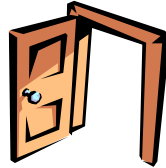


MARRIAGE MAKE-OVER: SESSION 2

Things Men Think About Women



TO GET YOU TALKING:

Check in with each other and share how your discussions went this week with your spouse. Did you learn anything new about your spouse? About yourself?

1. As asked last week about our knowledge and beliefs of men, which sources (culture, friends, family of origin, personal experience, media, the Bible) contribute to your beliefs about women, positive and negative?
2. Who in your mind represents an obvious female stereotype? Why?
 - a. Marilyn Monroe
 - b. Madonna
 - c. Julia Roberts
 - d. Hillary Clinton
 - e. _____

TO GET YOU THINKING:

Myth #1: Women are difficult to understand!

1. Why is this a myth? Where does it come from? How is it perpetuated?
2. Pastor Kevin talked about women having a certain mystique about them that makes them attractive to men. Would you agree?

3. How would you define the "Feminine Mystique"?

Women reveal something unique of the nature and essence of God.

Take turns answering the following set of questions, alternating between men and women, giving equal airtime for everybody:

1. Read Genesis 1:26-27. One of the mysteries of God is that He is both masculine and feminine at the same time. How difficult is it for you to grasp this mystery? What makes it difficult?
2. In the face of a problem most men tend to want to fix, solve, or settle the issue.
 - Why is this not always the best course of action when it comes to understanding the often mysterious heart of a woman?
 - What might work better?

God Himself, is Mysterious!

Read the following passage from Job 38:4-11:

1. What insights do you have from this passage about God's character? What emotions does it draw out of you?
2. Comment on the following quote from Pastor Kevin's message:

"And to remember that just like God you don't have to always understand her (women) to be able to enjoy her and be blessed by her."

PUTTING YOURSELVES IN THE PICTURE:

Make a **scheduled date, sometime this week**, with your spouse, to talk over the "**actions steps**". Come up with some ways you are both going to try and carry through with these action steps

Action step for men- Next time you find yourself tempted to want to fix, settle or solve her. And you find your temperature rising and your face gaining color, allow those very signs to be a signal to you to let go. And to just try to love and appreciate her for who she is. And to remember that just like God you don't have to always understand her to be able to enjoy her and be blessed by her.

Action step for Women- Next time you're in one of those spaces that your not wanting help or advise or fixing, do your best to let your man know what it is you feel you need and don't expect him to figure it out. If you just need him to listen tell him. If you want his thoughts and ideas tell him.

Action step for Men and Women- Next time you feel like blaming, criticizing and defending against your partner, practice instead the art of submission to one another. Try being more open to the other's point of view, appreciate them for who they are and what they bring into your life that is positive and holy.

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 FEBRUARY 24 & 25, 2007

MARRIAGE MAKE-OVER: SESSION 2

Things Men Think About Women

#1. Women are **difficult to understand!**

The Truth Is: Women are Impossible to understand!

Why? The Feminine Mystique.

#2. Women reveal something unique of the nature and essence of God. *So God created man in his own image. In the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Gen. 1:26*

God's used His own blueprints in the design of Man.

Man is made up of two Parts:

One Part- Male

One Part-Female

#3. God Himself, is **Mysterious!**

Job 38:4-11

Action step for men- Next time you find yourself tempted to want to fix, settle or solve her, just try to love and appreciate her for who she is. You don't have to always understand her to be able to enjoy her and be blessed by her.

Action step for Women- The next time you're in one of those spaces that your not wanting help or advise or fixing, let your man know what it is you feel you need and don't expect him to figure it out.