

Lies that need to be broken If not they will break your marriage

What do you say when you talk to yourself about relationships? About dating? About marriage?

Dating

“I know God has someone great for me”

Or

“All the good ones are taken”.

Marriage

“My marriage goes through rough patches but God is working on both of us and I trust God with my marriage and my Family”

or

“No matter what I do my marriage is getting worse and worse divorce is my only option”

Do you speak encouraging, positive, faith-filled words?

Or, do your thoughts sound more like this?

- If someone really knew me, they wouldn't want me.
- After all, I've done, I'll never have a good marriage.
- I'm just going to live however I want now.
- What I do now won't affect my marriage later.
- My marriage is beyond repair. No matter what, it'll never work.
- Everyone flirts. Everyone looks. I'm not doing anything wrong.
- Besides, she's not meeting my needs anyway.
- I come from a divorced and broken family.
- No one in my family will ever have a good marriage.
- I married the wrong person. Divorce is my only option.

When it comes to marriage dating and family

Ultimately—2 primary sources

1. Word of God, Word of my father who loves me,
2. Or there is the devil who hates God, who hates anything that looks like God. **John 8:44** You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.
 - When the devil speaks he speaks his native language (lies)
- Jesus said **John 8:31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **32** And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.”
- Marriage Biblical marriage designed by God, is under attack by the enemy

Some lies need to be broken

Lies

1. I can change him/her.

When you're dating **Opposites attract** but once married **Opposites attack!**

- Mr. Quiet and Misterius will become never talk and drive you crazy.
- Miss Strong & Confident will become Mrs. Controlling and Nagging!
- The things that attract you will be the ones that drive you crazy.

- The problem starts when we begin to want changes
- I wish he'd make me a priority—Wish her life didn't revolve around kids. Wish she wouldn't drink so much—Wish he controlled his temper.
- Something's gotta change for this to move forward
- We may be tempted to just criticize about what we don't like. And that doesn't work because we will only create friction
- We will continue to criticize and complain and try to manipulate
- **This will not work**
- The reason it doesn't work is because the only one that can change someone is GOD
- You can't change your spouse—Only God can!
- Only God can change a heart
- No bible verse says criticism will change someone's heart
- But it does say **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Prayer Simple tool, a simple but powerful tool

Two ways to pray

1. Pray for God to change them.

- Ask God to change their heart
- Ask God to draw your husband closer to HIM
- Ask God to fill him with wisdom, Holy Spirit,
- (I am big on praying together) but this one do by yourselves (common sense)
- **James 5:16** *The effective, [k]fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*
- God hears the prayers of his people
- And He answers them
- Is taking too long, be like that persistent widow in Luke 18
- Don't stop praying

*Your prayer may not immediately change your spouse it will always change you
Prayer always changes your heart*

2. Pray for God to change you.

- This may not be easy to hear, especially if you're going through hardships
- If you want a better marriage, start by making a better you.
- One of the best prayers we can make is **Psalms 139:23** *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*
- Do a work in me, renew me, change me, God change my approach. **Heal me.**
- Maybe God will strengthen you and build your confidence to create some healthy boundaries
- Maybe God will give you patience, and less critical, ask God to heal you of your past hurt **maybe what you thought was unforgivable God will give you the strength to forgive just like He forgave you.**
- **Maybe if we all stop complaining and start praying** (some things guys need to be talked over)
- God change me. To have a better marriage you don't have to make big changes
- small changes will make the biggest difference

Prayer may or may not change your spouse. But prayer always changes you

- **Psalms 139:23** *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*

A good marriage is always 50/50.

Sounds good—Seems right—but it's dangerous!

50/50 is half-hearted effort, halfhearted commitment that equals a wholehearted disappointment

- If you believe marriage is always 50/50 you will Keep score.
- The moment you keep score—someone will always come short and You both lose!
- God never intended marriage to be 50/50 but always 100% full-on submissive love, and servanthood to one another.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 50% no 100%

- **This area is the greatest area for growth**
- Maybe we don't say 50/50 but we do have a system you do this I do that
- Almost like a negotiated business agreement, you take the kids, I put this much money
- Marriage is a covenant, not a business agreement
- Business agreement is based on distrust
- Covenant is based on love, and trust.

**If I were to do it over I wouldn't be so selfish and think of myself so much
but more of us**

I've realized that I need to love, honor, and serve my wife

questions to ask ourselves

1. What would happen if you both gave it 100%?
2. What will happen if you both don't?

This little thing is not a big thing.

- That little thing, that little secret bad habit, that little secret, secret spending, secret conversations,
- The devil says you can get away with it, that little thing isn't a big thing
- It's not necessarily the big things alone that destroy marriages.
- Infidelity, the double lives rarely alone destroy marriages
- Most of the time is little things, small problems, little habits left unchecked, left in the dark
- Because unconfessed, unchecked things, left in the dark, they get bigger because sin grows best in the dark
- Those little unconfessed, unresolved things have the potential to become big and complicated.
- When small it could have been dealt with

Same as unresolved hurts, past hurts, trauma, and bad experiences that need to be dealt with
because they will come out and usually they come out with bad secret bad habits

Or

Get in the way of relationships

Songs 2:15 Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes.

- A metaphor of relationships in bloom with tender fruit,
- Foxes would come in at night in darkness, burrow in the ground, and destroy from underneath

- That is how small secret sins can destroy a relationship
- Little things doing little destructive work, that little by little begin to rob your marriage of the blessing

many of us may say well I can manage it,
You don't manage sin
We confess sin

James 5:16 Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

- This would be one of the most difficult things that we would have to do
- Confess
- But if there's a secret sin that if you grow the courage to confess, now together you can defeat it, through accountability, counseling, and most important Prayer
- Now if you receive a confession some confessions have the potential to hurt you
- Now what I need for us to remember is that when someone loves you enough and asks for your help
- **Don't** get the children involved, don't get parents involved, pastor involved negatively,
- What's the negative way? Go and tell your parents, pastors, **and the worse!! Let's go tell kids what you did**
- What's the positive way: we need your help.

If you receive a confesión
That is a great expression of love even if it hurts at first
Hiding the sin and the secret is much more painful ultimately

- If you do receive a confession remember that is someone asking for help and wanting to love me better And needs help catching those little foxes
- **Can't keep those little foxes they need to be caught**
- **Counseling, pastors, elders, accountability, and most importantly repenting before God and prayer**

There's no hope for my marriage

Yeah other marriages may have been restored and I'm happy for them but not mine
It is what it is

- Acknowledge—Some very rough marriages.
- In no way—Belittle the challenges you are facing
- I know that some of the stuff that you may be facing are complicated to navigate
- Some of you are married to—Addict — have been betrayed—Suffered Abuse- and are hurt and easily hurt,
- Some of those situations make this lie easy to believe—
- And the devil says there is no hope the only way is to walk away
- **But the devil is a liar**
- When the devil offers a way out he shows you all the benefits but hides the price tag
- There's a reason why this lie is so easy to believe
- Because there is a little bit of truth to it
 - There has been pain, there has been betrayal, abuse, infidelity,
 - It's also easy to believe because it Takes 2 to restore a broken marriage
 - And I can only control me I Can't control my spouse.

But With God—There's always hope!

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

“God-honoring marriage isn’t possible” The devil is a liar
God-honoring marriage isn’t a fairy tale **is a Choice.**

With Jesus at the center—Hard work—Sacrifice—Apologies—Forgiveness, intentionality, proactivity, and sometimes reactivity and giving yourselves to each other in love and servanthood, obedient to the word of God

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

How to fight in your marriage

We learned a few weeks ago

Matthew 19:4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,' **5** and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? **6** So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

- This is the union that the Lord blesses, anything outside of this design is outside of God's will and the Bible calls it sinful, a man and his wife joined in holy Matrimony
- Marriage is not a contract is a covenant
- Things that will help us in our marriage or prepare for marriage
 1. Secured in Christ
 2. Strong in Character
 3. Community helps
 4. Praying together

Last week we saw lies that need to be broken

1. I can change him/her
2. A good marriage is 50/50
3. This little thing is not a big thing
4. There is no hope for my marriage

How to fight in your marriage

- Not how to fight for your marriage
- Not spiritual warfare for your marriage
- Not 7 spiritual disciplines that will make you and your wife/husband soul mates
- How to fight in your marriage!! Because you will fight.

What do you do when there is a problem at home

- A legitimate problem that needs resolving
- Someone really being selfish, someone really not honoring the covenant that you made to each other, a bad destructive habit, or simply when life gets difficult when our childhood or upbringing begins to create friction in our marriage.
- Seasons in life, once the kids come its all about the kids, not only that focusing on building a career and having to spend extra time working, or sickness, the husband having to spend time with his boys, or family being too involved in my marriage.
- The list is endless

What do you do when problems do happen

Attack the situation, not the person

This principle works with other relationships, with work.

We tend to make things personal.

Hebrews 12:12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, **13** and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

- there is work to do, that's what is needed,
- so whatever is lame (broken, injured, dislocated, not working properly) may be healed
- What's needed is work so there can be healing
- Creating more friction usually doesn't work
- Attack the problem so there can be change

- We don't attack the person because that person is the most important relationship in my life
- There's a key in this passage to keep in mind after there has been a conversation

Strengthen 2 things

1. Hands that hang down- your worship needs to get stronger
 2. Feeble knees- prayer needs to get stronger
- If we do these things
 - Those things that are lame will not end up dislocated but rather be healed
 - The person who has made a mistake doesn't need to be attacked, but they need areas in their lives healed
 - Our homes need healing
 - We need healing from all the mess we lived through,

Fight with honor no (low blows) (no weapons)

Fight fair

Funny

Deuteronomy 25:11 "If *two* men fight together, and the wife of one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of the one attacking him, and puts out her hand and seizes him by the genitals, **12** then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not pity *her*."

- God doesn't like unfair fights.
- Let's keep it fair, now low blows, no weapons
 - Don't use kids in a fight, don't use finances, don't use family, don't use history,
 - don't use past mistakes, if you have forgiven each other about something in the past keep it there. **Dont bring it back up**
- The more we bring stuff up the longer it will take to heal

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also **must** do. **14** But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

As Christ forgave us Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins [b]and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

I know that this is very difficult but it is possible with the Lord

In some cases, you will need healing from the Lord

But resist the urge to use past offenses in a present problem

Resist the urge to hurt the most important person in your life

Fight fair, no weapons, no low blows

Maintain responsibilities

There are responsibilities that we have to each other, to our families, to our children, and to the home, these may be physical, emotional, financial, or conjugal

Yes we may get upset, and emotions may run high, and there is deep fellowship at home

That doesn't relieve me of my responsibilities

1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- This is what the Bible says. This is not just financial
- This is also a good standard for family, relationships, and work

So in marriage

This verse that I will read to you is more for you to keep in mind not to use

1 Corinthians 7:3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. **5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- The only time that the Bible says this is okay is for a time of fasting and prayer
- With consent.
- Don't give room to the enemy
- We made a covenant before God to love, cherish, serve, provide, to keep each other in sickness and in health for rich or poor,
- In Blended families it may get very complicated but you yes not only to your wife or your husband but also the children.
 - The children in blended families can have, two blessed families or 2 very difficult scenarios.

4. Humble yourself and accept and recognize your mistakes

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." **7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- Apologize, sometimes apologies need accountability
- Ladies sometimes the husband doesn't know why he's apologizing
- The reason he's apologizing is because you got upset he doesn't understand why you're upset but he's sorry
- Sometimes that apology may need time to process and that's ok
- You can't apologize and keep doing it. I know in some scenarios that happens when there's an addiction, some very serious issues of the heart, and those may need special ministering by the Lord, counseling, community, healing, and deliverance but nothing is impossible for God
- Honoring and guarding each other's hearts

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

5. Never never, attack your beloved heart.

Words from people we love can do a lot of damage

Wives

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. **12** She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

- Your husband/wife need to know that their hearts are safe in your hands regardless of what may happen
- Even if it does lead to separation you should still honor the love that once brought you together.

Husbands, the Bible describes the union between a man and his wife like the union between Christ and the church

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might [g]sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. **28** So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

- Guard each other's hearts
- Be careful what you say when upset
- The Bible says in Ephesians 4, be angry but do not sin

6. Get help

Counseling, pastors, elders,

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

Personal note: The friends we had unfortunately didn't have good marriages, and had bad habits, that we all had

- We separated from the friends good friends we had, mainly because of their lifestyle.
- We planted ourselves in our church family
- One of the things that help me and my wife was that we had many mentors in our church
- Pastors, and elders, who talk to me about marriage, intimacy, and learning to fight.
- There's no shame in getting help

Spin off of number 5

6. Dont stop praying together

- The best help you can get is from God and the best way is through prayer
- Whatever the situation is don't stop praying
- If possible if you are mature enough and if you're humble enough and if you're wise enough
- Dont stop praying together

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. **15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

All marriages in here need the grace and the mercy of God to help in the time of need

Help for a better marriage

Marriage is a blessing—When it's a blessing.

Proverbs 18:22 *He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.*

Marriage isn't always a blessing

Proverbs 27:15 *A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike;*

Pastor Mike's interpretation of the verse for men

Like stepping on (dog pee barefoot) in the middle of the night when you wake up to go to the bathroom is a contentious, self-centered, husband

Marriage is a blessing when it is not it can be a very bad place

If you are single your purpose is not to be married - your purpose is to honor God

What is marriage?

How you see marriage shapes how you approach relationships

Many today see marriage as two consenting adults who simply signed a contract

What does scripture say?

Matthew 19:4 *And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

Marriage is not just a contract.

What's a contract based on?

- A contract is based on mutual distrust.
- So we sign a contract to make sure you honor your part of the deal
- Hire someone to do work on your house—Sign a contract. Protect your rights—Limit your responsibilities.
- If you live up to the terms— if you don't the other person says I'm out!
- Getting sued for breach of contract and in marriage is not a breach of contract is divorce

If marriage is only a piece of paper—Why bother?

Just live together—

Angie and I have been married for 23 years

We met in Dec 2020 and started dating in March 2001 we moved in together in the third week of March and dated for 3 weeks, we married in June and Miky was born in December.

It has been both a blessing and a blessing

This is what people think about living together

Decent plan—Split responsibilities—Enjoy benefits! (Split bills—Share Netflix account)
(Split chores—Share bed)

The percentage of adults just living together more than doubled.

National Center Family and Marriage resources

80% of teenagers expect to live together

Have a partner, have kids, share life but not get married

Living together decreases the odds of relational success!

Move in—Both sign—Share phone plan—Dog—Kids.

Fully entangled—Not fully committed.

Increases pressure, they will begin to feel stuck but not fully committed and this will
Decrease the odds of success.

Playing house—Playing Marriage—

Breakup—Practicing divorce!

Marriage is not just a contract—It is a covenant.

While a contract is based on mutual distrust ...

- A covenant is based on mutual commitment before a Holy God
- A covenant of a man and a woman to be faithful, and given to each other for the rest of their lives
- This is God's design anything outside of this design is a sin before God. **Hebrews 13:4** *Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

- Covenant Old Testament covenants were done by blood (bull, blood)

They would slaughter the bull and say let this be done to us if we don't fulfill the covenant

Being married is not our purpose in Life **our purpose in life is to have a relationship with Jesus.**

If Your single marriage does not complete you Jesus completes you

If you marry you become one and are completed by Jesus

4 things that will help you be ready for marriage or have a blessed marriage

Because a key to a blessed marriage starts with me.

1. Secured in Jesus

It all starts with me being secure in Jesus Christ, His grace, His mercy, His Word, His promises, and His will for my life

- Unsecured people need more all the time and usually settle for less,

- Unsecured people are always looking for validation
 - If I am secure in Christ I can rest assured in His will.
 - My wife and I become one and are completed by Christ
 - Marriage doesn't complete me **Christ and Christ alone completes me**
- Colossians 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead [f]bodily; **10** and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all [p]rincipality and power.
- You have indescribable value in the eyes of God,
 - If I am complete in Christ I can be the man that my wife needs
 - If you're secured in Christ you do not have to lower your standards
 - See we almost got divorced 19 years ago but we supernaturally encountered Christ and one of the side effects was that we both became secure in Christ and raised our standards.
 - We have had a blessed marriage, that is anchored in Jesus Christ.

2. Strong in character

- It is common to think well I have fun now get serious later, before you know it later is here and you're stuck
- Because you can't build a life of righteousness on a foundation of sin.
- What we're doing today matters and your today will impact your tomorrow

1 Timothy 4: 12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. **13** Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. **14** Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. **15** Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. **16** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

- Fully devoted to Jesus in **word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and purity.**
- This is the foundation to build on.
- This is what my wife deserves and this is what I deserve from my wife
- If you're not married, develop strong character in Christ because this is what your future husband/wife deserves
- Ask God to help you, Allow God to help you, pray that God will help you
- Ask God to heal you because your wife can't heal you your husband can't heal you
- Ask God to change you because history has proven this right, your spouse will not be able to change you

3. Community/ Church

- Find and build community
- Young married couples, meet with older couples, get advice.
- we all went through what you going through.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

Personal note: The friends we had unfortunately were good people but they were not helping me and my marriage, this was not intentional but God made it work.

We separated from the friends good friends we had mainly because of their lifestyle.

We planted ourselves in church community.

One of the things that help me and my wife was that we had many mentors in our church

Pastors, and elders, who talk to me about marriage, intimacy, and learning to fight.

My wife some are pastor lady would talk to her.

Community helps

Get around mature believers and allow yourselves to be mentored

4. Pray together

Mathew 18:19 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

What better 2 than you and your husband/wife

3 practical ways to be consistent in prayer.

1. Keep it Simple. If we make it complicated and difficult we will not do it
 - I have to pray for the president, I have to pray for the children in Africa, I have to cast out demons, I have to pray in christianeese.
 - Simple, the tax collector said 7 words in **Luke 18:13** “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.
2. Keep it short
 - As Pentecostal believers, we were brought up that we have to pray for hours
 - If we aim to pray for 2 hrs in the morning 2 hrs in the afternoon and 2 hrs in the night and I don't pray for 5 minutes I will not do it
 - Keep it short and grow with it
 - The thief on the cross next to Jesus said “Remember me when you come in your Kingdom”
 - I ran out of things to say play a good worship song, read a Psalm, and pray about it.
3. If you miss 1 day don't miss 2
 - Life happens, emergencies, traffic, responsibilities, and sometimes I just forget.
 - If you missed one day get back at it the next day