

Marriage

6 GOSPEL COMMITMENTS EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO MAKE

Marriage – Gospel Commitments – Lesson 06

Gospel Foundations

1. The gospel shapes my expectations for marriage (Ch. 1).
2. The gospel gives me reason to continue (Ch. 2).
3. The gospel teaches me about true love (Ch. 3).
4. The gospel compels me to live for the One who died for me, in all the little moments of life (Ch. 4).

Gospel Commitments

1. We will give ourselves to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness (Ch. 5-6).
2. We will make growth and change our agenda (Ch. 7-8).
3. We will work together to build a sturdy bond of trust (Ch. 9-10).
4. We will commit to building a relationship of love (Ch. 11-12).
5. We will deal with our differences with appreciation and grace (Ch. 13-14).
6. We will work to protect our marriage (Ch. 15-17).

Chapter 7 – Pulling Weeds

Pull Weeds:

1. _____ – The weeds of selfishness are always there. Have you found a pulled any selfish weeds in the past week?
2. _____ – What keeps you too busy or too exhausted to address the struggles of your marriage and to do the good things that make your marriage grow?
 - i. Why are we busy? _____
 - ii. Why are we busy? _____

3. _____ – Have you become comfortable with taking one another for granted? Do you feel as if you already know and understand your spouse? Have you stopped working on your marriage?

4. _____ - _____ – Have you failed to keep the soil of your marriage clean, so that good things may grow, because you don't think you have any weeds?

5. _____ – Is there a way in which your husband or wife has become your personal messiah? Are you so afraid of failure that it keeps you from doing with courage the things God has called you to do in your marriage?
 - i. Fear of _____

 - ii. Fear of _____

6. _____ – When was the last time you *worked* to search out and pull weeds in your marriage?

Chapter 8 – Planting Seeds

Weed Pulling and Seed Planting in Galatians 5:13-26

1. Say no to _____ (v. 13, 16, 19-21, 24).
 - a. Selfishness is behind the works of the flesh.

 - b. Selfishness often manifests as _____.
 - i. _____ – “I don't know what I'm going to do if I have to live with this living room any longer!”

 - ii. _____ – “I provide for you, and this is the thanks I get?”

iii. _____ – “I remember when I was a happy woman. It was before I got married.”

2. _____ one another in _____ (v. 13-14, 22-23).

a. Manipulation gets replaced with _____.

b. _____ your need for help!

c. _____ the fruit of the Spirit:

i. _____ – search for concrete way to work and sacrifice for the good of the other.

ii. _____ – look for reasons to be thankful and appreciative.

iii. _____ – labor to resolve tension, reconcile wrongs, and build unity.

iv. _____ – seek to do what is good for the other.

v. _____ – remain steadfast to your commitments.

vi. _____ – use your strength to take care of another.

vii. _____ - _____ – restrain your natural urges and reactions and yield to God’s Spirit.

3. _____ in the Spirit (v. 16-17).

a. _____ you need help.

b. _____ to battling your flesh.

c. _____ on God's Spirit in you.

In your group, read aloud the illustration about Sam and Sarah, titled: "Welcome to My Weed Garden," (p. 112-114). and answer the following questions.

1. What relational weeds do you notice in their relationship? How are each of these weeds potentially related to selfishness?
2. What counsel would you give to Sarah and Sam? What next steps do they need to take?
3. What seeds would you recommend they plant in place of the weeds?
4. It can be easy to recognize the weeds of others, like Sam and Sarah (or your own spouse!). Instead, consider your own heart. Which of their weeds can you recognize in your own heart? How will you work to pull those weeds? Which seeds will you work to plant in their place?
5. Considering that your spouse may have a better view of your weeds than you, it could be helpful to ask for his or her input. How does the prospect of asking for input make you feel? What weeds might *that feeling* reveal in your heart?