

Preparing for the Journey – Video Session 3

1Corinthians 7

1. Intimacy

1. Before you're married intimacy needs to be Guarded
2. After you're married intimacy is something to be Invested in
 1. Render due affection - Appropriate affection
 1. Men and women receive and express affection differently.
 2. Looking for ways to show and give the affection that the other half likes and enjoys
 2. Don't deprive each other except for a time
 1. Intimacy *Should* be regular
 2. Intimacy *Should not be* used to manipulate

2. Permanence

1. Before we are married, we should invest in getting to know each other as well as we can. Hit the pause button and slow down. Because we are entering into a permanent relationship, it is a good idea to make sure we're making the best decision.
2. Realize that there will be Seasons of difficulty.
 1. In a long term, permanent relationship there are going to be seasons of ups and downs. It is important to prepare for, and successfully navigate these seasons. (Pressures at work, change, children, moves).
 2. Just knowing that everything will not be a dream come true helps us.
3. Some tools to maintain a permanent relationship
 1. OK to separate (not divorce or move out, but give each other a little space) and let our emotions cool down so we can address the issue.
 2. Talk through issues (we need to value what they're thinking and why they're thinking it)
 3. Enlist the help of others
 1. In crisis times

2. But also proactively in the good times

3. Lifestyle

1. Use your marriage to serve the Lord together.
 1. As you serve the Lord together you will find fulfillment outside of yourselves
 2. And you will build relationships that will be a great help in your own walk with God.
2. Use your marriage to serve one another.
 1. A defining characteristic of Christian love is to be focused on loving others as you love yourself.
 2. This should mean taking a genuine interest in everything about the other person.

Homework

1. List at least 3 questions you have from the lesson.
2. Complete lesson 3 worksheet and discuss as a couple.

Lesson 3 - Marriage Principles

In **1 Corinthians 7**, Paul is teaching regarding the relationship between Christian men and Christian women. Some things are directed to the married and previously married, while others are for the single person.

Carefully read through **1 Corinthians 7** and fill in the following:

Things for the married

Things for the once married

Things for singles

What does it mean that it is good for a single man not to touch a single woman?

What is proper affection for unmarried couples to show each other?

What are some proper ways for married couples to render affection to one another?

How can a husband show his wife that his body has been given to her?

How can a wife do the same?

Paul goes into great lengths to express that marriage is a permanent relationship. What are some ways we can make lasting investments in a marriage?

Paul declares that those who are married should be as though they were not. This does not mean we act like single people, but that we do not use marriage as an excuse why we cannot serve the Lord. What ways are you and your fiancé currently involved in serving the Lord?

Paul declares that the married should care about the things of their spouse. How can a husband and wife care about the needs of each another?