

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for our Strengthening Your Marriage Seminar. We and our church have been praying for you and your spouse. We trust you will grow in your love for God and each other as you take in the conference. It is our great privilege to have Dr. Greg Mazak as our guest speaker. As an experienced husband, pastor, and speaker, he brings wisdom and knowledge from God's Word to this conference.

Schedule

Friday, February 15, 2013

6:30-7:00 p.m.	Check-in & Registration
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Dinner & Music
8:00-9:30 p.m.	General Session 1 (Dr. Greg Mazak) – pg 3
9:30-10:30 p.m.	Group Fellowship
10:30-??	Free Time (building available for any that want to stay later)

Saturday, February 16, 2013

8:30-9:00 a.m.	Breakfast (provided in the Fellowship Hall)
9:00-10:30 a.m.	General Session 2 (Dr. Greg Mazak) – pg 4
10:30-11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00-12:00 p.m.	Workshop Session (Pastor Scott Estell) – pg 9
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch (provided in the Fellowship Hall)
1:00-2:30 p.m.	General Session 3 (Dr. Greg Mazak) – pg 7

Notes

- ~ Songs for each session are in the back of this handout.
- ~ The sessions will be recorded and will be available in CD format for \$1. Also, additional conference booklets can be had for \$1. See Pastor Rob Wagner
- ~ The notes and recordings will be available free of charge on our church website after the conference. www.trilakesbaptist.org/resources

Strengthening Your Marriage

(choosing to love your spouse)

Conference Notes

February, 15-16, 2013

Sessions:

1. Choosing to Love Like God
2. Making the Choice to Love
3. Choosing the Cover of Love

Presented by: Greg Mazak

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To Love Like God

(I John 4:7-12)

February 15-16

2013

I. God declares that He is Love! (v.8b, 7)

A. God's essence is love (v.8b)

B. God is the source of true love (v.7)

transition: *How do I know that God loves me?*

II. God Has demonstrated that He is Love (v.9-10)

A. God actively showed us that He loves us! (v.9a)

B. God sent His Son to Give us Life! (v.9b)

C. God sent His Son to pay our debt! (v.10b)

transition: so WHY does John emphasize God's love?

III. God calls us to display His Love (v.7-8, 11-12)

A. Real Christians love other Christians (v.7-8)

B. Real Christians ought to love other Christians (v.11)

C. Christian love shows others what God is like! (v.12)

IV. Conclusions

A. God verbally and clearly declares His love

B. God behaviorally and passionately demonstrated His love

C. God call us to love others—including our spouses--in this same way

1. we must declare our love verbally and clearly

2. we must demonstrate our love behaviorally and passionately

The Choice to Love

(study on love and marriage)

February 15-16

2013

Introduction: Why do people decide to get married?

A. Most common response: “we are in love!”

B. Key assumption: falling “in love” is the foundation of a marriage

Note: based on this foundation—adultery and no-fault divorce really do make sense!

I. A Biblical marriage is not based on being “in love”

A. The first marriage was between Adam and Eve (Gen 2:18, 21-24)

Note: term “helper” is better translated “companion” as a relational and necessary role not meant to convey inferiority (God is called by the same term elsewhere for how he is “helper” of his people).

B. Being “in love” is never listed as a prerequisite for marriage (cf. Gen 2:24)

C. The Bible does obligate those who are married to love each other—but this is after they are married! (e.g., Eph 5; Col 3; Titus 2)

D. Conclusions:

1. it is not necessarily wrong to marry a person you are “in love” with.
2. yet getting married merely because you are “in love” is questionable at best—and dangerous at worst.
3. transition: if marriage is NOT what people do after they “fall in love,” then what is it?

II. A Biblical marriage is a covenant of companionship!

A. Malachi 2:14

1. a man’s wife is his “companion”
2. she became his wife when they entered a marriage or “covenant”
3. the “witness” to the covenant is the Lord (covenants were made before witnesses)

B. Proverbs 2:16-17

1. a woman’s husband is the “the guide of her youth” (KJV) or “the companion of her youth” (NASB)
2. a woman’s marriage is “the covenant of her God” (cf. also Ez 16:8)

C. What then is a marriage?

1. a covenant (a contract or agreement, typically involving mutual consent) ...
2. ... to be life-long companions!
3. key: you can make this covenant with a person you're "in love" with, or with a person you're not "in love" with!

III. Biblical companions must choose to love one another—whether they are “in love” or not!

A. Husbands and wives must love one another

1. Husbands are commanded to love their wives

Husbands, love your wives (Eph 5:25)

So ought men to love their wives (Eph 5:28)

Let every one of you in particular so love his wife (Eph 5:33)

Husbands, love your wives (Col 3:19)

2. Older women are to teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children (Titus 2:14)

B. Husbands and wives must love one another—if they are “in love” or not.

C. Husbands and wives must choose to love one another (cf. I Cor 13:4-6)

Characteristics of Love (I Cor 13)

	KJV	NASB	Part of speech
verse 4	Suffereth long	is patient	
	is kind	is kind	
	envieth not	is not jealous	
	Vaunteth not itself	does not brag	
	is not puffed up	is not arrogant	
verse 5	doth not behave itself unseemly	does not act unbecomingly	
	seeketh not her own	does not seek its own	
	is not easily provoked	is not provoked	
	thinketh no evil	does not take into account a wrong <i>suffered</i>	
v.6	rejoiceth not in iniquity	does not rejoice in unrighteousness	
	rejoiceth in the truth	rejoices with the truth	
verse 7	beareth all things	bears all things	
	believeth all things	believes all things	
	hopeth all things	hopes all things	
	endureth all things	endures all things	

1. each of the above characteristics of love is a verb!
 Note: “a verb is an action word”* (quote by Christa Mazak, my 5th grade daughter, in response to the question, “what is a verb?”).
 *actually, the full quote was, “a verb is an *action word*. Dad, why didn’t you know that?”
2. a verb is something you choose to do, for example:
 - a. you can choose to be patient
 - b. you can choose to be kind*note: these are tough choices, but by God’s grace you can do it!*
3. we must “choose” to love our companion – if we are “in love” or not!
 - a. can you “fall into” patience? No! Patience is a choice!
 - b. can you “fall into” kindness? No! Kindness is a choice!
4. points to ponder...
 - a. does anyone really “fall in love?”
 - b. what is “love at first sight?”

IV. Closing Applications:

- A. (*something to pass on to the kids and grandkids...*) before getting married, don’t try to determine if you’re “in love,”—decide if you’re ready to make a covenant to be a life-long companion, and to choose to love that companion.
- B. realize that now that you’re married, you must choose to love your companion—whether you are “in love” or not.
- C. you must continue to choose to love your companion—even if/when you “fall out of love.”
 1. it may be desirable to still feel “in love” with your companion
 2. it may be easier to choose to love someone you are “in love” with
 3. but not being “in love” does not excuse you from the covenant to choose to love your companion
 4. hint: if you are no longer “in love,” yet wish you were, some suggest that the only way to fall back in is via of choosing to love
- D. if you ever begin to wonder if you are “in love” with someone other than your companion, realize that is not love—its lust.
- E. you can choose to love your companion beginning today—
 1. even if he/she is not very loveable (*God loves you—and you are not loveable*)
 2. whether he/she makes the choice to love you back or not (*God loves you—even when you fail to love Him*)
- F. the reason you must continue to love your companion (even if you are no longer “in love”) is because you made a promise/covenant to do so—and God is a witness. Do it for Him!

The Cover of Love

(Proverbs on Love)

February 15-16

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Introduction to Proverbs:

A. Theme: The Fear of the Lord is (Prov 9:10)

1. defined as the beginning of wisdom.
2. parallel with the knowledge of the Holy One.

B. Defining “The Fear of the Lord”:

1. a reverence for God...
2. based on a relationship with God...
3. expressed in submission to God.

C. Thesis: Proverbs is a book that teaches us

1. how to reverence God
2. based on our relationship with God
3. expressed in our submission to God
4. which includes how practically to love our spouses...

I. Love is quick to forgive others’ failures

A. Love eagerly forgives (10:12)

B. Hatred eagerly fights (20:3)

II. Love is slow to react to others’ failures

A. Fools are quickly annoyed (12:16)

B. Fools blurt out what they think (12:23)

III. Love never broadcasts others' failures

- A. Love knows the danger of gossip. (17:9)
- B. Wisdom is knowing when to keep silent. (11:12)
 - both when to not tell everyone, and when to tell someone.

IV. Conclusion: When a person sins against you ...

- A. it may be best to kindly rebuke. (Lk 17:3)
- B. it may be best to allow love to cover it (Prov 10:12)
- C. Question: When is it best to rebuke—rather than allowing love to cover it?
 - 1. When the sin is real.
 - 2. When the sin is intentional.
 - 3. When the sin is habitual.
 - 4. When the sin is communal.
 - 5. When the other person would benefit.
 - 6. When God would be most glorified.

Strengthening Marriage by Sanctifying Marriage

Pastor Scott Estell – of Faithway Baptist Church, Ypsilanti, MI

Question 1: What do we mean by the sanctity of marriage?

Question 1a: What do we mean by sanctity?

Something that is set apart – [why we say “holy matrimony”]

Question 1b: What do we mean by marriage?

Marriage is ... a permanent, exclusive, covenantal companionship between one man and one woman.

So, by the sanctity of marriage, we mean ... marriage is a special institution with special parameters.

Question 2: Who sanctified marriage?

...God did, not Government

Genesis 2:18-24 and Matthew 19:1-8

The permanance of marriage (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6)

The partners of marriage (Matthew 19:4; cf. Genesis 2:18-24)
[Adam + Eve...not Adam + Steve, or Madam + Eve]

Man may regulate marriage; he may not redefine it.

Rather than reinvent marriage, we are to reinforce it.

We must insist on what God has already instituted .

Question 3: Why is marriage sacred?

Question 3a: Why is marriage sacred?

Answer 1: a sacred God sanctified it.

Answer 2: it pictures the most sacred relationship = Jesus & church

Ephesians 5:22-33

Question 3b: Why is marriage not sacred in our society?

Because God is not sacred in our society.

Romans 1:18-27

Question 4: How do we sanctify marriage?

Answer 1: Denounce its Desecration

- Divorce
- Fornication & Adultery
1 Corinthians 6:18-20 and Hebrews 13:4
- Homosexuality

Answer 2: Support its Sanctity

- Keep our vows
Proverbs 2:17 and Malachi 2:14 (cf. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
- Love our spouse
Ephesians 5:25, 28-29, 33a and Titus 2:4
- Promote Correct Definition of Marriage – one man + one woman
- Honoring Faithful Marriage
Hebrews 13:4

God is sacred. Sanctify God (1 Peter 3:15a).

God sanctified marriage. Marriage is sacred. Sanctify marriage (Hebrews 13:4).

Strengthen your marriage because God sanctifies your marriage.

Recommended Resources

Strengthening Your Marriage by Wayne Mack

The Exemplary Husband by Stuart Scott

The Excellent Wife by Martha Peace

When Sinners Say “I Do” by Dave Harvey

Your Pastors