

**‘WHAT MARRIAGE CAN’T DO FOR YOU’**  
**Great Relationships Don’t Just Happen, Part 1**  
 February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Unfortunately many people marry for the wrong reasons

**Myth #1: Marriage will end my loneliness**

Most don’t understand God created in human beings 2 levels of relational intimacy

The first level can be met by deep, honest, trusting relationship with a friend or marriage partner

The second level can be met only by entering into an authentic, growing relationship with God

Unfortunately many try to find one person to meet all their intimacy needs

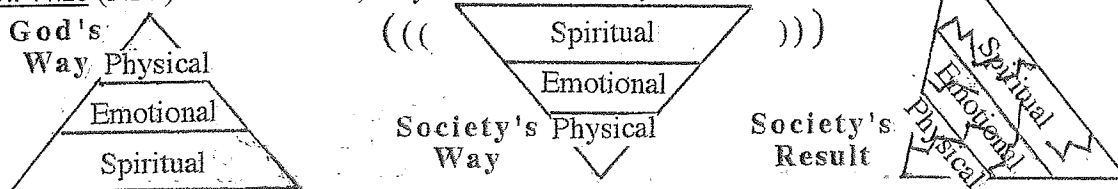
We must understand at best, one person can only meet part of our intimacy needs

Within every human heart there remains a hole that only God can fill

Only God, through Jesus, can provide the foundation for a full & meaningful life  
John 10:10 (GN) “[Jesus said] I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness.”

No friend, lover, or spouse can offer soul satisfaction

Matthew 11:28 (NIV) “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”



Joy is more a by-product of a spiritual relationship than a human one  
Galatians 5:22,23 (NIV) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Build a solid relationship with Christ before you marry

Matthew 6:33 (Ph) “Set your heart first of His Kingdom and His goodness, and all these things will come to you as a matter of course.”

**Myth #2: Marriage will heal my brokenness**

Many grow up with “unseen wounds” that leaves a person hurt & needy

Unconsciously in a marriage relationship these people look for “healers”

When the “life-preserving” spouse backs away, it is interpreted as Rejection

Some are so desperate to be loved & accepted, they will cling to even bad relationships

Looking for a marriage that will heal their brokenness, people just become more broken

**Solution #1: Be ruthlessly honest about your own brokenness**

1 John 1:8 (Ph) "If we refuse to admit that we are sinners, then we live in a world of illusion and truth becomes a stranger to us."

Make your own healing a priority; get help

Proverbs 10:8 (GN) "Sensible people accept good advice."

Proverbs 12:15 (GN) "Stupid people always think they are right. Wise people listen to advice."

**Solution #2: Observe potential mates very carefully**

**7 Danger Signals for a Couple Considering Marriage - Finding the Love of Your Life - Warren**

1. The decision to get married is made too quickly
2. The decision is made at too young an age
3. One or both persons are too eager to be married
4. One or both may be choosing a mate to please someone else
5. The experience base is too narrow
6. The couple has unrealistic expectations
7. One or both may have significant unaddressed personality or behavior problems

**Myth #3: Marriage will make you happy**

It is a mistake to assume that a wedding will automatically change a person

Life or character transformations are produced by the inner work of the Spirit of God and are not dependent on one's marital status (see Galatians 5:22,23)

Marriage Math: 1 sinner plus 1 sinner equals two sinners

Philippians 2:4 (GN) "Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."

Both partners must pay a high price over many years to have a satisfying marriage

The odds for achieving marital satisfaction are low unless Christ is at the center of both their lives

**Myth #4: Marriage is God's plan for everyone**

There is a spiritual gift of singleness

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NIV) "I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."

**2 Biblical Reason for Remaining Single**

1. You will save yourself a lot of trouble

1 Cor. 7:28 (NIV) "Those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I [Paul] want to spare you this."

2. You can devote more time to God's Kingdom work  
1 Corinthians 7:35 (NIV) "I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord."

God offers His promises of joy and peace and satisfaction to anyone – married or unmarried – who has a relationship with Him

#### My Next Step Today Is...

- Whether married or single I realize my most important relationship is with Christ
- If single, I will wait for God's best in my life and follow His guidelines for a mate
- I now understand what my spouse can and can't do for me, and I accept that and thank God for my spouse
- I plan to attend the "Meet the Pastors" lunch on Sun, Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at noon