

Great Marriages Take...

We must never be naïve enough to think of marriage as a safe harbor from the Fall...The deepest struggles in life will occur in the most primary relationships affected by the Fall: marriage."
- Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III

1. _____ with God

- Intimacy is a growing awareness of the _____ of _____.

Hebrews 11:24-28

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

- Intimacy with God results in awareness of _____.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Self - not Satan -
is the greatest
enemy of
marriages today.

- As long as self _____, a marriage will _____.
- We can always gauge our _____ relationship with God by the quality of our _____ relationships.

2. _____

- Character: The _____ - _____ to do what is right as God defines right, no matter the cost.
- Character is the _____ of relationships.
- _____ are termites in the trunk of the family tree.

Psalms 101:7

No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.

- Dishonesty kills _____, trust, credibility, _____, and _____.

3. _____

- Service is seeing a need and _____ it.

Luke 22:24-27

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater,

the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

- Failing to serve your spouse will lead to _____ of the relationship.
- Service breaks the hold of _____ - _____.

4. _____

Ephesians 5:21-26

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

- Submission says, your desires, wishes and dreams are going to take _____ over mine.
- Great marriages take mutual submission, not _____.

5. _____

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- You cannot accept the _____ of God without extending it to those who have _____ you.
- True forgiveness surrenders the right to get _____.

6. _____

- Encouragement is the conscious decision to come close to someone to offer _____ and _____.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

- Encouragement is the antidote for _____.
- Encouragement is _____ to the soul.
- The first face of encouragement _____ courage, while the second face _____ courage.

Hebrews 3:12-13

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.