

MARRIAGE PART II
“STAYING IN WHEN WE WANT OUT”
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- More than ever we don't do relationships very well.
- The hardest place for relationships is at home.
- Hebrews 13:4 NLT, “Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage.”
- Measure your relationships, not on other's behavior, but on His behavior towards you.
- Does God honor you? Does He love you? Do you honor others and love them...your spouse?

I. LOVE AND RESPECT

- Ephesians 5:28, 31, 33, “...husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. ³¹...“A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”...and the wife must respect her husband.”
- Two words here we don't want to miss, one for wives and one for husbands:
 - Love = devotion, admiration, warm attachment
 - Respect = respect means to esteem, give preference to
- Two Key Things:
 1. Happily married couples behave like good friends.
 2. Happily married couples handle their conflicts in gentle, positive ways.
- Four behaviors that can send couples into a downward spiral that ends in divorce:
 1. Criticism
 2. Defensiveness

3. Contempt
4. Stonewalling

II. LOVE AND RESPECT

- When a man is unloving a wife will typically be less respectful to him and vice versa.
- Guys act unloving to wives and then wives are dying, here we have a crazy cycle.
- We keep doing the same things over and over and expect a different outcome.
- Stop now and deal with marriage issues.

III. RESPECT

- The word Paul uses for love is agape or unconditional love and likewise respect is unconditional respect.
- Paul is telling you to do it and it will bless you both.
- Common thread in long term marriages: They always offered two basic ingredients to each other - love and respect.
- The most corrosive force in marriage was contempt.

CLOSE

- Communication - half of it is the delivery, not the words.
- The manner in which you confront can be life-giving or demeaning.
- Faith is the key to God's heart.
- Matthew 12:34, “...the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”
- Don't avoid the conflict, but how you disagree is crucial to your marriage's health.
- The number one predictor of divorce is the habitual avoidance of conflict.