriage becomes a platform where we “can” experience the healing of trust. 180 or 360**
- **Our Marriage is not about our Happiness but our Holiness.**

#### **2. Submission Permission**

**BONE OR MUSCLE?**

- **Which should submit first?**
- **Which is most important?**

#### **3. Responsibility Possibility**

- **The HEAD of the marriage is more akin to the headwaters of a river than the boss of the company.**
- **There are some attitudes that produce actions and there are some actions that produce attitudes.**