

TEACHING NOTES (underlined words indicate answers for the handout)

Step 3 —

To Have a Marriage That Really Lasts, You Must Have a Strong Spiritual Vitality.

(That strong relationship with God which contributes toward the spiritual welfare of their partner.)

SCRIPTURE: Eph. 5:22-33

Let me share some statistics with you:

- * 1 out of 3 marriages end in divorce.
- * 1 out of 50 marriages end in divorce if the couple had a church wedding.
- * 1 out of 105 marriages end in divorce if the couple attend church regularly.
- * 1 out of 1,105 marriage end in divorce if the couple attend church regularly and have family devotions and pray together.

A. Why Is Spiritual Vitality Or Life Important For A Marriage?

1. It provides a proper foundation to build a marriage. We must have God's help. He is the architect.
2. It provides a wall of protection from the work of Satan.
3. It provides the right atmosphere in which God can work.

B. How Do You Have Spiritual Vitality?

1. God must be pre-eminent in your marriage.
 - a. He must be first. Matt. 6:33, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."
 - b. What are we seeking for in our homes: materialism, careers, power in politics, etc.
 - c. He must be above all others.
 - d. Our life must be centered upon Him.
2. His Word must be our guide.

- a. Ps. 119:105, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
- b. God must be the One to give us directions in life.

3. Obedience must be our practice.

- a. Obedience is not an option, it is a mandate.
- b. Obedience is better than sacrifice.
- c. OBEDIENCE IS THE TRADEMARK OF A BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN.

C. What Do We Do To Maintain Spiritual Vitality?

1. Plan time for it. How do we make time for spiritual things in life?

- a. Plan it in your schedule. We do what we want to do.
- b. Consider it of extreme importance.
- c. Life is not as hard as we make it, we just have to make the hard ball decision of planning time for it.

2. Prevent the destroyers of spiritual life.

What are some of the destroyers?

- a. Over-commitment in areas other than the family.
- b. Improper desire for material things which increase one’s work responsibility to pay for the goods.
- c. Time waster: tv, video’s, etc.

3. Plan check ups in your spiritual journey.

How do you plan check ups?

- a. Monthly family council meetings.
- b. Keep lists of needs.
- c. Plan your work and work you plan.

Let me share a pastor’s prayer with you:

“Another marriage is shattered, Lord. The divorce will be final next week.

He said it was a breakdown of communication and the subtle infiltration of boredom.

She said it was the accumulation of things.

He said she was unnecessarily preoccupied with home, children, and activity.

And she said he stifled her dreams and ignored her achievements.

He said he felt like he was in prison, restricted, and night after night he got the old push away.

And she said he was harsh and brutal and often embarrassed her in public.

And he said her critical attitude contributed to his sense of inadequacy.

And she said I feel lonely and unappreciated with no claim to personal identity.

And he said she wallowed in self pity.

And she said he was shiftless and irresponsible.

And he said she didn't care.

And she said he didn't care.

Lord, how tragic that through all these wasted years neither of them asked what You've said.”

APPLICATION

1. It is important that your marriage relationship includes God and His presence and wisdom.
2. You cannot make it without God.
3. Where you are spiritually has the greatest affect of where your marriage is right now.
4. You do not have the power to turn over a new leaf and expect it to be better.
5. You have to turn it over to God and let Him have your life.

CONCLUSION

Pray the prayer, “Search my heart, O God!”