

From This Day Forward...



a study of the vows of marriage

3x5 Card Exercise

Write down the answer to this statement:

While at this retreat, I want my spouse to learn

I want you to take that card, place it in the envelope. Write your name on the outside. Don't show it to each other. Turn it in. You'll get them back at the end.

The dictionary defines Marriage as a noun.

- The act of uniting a man and woman for life; wedlock;
- It is the legal union of a man and woman for life.

Although the definition is precise; it does not convey the complexities, dynamics, and expectations that play a part. Throughout our lives we observe images of marriage from our parents, grandparents, and friends. We then take these images and create our own expectations and bring to our marriage baggage filled with complexities and dynamics.

A child's definition of marriage:

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

"You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming." Allan, age 10

"No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with." Kirsten, age 10

WHAT IS THE BEST AGE TO GET MARRIED?

"Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then!" Cam, age 10

"No age is good to get married at ... You got to be a fool to get married!" Freddie, age 6

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

"Married people usually look happy to talk to other people." Eddie, age 6

"You might have to guess based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

"Both don't want no more kids." Lori, age 8

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

"When they're rich!" Pam, age 7

"The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that." Curt, age 7

"The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them ... It's the right thing to do." Howard, age 8

THE GREAT DEBATE: IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

"Single is better ... for the simple reason that I wouldn't want to change no diapers ... Of course, if I did get married, I'd figure something out. I'd just phone my mother and have her come over for some coffee and diaper-changing." Kirsten, age 10

"It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them" -Anita, nine years old

"It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need that kind of trouble." -Will, seven years old

WHAT PROMISES DO A MAN AND A WOMAN MAKE WHEN THEY GET MARRIED?

"A man and a woman promise to go through sickness and illness and diseases together." Marlon, age 10

HOW TO MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK:

"Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck!"

Ricky, age 7

The view of marriage before you get started surely changes after the honeymoon. For some of you maybe even on the honeymoon.

You're here today because, at some point in history, you stood in front of a civil or religious authority and made a lot of promises just so you could get to the honeymoon. :)

Those promises set the course you would take for your entire relationship. However, those promises meant something. You gave your solemn word, from this day forward until death do us part.

Listen to these words.

I, _____, take you _____, to be my (wife/husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.

3x5 Card Exercise

1. Write **THEN** on one side. Write **NOW** on the other side.
2. Write down the phrase/word from your vows that meant the most to you that day.
3. Write down the one word that means the most to you today.

Now let's exchange those cards. Take a moment. Read your spouse's card. Reflect on your original commitment and intention. Now consider if these have changed.

We come to our relationships with different views, values, and expectations. We then spend the rest of our days either resisting or relating to each other.

I see these promises in groups. These four groupings will determine the course of study we will have in our sessions.

These famed promises are worded as a solemn vow. They will designate the four areas we will spend time learning today.

- 1.The promise of possession. (*have and hold*)
- 2.The promise of pleasure (*for better or for worse, for richer for poorer sickness and health*)
- 3.The promise of passion. (*love and cherish*)
- 4.The promise of perpetuity (*until death do us part*)

The vows we take are not verbatim from Scripture. They are based on Scriptural principles.

3x5 Card Exercise

Note the vows in your booklet. Identify the principle from the Scripture passages.

Consider what these passages say: Ephesians 5:21-33; Genesis 2:21-25

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” Ephesians 5:21-33

“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Genesis 2:21-25

Session One: The Promise of Possession. (have and hold)

Our world is filled with the idea of possessions. I bought this. I own this. I must have this. I need this. They have that. I want that.

When you stood that day before God and witnesses you made the promise to have and to hold each other exclusively.

In a sense it is to own each other. Not in the sense of slavery. Rather in the sense of selfless abandonment for the sake of the other.

The Promise to Posses each other started in God's first wedding ceremony.

The Bible gives God's definition of marriage for us.

Genesis 2:21-24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

The day was most memorable for the first man and woman. Adam would never have a week like that again. God presented many things to Adam in that week, every beast of the field, fish and fowl.

However God took something from Adam to make Eve to symbolize to Adam that she was a part of him. At that moment of God's presentation of Eve, the principle of marriage was established and recorded in God's Word. The verse is so precise. Consider that before there were children or parents, God made it clear. Marriage brings together a man and a woman in a union that makes them one.

What a thrilling moment that was for Adam! He had been alone until this moment. Now this beautiful creation of God is presented to him. This union cannot be just mentioned it must be pondered.

This was the joining of God, that later we would learn that man should not put asunder what God joins together. God created her and entrusted

Session One: The Promise of Possession cont'd.

her to him. From that moment, Eve had to trust Adam. She gave him her heart that day. She knew she was bone of his bones, flesh of his flesh. Gen 2:21-25 and Eph 5:28-33 identify principles to guide our relationships and learn their significance.

From this we learn four principles:

I. God has an interest in the relationships of man and woman.

- A. He created Eve for Adam.
- B. He made Eve from Adam.
- C. He brought them together.
- D. God brings singles together and makes them couples.

II. God has an investment in the relationships of man and woman.

- A. He invested time.
 - 1. He took time to make them out of the dust of the ground.
 - 2. Everything else was spoken into existence.
- B. He invested thought
 - 1. He formed Eve's shape to please Adam.

III. God has instructions for Man's relationship.

- A. Leaving - Departure
 - 1. Separating to make new.
- B. Latching (Cleaving) - Decision
 - 1. Eve trusted Adam because God gave him to her and her to him.
 - 2. Adam trusted God because God gave him to her and her to him.
- C. Loving - Devotion
 - 1. Love her - Love your wife as you love yourself.
 - 2. Nourish her - Give her everything she needs to sustain herself.
 - 3. Cherish her - Brood over her and foster her growth as a woman. Treat her with tenderness and seek her comfort.

Session One: The Promise of Possession cont'd.

IV. **God has instructions for Woman's relationship.**

A. She is to reverence her husband.

B. She is to regard him with respect due to his

1. Position over her

2. Possession of her

3. Preciousness to her

C. She is to hold him up not knock him down.

D. She is to elevate and esteem not criticize and condemn.

The vow to have and to hold is reflective of what God displays.

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure. *(for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health)*

The moment you speak of pleasure in the context of marriage. Different ideas are drawn. Allow me to illustrate:

3x5 Card Exercise

Write on your cards what does **pleasure** in marriage mean to you?

Exchange cards

Male definition of marital pleasure differs

Female definition of marital pleasure:

3x5 Card Exercise

In one word:

What is the general environment of your home?

Write this down and exchange

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

Looking at your 3 by 5 card what your spouse marked as the one word that is the environment of your home. Does that word please the Lord? Does it please you? Does it please your spouse?

Now notice the conditions of the vows made:

Better / Worse

Richer / Poorer

Sickness / Health

The vow you made is not based on conditions of life but the commitment of love.

How do you handle life's conditions?

How do you react when things are better?

How do you react when things are worse?

How do you react when things are going well financially?

How do you react when things are going poorly financially?

How do you react when things are going when sick?

How do you react when things are going when healthy?

You promised when you got started you would make it work. You would have a relationship that would find pleasure despite the circumstances.

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

We need to look at the

I. Environment of the home.

A. The environment of your is set by your **communications**. Eph. 4:31

1. Communication ground rules:

- a) No bitterness in a Christian marriage.
- b) No wrath in a Christian marriage. *Outbursts of anger*
- c) No anger in a Christian marriage. *Persistent anger*
- d) No clamour in a Christian marriage. *Shouting brawling*
- e) No evil speaking in a Christian marriage. *slander*
- f) No malice in a Christian marriage. *ill will*

2. Communication guidelines.

a) Scripture calls upon you both to be kind.

(1) You should be kinder to your husband than you would be to your Pastor.

(2) You should be as kinder to your wife than you would be your Pastor's wife.

b) Scripture calls upon you both to be tenderhearted.

(1) You should be tenderer to your husband than you would be to your Pastor.

(2) You should be tenderer to your wife than you would be your Pastor's wife.

B. The environment of your homes is set by your **commitment**.

1. A commitment to forgive.

a) Scripture calls on you to be forgiving.

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

b) Forgiveness is the right of my spouse.

c) Forgiveness is not to be withheld.

d) Forgiveness is not a negotiating tactic.

(1) The model of forgiveness is God forgave us because of Christ.

(2) I can forgive my spouse.

2. A commitment to Remember no more.

3. A Commitment to release yourself from bondage

C. The environment of your home is set by your **conduct**.

1. There must be carefulness on the part of a **wife**. 1 Peter 3:1-6

a) Be careful with your actions. 1-2

(1) Your actions are a testimony to your husband.

(2) Your actions must show subjection.

(3) Your action can be the difference in seeing lost husbands saved.

(4) The actions are defined by

(a) Subjection to your husband. Clean in heart.

(b) Spotless in heart- Chaste conversation.

b) Be careful with your appearance. 3

(1) A godly woman adorns herself inwardly.

(a) She adorns her heart with purity.

(b) She adorns herself with that which God finds attractive.

(c) She adorns her mind with the Word (not corruptible)

(d) She adorns her heart with meekness.

(e) She adorns her lips with quietness.

(f) She adorns her attitude with what is spiritual.

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

- (2)A godly woman adorns herself outwardly.
 - (a)She concerns herself with her hair after her heart.
 - (b)She concerns herself with her dress after her devotions.
 - (c)She concerns herself with her gold after she's been with God.
- c)Be careful with your attitude. V4
 - (1)Gentleness mark her words and work.
 - (2)Quietness mark her responses and reactions.
- d)Be careful with your answers. V5-6
 - (1)A woman's example is Sara's obedience to her husband.
 - (2)A woman's example is Sara's honoring her husband.
 - (3)A woman's example is Sara's diligence to her husband.
- 2. There must be carefulness on the part of a **husband**. 1 Peter 3:7-8
 - a)A godly husband is to live with his wife. - dwell with them
 - (1)It is not just being under one roof.
 - (2)HE is to promote and maintain domestic harmony.
 - (3)He is to learn to live comfortably side by side with her.
 - b)A godly husband is to learn his wife. - According to knowledge
 - (1)He is to know her thoughts.
 - (2)He is to know her dreams.
 - (3)He is to know her secrets.
 - (4)He is to know her stresses.
 - c)A godly husband is to lift up his wife. - Giving honour
 - (1)Let your words honor her.
 - (2)Let your ways honor her.

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

- (3) Let your worth honor her.
- d) Beware if you omit this element in your marriage God has said He will not hear your prayers.

II. Economics of the home.

A. General Observations:

1. The flow of money in a family represents the value system under which a family is operating.
2. 57% of divorces are caused by fights about money
3. Be an intentional saver to be an intentional giver.
4. Have a plan for your money.
5. "If your out-go exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall."
6. Ways to identify you're living beyond your means:
 - a) Here are some ways to tell if you are living beyond your means:
 - b) "Maxing-out" your credit cards.
 - c) Borrowing from the cash value of your insurance policy.
 - d) Making new loans to pay off old ones.
 - e) Using credit to buy luxury items or to take vacations.
 - f) Borrowing money from your friends or relatives.
 - g) Always paying your bills late.
 - h) Having nothing in a savings account.
 - i) Paying the smallest amount permitted on credit cards.
 - j) Applying for new credit cards for more borrowing power.

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

B. Rule One: Develop an appetite for Contentment

1. What the Bible says about Contentment:

- a) 1 Timothy 6:6 *"But godliness with contentment is great gain."*
- b) Hebrews 13:5 *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*
- c) Exodus 20:17 *"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."*
- d) Philippians 4:19 *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

C. Rule two: Determine your strengths

- 1. One of you two will be better than the other at managing your money.
- 2. One of you two will be a better spender than a saver.
- 3. This must not be a one person effort. It must be a team effort.

D. Rule three: Know what the Bible says about money.

1. Don't love money: 1 Timothy 6:10

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:10

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

2. Don't be stingy: Acts 20:35

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

3. Don't skip tithing. Mal. 3:8-10

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:8-10

4. Don't be a slave. Proverbs 22:7

"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." Proverbs 22:7

5. Don't be a fool. 1 Corinthians 4:2

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2

E. Rule Four: Have a Money Plan

1. A Savings Plan

2. A Spending Plan

3. A Security Plan

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

F. Rule five: Get Dave Ramsey's **Total Money Makeover.** \$4.91 on Amazon

1. Baby Step 1

- a) \$1,000 to start an Emergency Fund
- b) An emergency fund is for those unexpected events in life that you can't plan for: the loss of a job, an unexpected pregnancy, a faulty car transmission, and the list goes on and on. It's not a matter of if these events will happen; it's simply a matter of when they will happen. [Learn more](#)

2. Baby Step 2

- a) Pay off all debt using the Debt Snowball
- b) List your debts, excluding the house, in order. The smallest balance should be your number one priority. Don't worry about interest rates unless two debts have similar payoffs. If that's the case, then list the higher interest rate debt first. [Learn more](#)

3. Baby Step 3

- a) 3 to 6 months of expenses in savings
- b) Once you complete the first two baby steps, you will have built serious momentum. But don't start throwing all your "extra" money into investments quite yet. It's time to build your full emergency fund. [Learn more](#)

Session Two: The Promise of Pleasure cont'd.

4.Baby Step 4

- a) Invest 15% of household income into Roth IRAs and pre-tax retirement
- b) When you reach this step, you'll have no payments—except the house—and a fully funded emergency fund. Now it's time to get serious about building wealth. [Learn more](#)

5.Baby Step 5

- a) College funding for children
- b) By this point, you should have already started Baby Step 4—investing 15% of your income—before saving for college. Whether you are saving for you or your child to go to college, you need to start now. [Learn more](#)

6.Baby Step 6

- a) Pay off home early

3x5 Card Exercise

Complete this sentence:

I feel loved the most when you:

b) Now it's time to begin chunking all of your extra money toward the mortgage. You are getting closer to realizing the dream of a life with no house payments. Learn more

III. **Expectations in the home.**

Session Three: The Promise of Passion To love and To Cherish

The promise of passion. (love and cherish)

I. Demonstration of Passion is seen how you value your spouse.

A. The command belongs to the husband: Love

1. Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
2. He is to love her sacrificially
3. He is to love her supremely
4. He is to love her selflessly
5. He is to love her as the Savior:
 - a) Do you feel what Christ feels?
 - b) When she weeps, what do you feel?
 - c) When she hurts, what do you feel?
 - d) When she is scared, what do you feel?
 - e) When she is uncertain, what do you feel?
 - f) When she is moody, what do you feel?
 - g) When she needs to be held, do you know it?
 - h) When she needs to be alone, do you know it?
 - i) When she needs you, are you 100% available ?
 - j) Does my love for her meet God's standard?
 - (1) I am to love her as Christ loved the church.
 - (2) He came to us when we did not want him.
 - (3) He desired us when we were undesirable.

Session Three: The Promise of Passion To love and To Cherish

k) It is a love

(1) that is unconditional not conditional.

(2) that is supportive not destructive.

(3) that is enabling not disabling.

(4) that helps not hurts.

(5) that lifts not loads.

(6) that forgives and forgets.

(7) that is sacrificial not selfish.

B. The command for passion for a woman is in reverencing.

1. When she submits and subjects herself to her husband and reverences him. Eph 5:22-33

a) Submission: *the act of yielding to a power or authority; your surrender to the person and power*

b) Subjection: *to put yourself in the place of obedience.*

c) Reverence: *Fear mingled with respect and esteem*

2. There is to be **submission** to him as a person.

a) It adversely affects the husband when there is a wife

(1) Who believes she is superior.

(2) Who will not accept her biblical position.

(3) Who refuses to follow his biblical position.

(4) Who refuses her biblical position.

(5) Who rejects biblical principles

(6) Who steps on his heart

(7) Who steps on his honor

(8) Who humiliates him in front of family and friends.

(9) When his cheerleader becomes his critic

(10) It affects his heart when reverence is

Session Three: The Promise of Passion To love and To Cherish

- (a)replaced with ridicule.
- (b)replaced with rebellion.
- (c)replaced with rejection.
- (d)replaced with reservation.
- (e)replaced with resentment.

3. There is to be **subjection** to his position as your husband.

a)The church to Christ

(1)The church follows the Word

(2)The church obeys

(3)The church listens

b)The wife to the husband

(1)The wife is to listen

(2)The wife is to yield

(3)The wife is to obey

4. There is to be a **reverencing** of her husband:

a)She is to esteem him.

b)She is to fear his position and honor his person.

(1)Fear his position - God placed him over me.

(2)Honor his person - I choose to love him because he loves me.

Session Three: The Promise of Passion To love and To Cherish

II. Details of Passion

A. Look at the Card you filled out a few minutes ago.

B. Your spouse's response fits into one of these categories.

1. Affirmation -
2. Quality Time -
3. Gifts -
4. Service -
5. Touch -

C. Learn what appeals to your spouse:

1. Inquire:

- a) Do they enjoy your holding their hand or a gift from the heart?
- b) Do they find an overwhelming sense of your love when they spend time listening or speaking to you words of affirmation?
- c) Do the little things mean the most to them?

2. Inspect

- a) Take time to observe your spouse's reaction.
- b) In the past when you have done one of these which brought the greatest response?

3. Investigate:

a) This is where you begin to experiment with different languages.

(1) Applied to the five languages:

- (a) Affirmation -
- (b) Quality Time -
- (c) Gifts -
- (d) Service -
- (e) Touch -

Session Three: The Promise of Passion To love and To Cherish

b)It is necessary to learn to speak in all five languages.

(1)It will bless them.

(2)It will to keep your spouse's love tank filled.

III. Delight of Passion

A.Things Men can do to fill his wife's heart. Her love tank. Ten things a husband can do to nourish his wife -

- 1.What I do to give her stability and security
- 2.Each day compliment her looks, spirit, and labors.
3. Every day find time to say I love you.
- 4.Each day compliment her in front of someone else.
- 5.Hug for at least 30 consecutive seconds.
- 6.Kiss her with the passion of a newly wed once each day
- 7.Invest time in listening what she says and how it is being said.
- 8.Invest time in listening to her heart, hurts, and hopes.
- 9.Call during the day with nothing else to say but sweet nothings.
- 10.Show her each day that her keys are safe with you.
- 11.Invest time in listening to her dream, dilemmas, and doubts.

B.Ten things a husband can do to cherish his wife. - What I do to make her feel special

- 1.Discern what creates stress in her life and take one of them away -
Make coffee
- 2.Learn her routine and the way she likes things done and do one. Make the bed.
- 3.Discern what makes her feel special and provide it - Flowers, Lingerie, Candy, (No appliances or tools)
- 4.Make a meal one night a week and let your wife come in and relax.

Session Three: The Promise of Passion To love and To Cherish

5. Learn that a great thing you can do for your wife is give her time to read, relax, and rest.

6. Never allow her to leave your presence without a special word or gesture.

C. Ten things a wife can do to reverence her husband. What she does to elevate him.

1. Pray for him to be the spiritual leader you and the children need.

2. Obey him. If you find yourself in doubt of his being right, PRAY.

3. Submit first in your heart, everything else will follow

4. Smile, no matter how hard your day.

5. Look your best for him.

6. Make the castle of your home inviting so he always wants to come home.

7. Make him the king of the castle both in your heart and home.

8. Always build him up in the eyes of your children, friends, and mother.

9. Build up his ego, he needs the encouragement. Be his brag buddy.

10. Express often your thankfulness for spiritual leadership and material providing.

11. Teach your children that Dad is number one and the two of you will not be divided.

12. Do some everyday things to make his day special

Session Four: The promise of perpetuity (*until death do us part*)

With many divorces in our communities, schools, and churches the words til death do us part seems like a disney story. They lived happily ever after.

3x5 Card Exercise

Complete this sentence:

I feel the safest when

Turn it over.

I feel the most nervous when:

This last of the four groups of vows is the Promise of Perpetuity. It is about three areas.

What are the three areas of the promise of perpetuity.

I. Offer your spouse the Security of Companionship

A. There is a blessing in knowing quitting is not an option.

1. Our responses and reactions are learned behavior patterns.
2. Our responses and reactions are choices we make.
3. Our responses and reactions can become our defense mechanism.

B. There is a blessing in knowing how to deal with issues.

C. How do some people react and respond? Let me introduce you to:

1. Oliver and Olivia Overreactor -

- a) There is an over reaction to any request made.
- b) "Dear, would you. . ." is met with:

Session Four: The promise of perpetuity (*until death do us part*)

- c) "What do you think I am super man?"
- d) "What do you think; am your maid?"
- e) "I have to do everything, I have to work to make a living and now you want me to work here too?"
- f) Trash? I am not a servant. Especially yours!
- g) Dishes, Hmph! I cooked and now you want me to do dishes, NO WAY!
- h) Their words and tone come out with such force. It is like using a cannon to kill a fly.

2. John and Janet Jump to Conclusions -

- a) These people only need a few words and they are able to finish the sentence of their spouse and pass judgment.
- b) These people can see the mouth of their spouse open and they know what will be said.
- c) The request for the spouse's help was made early in the day, however a genuine problem arose:
- d) "Dear, I was calling to. . ." "I know what you are going to say. You do this every time, you should have just said you did not want to do it. . ." "But dear, I have had a . . ." "You don't; have to say it I know, let's see, a flat tire- you probably let the air out or bought a box of nails and ran over them." NEVER MIND" I will never ask you anything again!

Session Four: The promise of perpetuity (*until death do us part*)

e)The husband arrives home, looks for his favorite shirt that he wanted laundered. He can not find it. . . (not because he is a man) "Dear, what happened didn't I ask you to wash this shirt for me?" Yes, dear, you did, but. . . "No, stop right there. You mean you had 9 hours since I left here and you could not wash one shirt! What goes on around here when I am gone, What was it this time? Your mother? the electricity? the kids? "Well actually the washing machine broke today. . ." "Broke? What is wrong with you, can't you keep anything running?"

3. Carl and Carla Counter Attack -

- a) This couple typically doesn't deal with the issue presented.
- b) They would simply see whatever the question as an attack and offer a counter attack
- c) Did you pick up the dry cleaning? What do you mean did I pick up the dry cleaning? Did you take care of the getting the oil changed?
- d) Could we talk the money we are spending on your boat? Sure, right after we talk about how much you spend at Wal-Mart and the grocery store.

4. Matthew and Melinda Multiple attacker -

- a) This couple will not handle one issue at a time.
- b) They tend to launch strikes at 3-5 areas hoping to get a good fight going.
- c) What is wrong with you? The kitchen a mess, the house hasn't been cleaned in weeks? The kids look like orphans. Can't you do anything right?

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d)How many times have I asked you to do this? You never pick up your socks, you are always look like a bum, and you never tell me you love me. What is wrong with you?

5.Ned and Nora Numberer -

- a)This couple lists their resumes of accomplishments anytime they need to motivate their spouse.
- b)They do not just ask for something to be done, they feel compelled to announce themselves.
- c)I do the laundry, I get the kids ready, I make the lunches, I clean the house, and I have to look good for you.
- d)I work 50 hours a week, I mow the lawn, I provide for this family, no matter what it is I am exempt.

6.Bob and Bobbi Bombdropper -

- a)This couple knows nothing of subtlety. They feel they have control by dropping bombs.
- b)If you do not do what I want, I am leaving with the kids and moving back to momma.
- c)If you do not start picking up your socks I am going to take your laundry to the yard and burn it.
- d)If you do not start taking care of this house and yourself I am going to leave and find a younger prettier woman.

7.Bill and Betty Blameshifter -

- a)They are expert at shifting blame from themselves and placing on another.
- b>Your problem is that you are negative and you get it from your mother.

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c) You are just like your father, you are lazy and good for nothing.

d) My responsibility to God and my Spouse requires that I govern my responses by the Bible.

e) I will allow no corrupt communication to come out of my mouth.

f) I will only use words that build up, bless, and benefit my spouse.

II. Offer your spouse the Security of commitment

A. My yea is yea

B. Perfect love casts out fear

C. Not the spirit of fear:

D. Power love and sound mind

E. Nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ.

F. I will always love you.

G. I will always forgive you.

H. I will always find you.

I. I will always fulfill you.

J. I will always

III. Offer your spouse the Security of consecration.

A. Forsaking all others

B. Faithful with your body

C. Faithful with your mind

D. Faithful in your heart

E. Faithful online

F. Faithful in spirit