

Marriage Matters

Dr. David Shaw (notes taken from Rick Thomas)

- Whatever is right needs developing
- Whatever is false needs removing
- Whatever is lacking needs inserting

1. Why did you marry? (Need deficit theory)

2. Why does God choose the imagery of marriage when speaking of His covenant with His people?

3. A Pattern that is a Problem

We allow our desires to become demands



We allow our demands to become expectations



We allow our expectations to turn to disappointments



Disappointment turns to punishment

4. The Problem that Leads to the Defective Pattern: WE BECOME SUBJECTIVE IN OUR REASONING AND SELF-CENTERED IN OUR BEHAVIOR

5. The Possibilities - Genesis 18:14 "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

A. A bad marriage is not all bad, if you learn to see your spouse as the primary person to teach you how to carry out the command: "Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself."

B. Marriage is underwritten by Christ. "He leads me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake." HIS NAME is on the line.

C. You can't have a wrong relationship with your spouse and a totally right relationship with God. 1 Peter 3:7

6. The Purpose of Marriage. According to the Bible, God said “It is not good for man to be alone.” Genesis 5:2 shows us how God united man and woman in purpose. Married couples should be united in:

- A. Mind – Share thoughts and ideas while patiently developing listening skills and considering each other’s point of view.
- B. Emotion – Rejoice with each other and weep with each other
- C. Spirit – Pray and read the Scripture together. Minister together. Worship together.
- D. Physical – Hold hands, take walks, and continue to date. Enjoy being together.
- E. Sexual – give your self for the enjoyment and pleasure of the other (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)
- F. Social – Develop common interests and activities
- G. Work – Understand the other’s work and pray for them in their vocation
- H. Goals – develop long, medium, and short range goals.

The governing pattern given for us to follow as we pursue PURPOSE in our marriage is THE TRINITY. The Trinity gives us an understanding of what it means to be individualized in roles, but unified in purpose. No person of the Trinity seeks self-interest. Rather, each member seeks only to give, love, serve, and glorify God.

7. Practical Tips

- A. Pray daily with and for your partner
- B. Create a thanksgiving list and add to it concerning things for which you are thankful regarding your mate.
- C. Make a covenant to deal with sin issues at the point of the sin immediately and then persevere in dealing with those issues immediately
- D. Communicate creatively with your spouse daily. E-mail, text messages, notes, small gifts, and unexpected acts of kindness all convey love.
- E. Share in household chores.
- F. Husbands need to learn (1 Peter 3:7), love (Ephesians 5:25-33), and lead (Ephesians 5:23-25). Leadership is others-oriented.
- G. Wives should serve God by serving her husband. God calls wives to give their husbands respect (1 Peter 3:1-6).
- H. Any husband or any wife can find multiple faults with their spouse. It takes a godly perspective to look for, find, and extol the godly virtues of your spouse.