

Week 2

Loveology - Marriage

Relationships are hard. At times it can be frustrating and confusing on how to: live in harmony with those around us. Whether it's relating to your parents, siblings, peers, leaders...or your spouse in marriage.

Ex: PICTURE OF WEDDING DAY vs. PICTURE OF TODAY

We aren't the same people we were 16 years ago. A little more weathered, much wiser, and definitely have an increased love and understanding for each other.

Tonight, I hope to help you understand a little better of what marriage is and what it is for.

If the Greg and Natalie of today could go back and share with the Greg and Natalie of then...this is what I would want them to know...and for you to know...

1. COMMUNICATION:

“Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

- Communication is key to any relationship and especially marriage.
- 90% of (our) arguments and misunderstandings have to do with miscommunication, lack of communication or how we communicate.
- Don't wait until you are married to work on it. Begin now with the relationships that are in your life. Learn how to have an open conversation where both people feel heard and respected, even if you disagree. Learn what good communication is!! Teach yourself by experience how to share what's going on in your life instead of keeping it all inside. Figure out how to have conversations where you are expressing your thoughts and ideas in a way that others can understand. More face-to-face interactions.

2. CHILL OUT

“Good sense and discretion make a man slow to anger, and it is his honor and glory to overlook a transgression or an offense without seeking revenge and harboring resentment.” Psalm 19:11

- I was so uptight when I was first married.
- It was challenging learning how to live with a boy.
- Easily offended. Wanting to be right. Thinking the worst. Working through baggage of our past.

3. I'M NOT MY SPOUSE'S HOLY SPIRIT

“And when he (Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.” John 16:8

- God doesn't call me to be husband's (Greg's) Holy Spirit, but his cheerleader.
- My role is not to fix him, but to encourage him to be the very best person he can be. God's role is to convict him and change his heart.

4. WHAT MARRIAGE IS FOR...

“The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’” Genesis 2:18

- Why was it not good? Because we are created in God's image. God exists in a web of relationships (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

5. NOT HAPPINESS – lie

- Millions of people marry for happiness. Happiness is not the reason for marriage...it's the result of a healthy marriage.
- So often we see marriages fail because “I deserve to be happy.” No. Happiness is not a right, it's a gift.
- If you go into marriage looking for happiness, you will walk away empty.
- Love is a choice. Every day I love you.
- People are using marriage to fill a void. We need to let marriage be what it was intended for and let God be the foundation of our happiness.

6. FRIENDSHIP

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

- God created your spouse to be your closest friend. When we become one flesh we are fused together at the deepest levels. Greg (my husband) knows me better than anybody – to be known is a powerful thing. To know that I always have someone in my corner.

7. DREAM TEAM

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28:19-20

- There was a calling on Adam's life, and he couldn't do it alone – too much work for one person.

- Everyone that is a Christ follower has a calling. Whatever we are doing in life, needs to point to that calling.
- Couples who exist simply for one another and if the point of your marriage is your marriage...then your marriage is doomed to fail.
- Being a dream team is partnering with your spouse and God to fulfill your calling. God gave me Greg (my husband) to be a helper in my calling and vise-versa.
- Don't marry someone that doesn't have a calling. If that person is doing nothing with their life that matters for God's Kingdom, how will you partner with them?
- God created marriage for you to do something!

8. PREPARATION FOR ETERNITY

“May you live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:10

- Three things that bring me closer to God .. shows me how sinful I am and in need of a savior .. on my knees in prayer and moments that I need to bring about my inner Jesus: **Marriage. Parenting. Having a dog.**
- All marriages are going to face tension. Maybe some more than others, but nobody is immune.
- Marriage is two broken people coming together to find healing in Jesus.
- The friction in a marriage exposes all the places where God is still at work in us. It's going to expose what's already inside of you. (Selfishness. Anger. Etc.)
- Marriage is meant to help each other become all that God intended for us to be...and God intended for it to be until the end.
- Preparing to meet Jesus face to face on judgment day.