

## STUDENT HANDOUT — Seminar 4, Session 1

### Becoming the Irresistible Partner

#### I. God Designed Us For \_\_\_\_\_.

Marital researcher John Gottman has made it very clear that successful couples are those who are in touch with each other's emotional worlds.

##### A. God Made Us To Be \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Genesis 2:18: And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone."
2. We must understand God is a social being, and created humans to be social as well.

##### B. God Made Marriage \_\_\_\_\_.

Three steps God requires of us so we can experience a sacred marriage. We are to:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - "I leave all others and choose you alone."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - This involves a permanent bond that cannot or should not be torn apart.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - This is the reality of the couple becoming one.

##### C. God's Word Teaches Us A Proper \_\_\_\_\_ for Marriage.

1. Matthew 19:3-9 - Here Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees concerning divorce. He made it clear divorce was never a part of God's plan. But the bill of divorcement Moses gave them was because of the hardness of their hearts.

2. I Corinthians 7 - It must be understood that from this passage marriage is God's chosen vehicle for the expression and joy of sex.

3. Ephesians 5:21-33 - Here God's intent for marriage is to mirror the relationship of Christ and the Church.

4. I Peter 3:7-10 - Peter emphasizes the importance of healthy communication.

Husbands give honor to your wife.

Never return evil for evil.

5. Song of Solomon - This story dramatizes the beauty of love between a man and a woman.

II. Man's Fall Into Sin Caused \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Marriage 101 - Because of sin, man's heart has pulled away from God and other relationships and it is getting worse.

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ started a long time ago.

C. What are some of the everyday pressures that work to \_\_\_\_\_ love and sometimes ends in divorce?

1. List of circumstances that can make marriages go bad:

- a. Working long hours
- b. Extensive travel
- c. Priority juggle between family and career
- d. Satan's stronger force to destroy marriages than ever before.
- e. Struggles on marriages from the work place.
- f. Secular changes in community values.
- g. Struggles to make ends meet financially.
- h. More career moves
- i. Unemployment
- j. Child care issues

k. \_\_\_\_\_

l. \_\_\_\_\_

m. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Unchanging and unresolved \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan.

4. Unrealistic \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Runaway, happily-ever-after \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Deep \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.

7. Unchanged bad \_\_\_\_\_ that we learned from our past.

8. The fallacy of speedy, microwave restoration of \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Look at the results of this kind of behavior.

1. We allow \_\_\_\_\_ to get lodged deep in our hearts.
2. We develop a \_\_\_\_\_ heart. James 1:8
3. We develop a “\_\_\_\_\_” complex.
4. Then we are confronted with the struggle between \_\_\_\_\_ versus \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Finally there comes a mode of \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 15:13 - When our spirits are broken, we are in serious trouble.

E. How can you detect when this process is happening in your marriage?

1. You find yourself \_\_\_\_\_ yourself from your partner.
2. Your crowded \_\_\_\_\_ leaves no room for your companion.
3. You do not take the time to \_\_\_\_\_ or share what is going on in your life with your partner.
4. You do not show any kind of \_\_\_\_\_.

F. Here are four major marital warning signs that researcher John Goodman considers very significant.

1. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - criticizing to hurt someone.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - won't let the person into their life.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - this where you shut the person out of your life for good.

III. How Can We Become The Irresistible Partner?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ With God - Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

B. Recognize your personal spiritual task to be \_\_\_\_\_ to God and to one another.

Proverbs 19:21 - God's counsel is the best you can get.

Our prayer should be, "Search me, O God, and know my heart . . ." Psalm 139:23-24

We must call upon God for forgiveness and cleansing.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ to saying no to whatever has caused the conflicts or difficulties.

D. Begin developing an \_\_\_\_\_ heart for your companion.

E. Begin creating a zone of \_\_\_\_\_, so you can begin \_\_\_\_\_ your marital relationship. Remember Genesis 2:24

1. By God's grace get control of a hurtful \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Seek \_\_\_\_\_ daily for your partner.

3. Maintain an atmosphere of \_\_\_\_\_ in the home.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ must happen one day at a time.

Willa Carter said, "Where there is great love, there are always miracles."

Nothing says it clearer than I Corinthians 13:13, "The greatest of these is love."

## CONCLUSION

I believe God desires for us to be naked and unashamed with each other once again so that we can be like Adam when he first saw Eve and said, "WOW!" May our prayer be that God will restore the WOW in our relationships so that each of us will be irresistible to each other and attracted to no one else.