

“Keys to a Healthy Marriage”

Guest Speaker: Bill Butterworth
Genesis 2

June 2-3, 2007

1. Marriage is Based on the foundation of commitment.

“For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

(Genesis 2:24-25)

a. It’s a command.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

b. It’s a choice.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.” (1 John 4:7a)

2. Marriage is Built on the friendship of companionship.

*“For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were **both naked and were not ashamed.**”* (Genesis 2:24-25)

a. It’s about depth.

“The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters; The fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.” (Proverbs 18:4)

b. It’s about trust.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment and the one who fears is not perfected in love.” (1 John 4:18)

3. Marriage is Blessed with the fire of co-passion.

*“For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become **one flesh.** And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”* (Genesis 2:24-25)

a. It’s at its best linked to the other two.

“The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband. So do not deprive each other of sexual relations.” (1 Corinthians 7:3,5a – New Living)

b. It’s a gift from God.

“Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband.” (Hebrews 13:4 - The Message)

Practical Applications:

1. Avoid polarizing your partner.

2. Make a conscious effort to become well-rounded in your love.

3. Commit to a team approach in your love life.