

Marriage

6 GOSPEL COMMITMENTS EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO MAKE

Marriage – Gospel Commitments – Lesson 07

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 9 – Sticking Out Your Neck

Paul Tripp’s “street-level” definition of trust: “Being so convinced that you can _____ on the integrity, strength, character, and faithfulness of another that you are willing to place yourself in his or her _____.” (p. 153).

Note Dr. Tripp’s “Trust Questionnaire” on pages 151-153. Which questions were most convicting to you personally?

Do you struggle more to *be trustworthy* or to *entrust yourself to your spouse*?

How does Jesus’ relationship with you encourage you to grow in your own “trust issues”?

Chapter 10 – Someone to Be Trusted

1. _____ Trust – “Trust: Marriage’s Construction Project”

- a. Getting Started: Trust _____
- b. Play it Straight: Wholesome _____.
- c. Be Good for Your _____.
- d. Face Up to Your _____.
- e. Watch Out for the _____ Person.
- f. Keep Short _____.
- g. Remember that Trust is _____.

2. _____ Trust: Homeland Security

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3. _____ Trust: Restoring What's Broken

- a. _____ Your Need.
- b. Get _____.
- c. Don't _____.
- d. Stick Out Your _____.
- e. Get Back _____ Again.
- f. Remember _____.

Evaluate your trustworthiness, and trustfulness in your relationship:

Are you trustworthy, like Jesus is trustworthy to you? Rate your answers as follows: 1 – Never; 2 – Rarely; 3 – Sometimes; 4 – Often; 5 – Always. Then, have your spouse answer the prompts for you, to help you see things you may have missed.

- When I agree to do something for my spouse, I follow through. _____
- When my spouse shares details with me about life, plans, and schedules, I make careful note of them. _____
- I regularly take an interest in something that is special to my spouse. _____
- When my spouse points out my failures or weaknesses, I consider them without excuse or self-defense. _____
- When my spouse wants to talk with me, I set aside what I'm doing so I can listen, because Jesus always listens to me. _____
- When we make plans, I stick to those plans, even if I have a better idea. _____
- When I communicate with my spouse, I seek to be clear, honest, and to give understanding. _____
- When I listen to my spouse, I seek to be gracious, engaged, and to understand. _____
- If there is something between us, I take initiative to reconcile with my spouse before we go to bed. _____
- I do not talk about my spouse with others, except to show honor and gratitude. _____
- When my spouse is vulnerable with me, I respond with gentleness. _____
- I look for ways to love and serve my spouse. _____

Are you trusting with your spouse? Are you taking steps toward your spouse, entrusting yourself to them? Rate your answers as follows: 1 – Never; 2 – Rarely; 3 – Sometimes; 4 – Often; 5 – Always. Again, invite your spouse to answer the prompts for you.

- I share the deepest things about myself with my spouse before anyone else. _____
- I voluntarily share information with my spouse so that there's nothing hidden between us. _____
- I work hard to make sure my spouse is my closest friend and confidante. _____
- I take my spouse at their word rather than questioning or second-guessing the things they say. _____
- When I sense God's conviction of sin, I confess to God and to my spouse. _____
- I let my spouse participate and help with my responsibilities. _____
- I adjust and yield to cooperate with my spouse when making plans and decisions. _____
- I assume my spouse's view of me is more accurate than my view of myself. _____
- I forgive and seek to restore trust when my spouse repents because Jesus forgives me when I fail. _____