

**Behind Family Lines 06: "Maintenance"**  
**Psalm 139:1-14**

March 12, 2023

**Main Idea:** Your relationship will naturally decline with time unless you work to maintain it.

**BIG Q: Why do relationships plateau or weaken with time?**

The cultural perception of marriage is that we love less with time, not more. Marriage is less satisfying and rewarding over time not more. The hot and heavy romance of courtship will almost certainly be replaced with the routine monotony and dissatisfaction of marriage. **Today we are going to address the "why".**

**Reason #1: Natural conflict in a fallen universe (Genesis 3:21-24)**

In a fallen world, everything is breaking down. Due to the fallen state of the universe, your marriage is not supposed to sustain itself. It will take work to sustain it. All the information you can absorb relating to marriage-building amounts to nothing if you are not personally committed to improving yourself and your relationship – that's maintenance.

**Reason #2: Built-in conflict due to personality strengths and weaknesses (Psalm 139:13-15)**

Research has revealed that there are 4 temperaments among human beings. Very often opposites attract. We see something in someone we admire or something we lack, and we are drawn to it. That's part of God's design for two to become one, but what happens when the opposite person you were drawn to becomes the source of your frustration. Due to the ready-made conflict rising from unrestrained personality strengths and weaknesses, you must work to minimize your personality weaknesses while validating your mate's personality strengths. Otherwise, conflict will overtake you.

**Reason #3: Ready-made conflict between left-brain men and right-brain women (Genesis 2:18-24)**

Despite culture's efforts to make us the same, men and women are very different. God created us unique and distinct. It's a brain thing. Men don't think like women and women don't think like men. His brain is better with her brain and vice-versa. Understanding that there is a difference is only half the battle. Recognizing how those differences affect your relationship and knowing how to turn them into strengths is the key.

**This is BIG!**

- A marriage will not continue to be good simply because it seemed right at the beginning.** It's the opposite, marriages left to their own devices tend to wear out, break down, and ultimately disintegrate.
- What drew you to someone wired differently can become the very thing that drives you apart over time.** Instead of arguing about how you differ, couples need to learn to use those differences to their benefit.
- He is NOT a she and she is NOT a he.** God's design is spectacular. Together you are better. It's a brain thing. Without proper maintenance, your marriage will run down. If left unattended, your relationship will burn out. No matter how hot or bright the flame at the beginning, when we fail to maintain our relationship, it will fizzle out.

**Family Night Big Idea – Read Psalm 139:1-14**

For family night this week take some time and write down all the ways each member differs from others in your family. Point out that God made each of us different for a special reason and be sure to point out the good those differences bring to your home.

**Prayer**

"Father, thank You for making us unique. Help us respect the different way each of us are wired. Amen."

**Velocity (Middle and High School Students)**  
**Velocity:** Meet at the church this Wednesday, March 15.  
**Gravity:** Gravity is Back TODAY in the Community Room!

**Today's Songs**  
*Blessed Be Your Name*.....Matt Redman  
*Lord I Need You*.....Chris Tomlin  
*Joyful Joyful*.....Hymn

**Building Update**  
Big News!! Praise God! All we owe is \$172,000 to be debt free. This is fantastic! Please prayerfully consider your gift to the Building Fund.

**College Group**  
Bible Study on Wednesdays in the Lobby. See Tyler.

**Ladies Group**  
Bible Study begins March 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm here at the church. Contact Kim Fowler for more information @ 912-618-8177.

**GCC 101 Membership Class**  
March 26 after the 11:00 service. Sign up in the Lobby.

**Night of Worship**  
Our band will have a concert on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All donations to benefit "Priceless", a nonprofit for the sanctity of all human life.