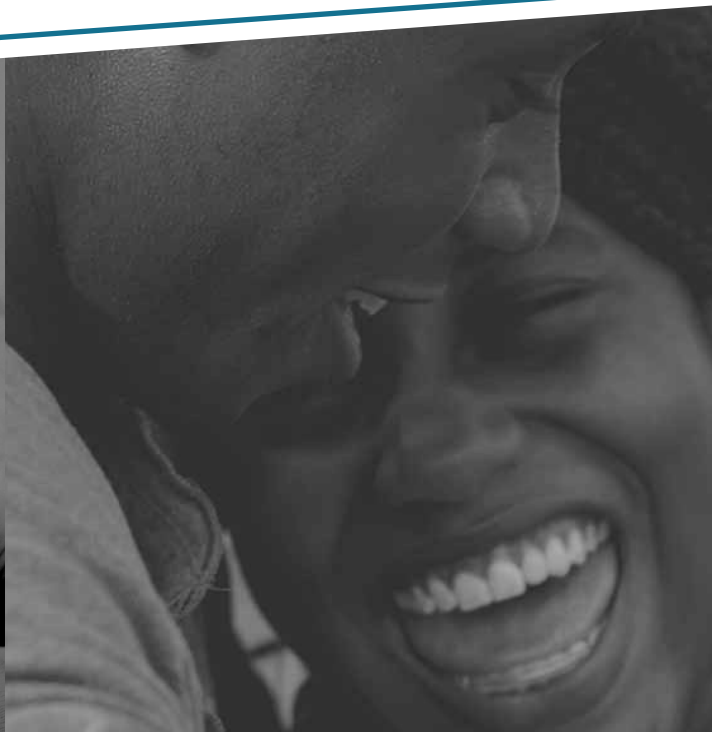


# Sowing Seeds

◆ OF ONENESS ◆

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE 2018



# Session 1: Fighting for Intimacy

Why fight for intimacy?

Why were we created?

*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* Revelation 4:11, KJV

We are created to be \_\_\_\_\_.

*So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."* Genesis 1:27–28, NLT

*When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers— the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority...* Psalm 8:3–6, NLT

- Human beings are the pinnacle of God's creation.

The very essence of the nature of God is that God exists in community, in relationship.

- What do theologians call the community of God?

*"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."* John 17:24, NIV

- What was God doing before the creation of the world?
- What is the most foundational thing about God?
- What this means is the most fundamental principle of the universe?

## *Glimpses into the relationship in the Trinity.*

*And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."* Matthew 3:17, NLT

*But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him."* Matthew 17:5, NLT

*And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.* John 8:29, NLT

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.* John 17:20–23, NIV

- What are the two expressions of "oneness" for which Jesus prays?
- Why is Jesus so concerned about oneness in his greatest prayer?

# Couple's Project

## "ACCEPTING GOD'S GENESIS MANDATE"

*Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened. Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day. Genesis 1:26–31, NLT*

To build your marriage on the foundation God wants you to have, you must:

1. Receive your mate as God's sovereign and good gift to you personally, not as a fortuitous life circumstance.
2. Commit to a growing understanding of your mates relational/aloneness needs.
3. Acknowledge your mate as God's primary resource to meet your specific relational/aloneness needs and commit to revealing your heart to them.
4. Take personally responsibility from God to care for your mate's heart and their relational/aloneness needs.

### Action Step

Do an informal ceremony tonight. The goal of your informal ceremony is to re-commit to your marriage oneness.

### Set the scene

- Get away from all distractions
- Candlelight
- Other?

### Take a moment alone

- Construct a vow(s) to promise your pursuit of oneness

### Say the words

- Look into one another's eyes
- Take turns sharing vows of commitment to oneness

### Pray together

- Pray for God's help for greater oneness