

MARRIAGE MAKE-OVER: SESSION 1

Things Women think about Men

TO GET YOU TALKING:

1. How much of what women believe about men comes from culture, friends, family of origin, personal experience, media, the Bible? Which sources do we tend to believe the most?
2. Who in your mind represents the biggest male stereotype? Clint Eastwood, Cary Grant, Brad Pitt, Bill Clinton, or ____? Why?

TO GET YOU THINKING:



Myth #1: All Men are Alike.

1. Why is this a myth? Where does it come from? How is it perpetuated?
2. Pastor Kevin talked about Jesus being “the only perfect balance of masculine strength and masculine tenderness.” What examples from Jesus life would support this? Why is it important for men to embrace *both* characteristics?
3. Read through Galatians 5:22-23. How can men hold on to and grow in these areas and yet remain masculine? In what ways can women appreciate and help nurture men in these areas?

Myth #2: Men Struggle with Commitment.

1. The truth is that men are afraid of failing in their commitments. Where does this fear of failure come from? What potential commitment failures scare men the most?
2. Men’s natural reaction of fear is to either hide or get defensive. In what ways can women provoke these

reactions? How can women validate and support men to help ease their fears of failing?

Myth #3: The Only Thing Men are Interested in is Sex.

1. The truth is, “Most men have a deep internal drive and desire for mental, emotional, and spiritual intimacy that is somehow both consummated and consecrated through physical union.” How does Genesis 2:24 describe this kind of bond?
2. Bonding has to do with being both emotionally open and physically close with you spouse. What are some ways a couple can promote emotional openness in their relationship? How can men be more physically close with their wives apart from sex itself?

Myth #4: Men Can Not be Faithful.

1. Why is this a myth? Why is it so believable?
2. What is God’s desire for marriage? Matt 19:6, 1 Cor. 7:2-7.
3. In what ways has God strengthened your marriage?

PUTTING YOURSELVES IN THE PICTURE:

Make a ***scheduled date, sometime this week***, with your spouse, to talk over the “***actions steps***” found in the sermon outline (other side of this page). Come up with some ways you are both going to try and carry through with these action steps.

As a group, keep each other accountable throughout this series, and ask each week if you have met at least once to discuss the sermon, with your spouses. **Pray for each others’ marriages!!!**

SERMON OUTLINE: FEB.17&18, 2007

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Things Women think about Men

#1 Men are all Alike!

If you believe that, you risk ever being able to **experience** godly masculinity.

"For as he thinketh within himself, so is he." Pr. 23:7

The Truth Is: Jesus was like no other man. Men who follow Him become **like** Him.

"If any one is in Christ He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5:17

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Gal. 5:22-23

Action steps for men- Pick the two **characteristics** that you feel you are currently weakest at. Focus on working at implementing them over the next 30 days.

Action steps for women- Identify the two **characteristics** your man has either grown in most or is currently doing best at and affirm him.

#2 Men Struggle with Commitment!

The truth is: Men FEAR **FAILURE!**

Actions steps for women-

- **Be wise.** *"The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down." Prov. 14:1*
- **Be patient with your man.** *"A persons patience give Him wisdom, it is to his glory to over look an offense." Prov. 19:11*

Actions Steps for men

- How much is fear factoring into your life and the commitments you have to your wife and family right now? Low-Med- High?
- **Replace Fear with Faith and Trust.**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not unto your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He Will make your paths straight." Prov 3:4-5

#3. Men are only interested in Sex!

The truth is: Men actually long for something greater;

INTIMACY! *"For this reason a man will leave his father and other and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Gen. 2:24*

Though the deepest levels of intimacy are often **actualized** in the bedroom, developing it happens largely outside of it!

Action steps together-

- Invest **Time** together
- Do things together that you **DON'T LIKE** to do!
- **Meet** him/her where they are at!

#4 Men Can not be Faithful!

The Truth Is: *By the **Grace** and Strength of God Men can live Faithful lives. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body^a in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 1 Thess.4:3-5*

Action steps for men-

- **Surrender** your sexuality to God!
- Work ruthless at sexual **integrity.**

Actions steps for women-

- Make **physical** love a priority- *1 Cor. 7:3-4 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.*
- Don't tolerate **pornography**