



YOU BEFORE ME

**MOVING FROM SELFISHNESS
TO ONENESS**

Conference Schedule and Notes

March 24-25, 2017

**Declaring the greatness of God as He transforms lives by loving
and reaching people and making disciples of Jesus.**



Weekend Schedule

Friday

Check-In Begins	5:45pm
Dinner	6:00-6:45pm
Welcome / Drawing	7:00pm
Session 1: Barriers To Oneness	7:30pm

Saturday

Breakfast	9:00-9:20am
Welcome	9:20am
Session 2: Communication & Conflict	9:30-10:30am
Break	10:30-10:45pm
Session 3: Strengthening Relationships	11:00am-12:00pm
Lunch	12:00-12:45pm
Session 4: Understanding Your Spouse	1:00-2:00pm



Where To Find Scott Kedersha

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Lifeway Bookstore

In the Children's Hospitality Room located in the hallway just outside the Small Fellowship Hall is a Lifeway Book Table.

Popular titles like *The Meaning of Marriage* (Tim & Kathy Keller), *Sacred Marriage* (Gary Thomas), *When Sinners Say, "I Do"* (Dave Harvey), *Fun Loving You* (Ted Cunningham), *This Momentary Marriage* (John Piper), *Date Your Wife* (Justin Buzzard), *What Did You Expect?* (Paul David Tripp), *The Mingling of Souls* (Matt Chandler), and more!

Scott references a few of these books in his talks; today is a great opportunity to pick one up!

Barriers to Oneness

1. PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE:

"There never has been a generation whose general view of marriage is high enough. The chasm between the biblical vision of marriage and the common human vision is now, and has always been, gargantuan.... Some cultures.... like our own, have such low, casual, take-it-or-leave-it attitudes toward marriage as to make the biblical vision seem ludicrous to most people." John Piper, This Momentary Marriage, pg.19

My goal is to _____ your view of marriage and help make sure you don't _____ marriage.

2. WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

- Marriage is:

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.
Genesis 2:24-25

- One man and one woman
- _____ by God, and therefore God determines the purpose of marriage.
- _____
- Oneness is _____ and _____.

Barriers to Oneness

*Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you heard," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."
Matthew 19:3-6*

- _____

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-32

- A _____ of God's love for the church.

*"What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?"
Gary Thomas, Sacred Marriage*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.." Genesis 1:27-28

- An opportunity to _____ and fill the earth.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18

- _____

Barriers to Oneness

See Genesis 2:18-25, Malachi 2:14, Ezekiel 16:8

- _____

DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE: We believe marriage is designed by God and is a life-long, covenantal relationship between one man and one woman, and is intended to give a picture of Christ's loving relationship with His bride, the church. (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31-32)

3. WHAT'S SO HARD ABOUT MARRIAGE?

*But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.
1 Corinthians 7:28*

4. WHAT ARE BARRIERS TO STRONG MARRIAGES?

- _____

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? James 4:1

- Fear of _____

Barriers to Oneness

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. Genesis 3:6-7a

- _____ and _____
- _____
- Poor understanding of the _____ and _____

See Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13, Matthew 18:21-35

NOTES

10 Common Communication & Conflict Mistakes

Mistake #1— Believe the goal of communication is to make sure you are _____.

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. Proverbs 18:2

The goal is _____.

Mistake #2 – Not understanding the impact of your _____ and _____.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who will love it will eat its fruits.
Proverbs 18:21*

_____ you say and _____ you say it, matters.

Mistake #3— Don't recognize any of your _____ communication patterns.

W_____ — unwillingness to stay in important conversations

Exit Strategy:

E_____ — negative responses to another that create a snowball effect that leads to increased hostility and negativity

10 Common Communication & Conflict Mistakes

Exit Strategy:

N_____ — believes the motive of the other person to be more negative than is really the case.

Exit Strategy:

I_____ — subtle indirect putdowns of the thoughts, feelings or character of another

Mistake #4 — Assume you are _____ because you don't fight.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18

Conflict is an _____.

Mistake #5— Assume conflict ends when you say, _____.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:12-13

Ask for _____.

Forgiveness is _____ and _____.

10 Common Communication & Conflict Mistakes

Mistake #6— Blame your _____ or _____ as the main reason you fight.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel... James 4:1-2

The reason we fight is because we are _____.

Mistake #7 — Avoid _____ when conflicting.

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. Proverbs 18:13

ACTIVE LISTENING

Rules for the speaker

Speak only for yourself. Don't mind-read. Speak in short phrases.
Stop often and let the listener paraphrase.

Rules for the listener

Paraphrase what you hear. Don't refute. Focus on what the speaker is saying.

Rules for both

The speaker has the floor. Speaker keeps the floor while the listener paraphrases. Share the floor.

10 Common Communication & Conflict Mistakes

Mistake #8 — Don't ever take a _____.

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger. Ephesians 4:26

Try not to have conversations when you are:

H _____

A _____

L _____

T _____

Some rules for time out:

1. Honor the request.
2. Seek God during the time out.
3. The one who calls the time out proposes the time to start discussing again.

NOTES

10 Common Communication & Conflict Mistakes

Mistake #9 — Forget that _____ and _____ matter.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:6

_____ someone the truth is never optional – _____ and _____ are always optional.

Mistake #10 — Never ask others to _____.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." Matthew 18:15-17

If _____, bring others in.

Bonus #1: Put your _____ away.

Bonus #2: _____ the tape on conflict.

Strengthening Your Relationships

Marriage, Family

PART ONE – SPIRITUAL INTIMACY

1. Introduction and Definition

Definition of Spiritual Intimacy: growing in your _____ with Jesus Christ.

2. The Most Important Marriage and Parenting Question You Will Ever Answer:

Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Mark 8:29

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

3. Foundation of Spiritual Intimacy: _____ Jesus

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. Matthew 7:24-27

Definition of Spiritual Intimacy in Marriage: _____ growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Strengthening Your Relationships

IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUR MARRIAGE/FAMILY:

Grace, _____ and _____.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...

Ephesians 2:4-5

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

The Key to Ongoing Spiritual Intimacy: _____ in Christ

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Growing in Spiritual Intimacy: His Different _____ Provisions / Gifts

1. _____

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:2-3

Strengthening Your Relationships

2. _____

Devote yourselves to prayer... Colossians 4:2

3. _____

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

4. _____

*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
Proverbs 13:20*

5. _____

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. Ephesians 6:7

6. Other Forms:

Strengthening Your Relationships

PART TWO: INTENTIONAL PURSUIT

1. Introduction:

"The most rebellious, counter-cultural thing you could do in our culture is to be happily married until death do you part." – Justin Buzzard, Date Your Wife

Marriage is to be_____.

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun... Ecclesiastes 9:9

2. In order to enjoy your marriage and keep your marriage/relationship a priority, you must be _____.

3. What does it mean to be intentional?

- _____ one another.

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4

Strengthening Your Relationships

- _____ the relationship.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

- _____ pursue each other.

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

4. In order to best intentionally pursue one another, you must get rid of the

_____.

Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom. Song of Solomon 2:15

Strengthening Your Relationships

What are some of the foxes you must catch?

- _____ / _____
- _____ / _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

NOTES

Understanding Your Spouse

1. No two people are exactly the same, everyone is _____.

2. The same differences that can be such a strong source of _____ in the beginning of a relationship can lead to _____ and _____ over time if they are not understood and embraced.

3. Our differences:

- **Are from God** - *Psalms 139:13-16*
- **Create a combined entity that is stronger than any one person**
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; see also 1 Corinthians 12, 14
- **Are to be understood so that we can best serve our spouse**
1 Peter 3:7, Phil 2:3-4

4. In order to best 'Understand your spouse', you need to become a _____ of your spouse.

What does it mean to become a student of your spouse?

What if you don't live with your spouse in an understanding way?

Practically, how do you live with your spouse in an understanding way?

Understanding Your Spouse

5. How do we best handle our differences?

- _____ your differences
- _____ your differences
- _____ your differences

SUMMARY

- All marriages start off with strong _____, however; often times our _____ gets in the way.
- In order to combat our selfish desires, the Bible encourages us to become _____ of our significant other.
- There is a lot at stake here:
 1. _____ and marital satisfaction,.
 2. Marriage's role in God's kingdom as a _____ of his love for the world.

NOTES

20 Questions to Help You “Study” Your Spouse

1. What are you normally doing on Mondays at 6am?
2. What's your favorite beverage?
3. What skill do you hope to one day master?
4. If you had a free round trip ticket in the U.S. where would you go & what would you do?
5. What are three things that give you life?
6. What makes you cry?
7. What is one adventure you'd like us to experience before we die?
8. If you could be friends with anyone famous who would it be?
9. What is the best book you've read this year?
10. What's your LEAST favorite chore?
11. What are your favorite pair of shoes?
12. What keeps you up at night?
13. If you could have one superhero power what would it be?
14. If you could take a trip around the world in 80 days how would you like to travel?
15. What was your favorite TV show as a kid?
16. If someone paid you \$1,000 to ride a roller coaster non-stop for an hour, would you do it?
17. If you could give a college freshman one piece of advice what would it be?
18. What about being a parent are you most looking forward to?
19. What is your favorite article of clothing?
20. What would be the focal point of your ideal backyard?