

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD #3 - HAVE FUN

REVIEW: We are in a series called "FROM THIS DAY FORWARD - We are making and keeping **FIVE COMMITMENTS** that we believe will impact our marriages.

This series is GREAT for singles as well if you hope to be married some day - preventative measures and single but don't plan on marriage = you can share

REVIEW:

If you missed the first week = We talked about HOW TO SEEK GOD:

1. We emphasized the fact that we seek the ONE with the TWO - We seek God (#1 in our lives) with #2 (our spouse- We pray together - SEEK - turn the face. We seek HIM about our marriage, children, careers, our families PRAY! Just talk!
2. We FIGHT FAIR - WHAT'S NOT FAIR?
 - Criticizing (complaining, never, always); contempt (disgust, eye rolling); Defensiveness (it's not me -It's you- take no responsibility)
 - Stonewalling (tunes you OUT, 85% men)
 - A. Don't let sun go down (some would never sleep)
 - B. More than anything - it's the tone - say without passion which requires emotional maturity which is a huge goal
3. HAVE FUN
4. STAY PURE
5. NEVER GIVE UP

REALIZE THESE 5 COMMITMENTS - TOOLS TO WIN IN RELATIONSHIPS!

LET'S SAY IT TOGETHER: SEEK GOD, FIGHT FAIR, HAVE FUN, STAY PURE; NEVER GIVE UP.

TODAY: Have FUN: IMPORTANT to talk about today because so often people don't have fun in their marriages. Following is a quote from online: "A man doesn't know what happiness is until he gets married and by then, it's way too late to do anything about it".

SAD, - AMAZING thing is though that when we are dating , we have a lot of fun, but then married and LIFE HAPPENS and COUPLES STOP ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

ECCLESIASTES 9:9 NLT "TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH THE WOMAN YOU LOVE THROUGH ALL THE MEANINGLESS DAY OF LIFE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU UNDER THE SUN".

In other words, there are a lot of days where you just go to work, go home and they're just kind of meaningless. But a BLESSING IS TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH THE WOMAN THAT YOU LOVE - THE WIFE GOD GIVES YOU.

What is she - SHE SHOULD BE YOUR REWARD FOR ALL YOUR EARTHLY TOIL.

THE NIV SAYS TO "Enjoy life with your wife whom you love!

In fact, without fun, adventure, romance, physical intimacy, marriage is often reduced to simply a business relationship. =Like TWO ROOMMATES living under the same roof, but yet living two entirely different lives. The communication simply becomes about business; you do this, I'll cover this, you cover that etc.

And what's interesting is people don't fall in love having a bad time - we didn't! People don't fall in love with people they are bored with! Have you ever heard a woman say "Oh this guy is awesome. When we get together, we have NOTHING IN COMMON! All we do is sit there and SAY NOTHING! Occasionally I watch him play his video games as he veggies out and he's just so dull and so boring, IT'S SUCH A TURN ON! NO - we don't hear that.

What we hear is "Wow, we have so much in common and it's so fun when we get together.! But then people get married and SOME people lost all the adventure and fun.

Craig Groeshel tells the story of dating his wife Amy, not having much \$, and he planned an INDOOR CAMPING TRIP. He borrowed the neighbor's tent, set it up in the living room, got his sister's stuffed animal and put them around the tent- they were the wild animals out in the wilderness. LAUGH BUT IT WORKED. On one date he gave her this little book called, Miffy's Bicycle - She said "what is this for" And He said "This is for one day if God gives us kids (they have six now), we can read this book to our children!" He just read that book to his son recently who has every page memorized because he says "My Daddy gave this to my Mommy before I was even born"!

And we had so much fun that went into these dates and we committed before we were married to carry it (DATES) into our marriage because the truth is, so often a man will pursue a woman before married, but then on and pursue other things after. WHY? Because men are hunters, they like to hunt, to conquer, make the kill like killing a deer, stuffing it and putting it on the wall. Sometimes that happens in relationship: PURSUE, POSSESS, POST IT ON THE WALL - BUT THEN THINGS BEGIN TO FALL APART RAPIDLY.

Some say "I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR FUN - FUN IS NOT A LUXURY IN MARRIAGE- YOU DON'T HAVE TIME NOT TO HAVE FUN. If you don't take time for fun in marriage - you may not have much if any marriage!

SO HERE ARE THREE TYPES OF FUN TO HAVE:

- I. FACE to FACE: Where we get together, enjoy each other's company face to face, because so often in dating, couples can talk, talk and talk for hours on end. on the phone - till maybe even 2 in the morning.
 - A. John and I would sit on balcony of his apt or mine and talk for HOURS = about the past , the present, about growing up, - HERE WAS THE FEEL- THING - WE DIDN'T JUST TALK ABOUT FACTS - BUT ABOUT THE PAST: FEELINGS HOW WE FELT ABOUT THINGS THAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST: GOOD THINGS, HURTFUL THINGS, SCARY THINGS.
 - B. IT IS WHEN YOU GET PAST facts and get to feelings, that there is that sense of CLOSENESS, - that someone understands me, can maybe feel the hurt, the embarrassment , the disappointment that I felt and a healing can begin.
 - C. Then marriage comes - LIFE HAPPENS, AND ITS the oil needs changed in the car, overdrawn at the bank, one kid needs to be at dance, the other needs to be at soccer. AND IT ALL THAT SURFACE COMMUNICATION AND THERE IS NO FACE TO FACE AND IT'S NOT WORKING!!!
 - D. So let's look at three different portions of Scripture between King Solomon and the Shulamite woman in the Book of Song of Solomon and we'll see how there relationship progressed because of these three different types of FUN!
 - E. The first one illustrate face-to-face un, SOS 7:1-4 - watch as Solomon compliments her starting at her feet - How beautiful your sandaled fee, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewel's, the work of a craftsman's hands, Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine (I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS BUT I'M SURE IT WORKED FOR HER! Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies"
VS #3 Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle - Your neck is like an ivory tower, your eyes are the pool of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbin

May I just say here: God is the creator of SEX - if anyone knows how to work it, make it good, fun, HE DOES! People sometimes think - In CHURCH? Should it be learned looking at playboy magazines, telling dirty jokes in grade school? experimenting on the playground behind the trees!

WHAT IS HE DOING? HE IS TALKING TO HER INTIMATELY FACE TO FACE. AND HOW IS HE DOING IT? DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS

Men: Women like details, men like headlines. Women want to talk, talk talk and they want to hear talk about things often you care little about BUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WORKS BEST WHEN YOU HAVE INTIMATE ONGOING CONVERSATION.

GUARD THAT FACE TO FACE TIME - DON'T LET LIFE SQUEEZE THE INTIMACY OUT OF YOUR FACE TO FACE FUN. DON'T SURRENDER IT - KIDS MORE IMPORTANT - BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR KIDS IS KEEP A GOOD FACE TO FACE INTIMATE - REALLY KNOW WHAT YOUR THINKING, CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT RELATIONSHIP!.

AND JUST TALKING WHILE TAKING KIDS TO SCHOOL IN CAR, OR WHILE WORKING ON IPADS, WATCHING A SHOW DOES NOT COUNT

IT NEEDS TO BE AN INTENTIONAL date night even if it means putting the KIDS TO BED AND THE TWO OF YOU MEETING ON PURPOSE TO CONVERSATE! AND DON'T LET IT JUST BE SERIOUS AND SOLVING PROBLEMS!

THE SECOND THING WE NEED IS WHAT I CALL SIDE BY SIDE FUN.

THIS IS where you are hanging out doing common activities. **Verse :11 Come my love, let's go to the countryside, and spend the night in the villages.** In other words leave the house, just as the two of us - It's hanging out doing something that you like to do together. IT MAKES A MAN FEEL VALUED, JOHN and I first met, we both had motorccycles. We would RIDE AND RIDE BUT inevitably, the clutch on his TRIUMPH were goof up and we would spend time under the big parking lot light adjusting that clutch. BUT IT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER WHAT WE DOING - we were together - Did I really like sitting under light with greasy tools - knowing I would have to get up early for work the next morning? No I didn't like that part - but I liked BEING A PART OF HIS LIFE AND HE LIKED THE FACE THAT I LIKED BEING WITH HIM REGARDLESS OF WHAT WE WERE DOING. I DID IT FOR HIM. I ENTERED HIS WORLD - because THAT IS WHERE HE WAS! That WAS VALUING HIM.

As well, I LOVE IT WHEN HE ENTERS MY WORLD - Helps me around the house - it gives ME A SENSE OF NESTING - A SAFE CARED FOR ENVIRONMENT - I FEEL A TOGETHERNESS that actually PRODUCES THE THIRD KIND OF FUN WHICH IS

3. BELLY BUTTON TO BELLY BUTTON - Did you write that in your notes?

Let's look again at **Song of Solomon 7:11-13** The Shulamite woman says to Solomon, "Come my love, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. Let us go early to vineyards to see if the vines have budded.. if their blossoms have open and if their pomegranates are in bloom and **THERE I WILL GIVE YOU MY LOVE."**

In other words "Let's have some belly button-to-bellybotton physical and romantic fun. YOU SAY, "Does God like that? Oh yes he does

Prov 5:18-20 "May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth, (Be married, 30, 40 years) enjoy this woman that you married - a loving doe, a graceful deer, may her breasts satisfy you always THIS IS GOD'S WORD! MAY HER BREASTS SATISFY YOU AT ALL TIMES AND MAY YOU BE CAPTIVATED, MAY YOU EVER BE CAPTIVATED BY HER LOVE."

I BELIEVE ONE OF THE BEST THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR MARRIAGE IS HAVE SOME PHYSICAL AND INTIMATE FUN. HERE IS SOME ADVICE FIRST TO THE MEN AND THEN TO THE WOMEN.

MEN, WORK ON YOUR APPROACH -become creative - GOOD LOVEMAKING BEGINS IN THE MORNING FOR A WOMAN - kindness, thoughtfulness, her car has gas in it. snow swept off, you helped with getting the kids ready for school - a text during the day - AND NOT JUST ON THE DAYS YOU ARE HOPING FOR SOME EXTRA ACTIVITY THAT NIGHT. RUB HER FEET, BE LOVING - BE TENDER - THOUGHTFUL - UNOFFENDED IF SHE REALLY IS TIRED THAT NIGHT - MAKE A DATE FOR THE NEXT NIGHT.

LADIES, MAKE AN APPROACH, LISTEN - don't worry about what you have and what you don't have. You have blessed the man possibly by giving him children - your body may not look the same - But as TD Jakes says "There is a time for mirrors and a time for draperies" - As time passes, gravity takes its toll, and not everything is in the same place as it was and that is true for men as well. However a LITTLE MYSTERY IS BETTER THAN HISTORY SO WHATEVER YOU HAVE DRAPE IT. PUT ON SOME MARVIN GAYLE AND TAMMY TERRIL AND HAVE SOME FUN!

This is SO IMPORTANT. LADIES IF YOU ARE ALWAYS TOO TIRED, TOO BUSY, THIS IS A CRISIS FOR A MAN. IT IS THE EQUIVALENT OF THE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS THAT YOU WOULD FACE WHEN THERE IS SILENCE AND NO EMOTIONAL INTIMACY. ONE OF THE GREATEST WAYS YOU CAN LOVE EACH IS BY COMING TOGETHER, RENEWING YOUR COVENANT, WHICH A PICTURE OF TWO BECOME ONE AND MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER, IT IS A BLESSING FROM GOD AND IT'S A WAY YOU SERVE ONE ANOTHER.

IF HE IS NOT GETTING HIS SEXUAL NEEDS MET, HE HAS NO OTHER LEGITIMATE OPTION BUT YOU, EVERYTHING ELSE IS SINFUL. YOU ARE HIS ONLY LEGITIMATE OUTLET FOR SEXUAL FULFILLMENT - IT IS A WAY YOU ADD VALUE TO HIS LIFE, YOU PROTECT HIM FROM TEMPTATION, IT IS HONORING TO GOD AND RENEWS YOUR COVENANT.

SOME WOULD SAY - HE IS A JERK AND I DON'T LIKE HIM, AND I DON'T LIKE YOU FOR TELLING ME TO HAVE SEX WITH HIM. I UNDERSTAND THAT.

FEELINGS FOLLOW ACTIONS. YOU START DOING WHAT YOU ONCE DID AND YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU ONCE HAD.

IF YOU WANT WHAT YOU ONCE HAD, START DOING WHAT YOU ONCE DID

BUT I DON'T LIKE IT. BUT THERE IS THIS GUY AT WORK AND HE MEETS MY EMOTIONAL NEEDS AND HE LOOKS BETTER. OR

THERE IS THIS GIRL AT THE GYM AND SHE SEEMS TO BE MORE FUN.

LISTEN, IF THE GRASS IS LOOKING GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE, IT'S TIME TO WATER YOUR OWN YARD

GO INVEST THE THE MARRIAGE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU AND ENJOY LIFE WITH THE WIFE OR HUSBAND GOD HAS BLESSED YOU WITH.

And if you think that the distance between here and there is too far of a distance to travel, remember with God all things are possible - Continue to seek him and He will give you what He wants you have if you do what right to honor HIM from this day forward.

As we begin to pray today, I would love to tell you that above all else, God wants you happy, BUT THE REALITY IS I CAN'T TELL THAT BECAUSE GOD'S

HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR US IS NOT OUR HAPPINESS, - ABOVE OUR HAPPINESS GOD WANTS OUR HOLINESS. BUT THE PROBLEM IN SOME OF OUR LIVES IS WE ARE NOT HOLY, WE ARE SINFUL. -

WE ARE MISERABLE BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE GOD AS #1 IN OUR LIVES AND WE ARE LOOKING TO THE WORLD FOR SOMETHING THAT BRINGS MEANING TO OUR EMPTY LIVES

- THAT'S WHY SO MANY MARRIAGES ARE LONGING FOR SOMETHING MORE BECAUSE WE'RE MISSING WHAT GOD REALLY WANTS US TO HAVE AND THAT IS A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, SEEK GOD, PURSUE THE ONE WITH THE TWO.

FOR MANY - HERE IN THE SANCTUARY, AND THOSE LIVESTREAMING, LIFE HAS HAPPENED. LIKE JOHN AND I AT TIMES, YOU HAVE LET THE PRIORITY OF GOD FIRST, MATE SECOND SLIP AND YOU NEED TO RECOMMIT TODAY,

YOU NEED TO RECOMMIT TO FUN - FACE TO FACE, SIDE BY SIDE AND BELLY-BUTTON TO BELLY BOTTOM - I PRAY FOR MARRIAGES TODAY FATHER, THEY FELL IN LOVE HAVING FUN BUT LIFE HAPPENED - I PRAY THAT THEY WOULD FALL IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN WITH A NEW SEASON OF FUN. HELP THEM COMMIT TO DOING THEIR FIRST WORKS OVER AGAIN AND THAT THEY WOULD ENJOY THEIR LIVES WITH THE SPOUSE YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM.

AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE OF YOU WHO SAY "I AM NOT WALKING IN A LIVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD." WELL GOD DID SOMETHING ABOUT THAT - HE SENT HIS OWN SON JESUS WHO WAS WITHOUT SIN TO DIE FOR SINS AND BE RAISED AGAIN SO THAT ANYONE WHO CALLS ON HIS NAME WOULD BE SAVE, FORGIVEN AND TRANSFORMED. JUST SAY WITH ME NOW THAT IS ME. TODAY I GIVE MY LIFE TO HIM> YES I GIVE MY LIFE TO YOU GOD.

Next week: #4 in this Series - It is going to be a life transformer.

BUT WHAT WILL WE DO THIS WEEK - SAY IT WITH ME - I COMMIT TO:

- #1 SEEK GOD- SEEK #1 WITH MY #2**
- #2 FIGHT FAIR**
- #3 HAVE FUN**