

PRESENTATION TO UNCLA

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**THEME: GETTING OUR
MARRIAGES WORKING**

Introduction:

- Most marriages do not have the joy and peace they are supposed to have.
- There are so many stories of pain and tears in so many marriages around the world and in our society in particular.
- What is wrong? Why are there so many painful experiences everywhere?

Cont...

- The answer lies in our distortion of God's arrangement and formular.
- We are trying to reinvent our own ways of living in marriages contradicting what God has arranged.
- And so we end up with feelings like "women are a headache"; "men are a headache"; " You cannot stand women and yet you cannot also do without them"; etc.

Cont...

- A- Look at God's original intention and design as reflected in the book of Gen 2:18-24.
- God said "It is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a helpmate suitable..."
- God knew that man cannot function without a woman.
- So man and woman together is what works.
- Man and Woman are created as complementary beings.
- Respecting this formula gets our marriages working, but distorting it makes our marriages a painful experience.

Cont...

- Why is it not good for man to be alone?
- Because a woman complements a man and a man also complements a woman.
- We need each other for happiness.
- We are not rivals to each other, but complementary companions.

Cont...

- Take a look at the details in the Genesis story we read above (Gen 2: 18-24) that God has left us as important symbols to teach us about the marriage institution:
- 1- God created woman from a man's rib.
- This is not because God is lacking material
- Instead it is to teach that Man and woman are from the same material.
- The implication of this is that what a man feels a woman feels too. So be considerate.

Cont...

- For example: It is painful for a man to be cheated upon by woman. So it is equally painful for a woman to be cheated upon by the husband – same material.
- Just as a man needs to be respected, a woman needs to be respected too- same material.
- Just like a man gets tired and needs help, a woman gets tired and needs help too- same material.
- So show some sensitivity in this area to get our marriages working again.

Cont...

- 2- A woman is created from the rib bone, not toe bone or born from the skull is to show equality.
- If a woman was taken from skull, she might think she is superior.
- If she was taken from toe bone, she might think she is inferior.
- She was taken from a rib, the middle area to symbolize equality.
- When we talk of equality, we mean equality of dignity and nature as human being, but not roles and functions.
- Our problems come because of understanding equality to mean equality of roles and functions.

Cont...

- A woman's role as mother is different from a man's role as father yet equal in dignity.
- A man's role as husband is different from a woman's role as wife, yet equal in dignity.
- Failure to recognize this brings disequilibrium.
- For example, a man is built with the physique he has so that he can provide security, other needs of the family and also deal with any difficult task that a woman cannot handle.
- Imagine what happens when a man runs to his wife for security from his enemies....

Cont...

- Man and woman are to be complementary.
- That means you bring to the equation what the other does not have.
- A woman, for example, is created more with the mind for Aesthetics while a man is occupied with structural issues.
- The woman brings beauty to your home. Without the touch of a woman, your house will remain a house, but with her touch your house become a home.
- Without the structural man of a man, a woman can be deceived to buy a nicely painted house with structural problems or buy a nice looking car with mechanical problems.

Cont...

- 3- The symbol of the rib is also to show companionship. That is to say a woman is someone who stands side by side with a man as companions, rib to rib.
- They are not rivals to each other but companions.
- Eph 5: 22-33 expresses how this companionship is to play out. Wives give ways to your husbands.... But again, husbands love your wives...
- Rivalry and struggle for who is in control can only bring problems, arguments and conflict needlessly.

Cont...

- 4- No suitable companion was found for the man from among other creatures....
- Remember your woman is not comparable to anyother thing you may have on earth.
- Don't ruin your marriage because of property or quarrels over anything.
- Your car is not a suitable companion.
- Your land is not a suitable companion, etc.
- Don't let things ruin your marriage.

Cont...

- B- The journey of marriage requires us to grow up....
- 1- We need to realize that much as the journey of marriage starts on the principle of erotic love – feelings, it continues and stabilizes on the principle of agape – a decision to love.
- So the love in marriage is a decision, not just a feeling. The sooner we discover this, the better for us.
- Erotic love needs to mature into a Agape, a decision to love selflessly.
- The journey starts with the attraction of appearances, but marriages work because of the decision to stay.

Cont...

- 2- Marriage requires that heart that accepts your spouses the way they are.
- We cannot fully change someone else to become like we are.
- Most marriages are not working because instead of accepting our spouses the way they are, we are busy trying to change them to become like us.
- For example, if your husband does not have the sense of orderliness and neatness, screaming may not help...
- This is not to say the spouse must not bother making the effort to change, but it means we must have the large heart to tolerate and accept them as they are... even while trying to change them.

Cont...

- 3- Recognize the good in the other.
- Don't just look at problems.
- Many times we realize the good in someone when they are gone.
- Don't wait for the death of your husband to realize he was a good man.
- Don't wait for the departure of your wife to realize she was a good woman.

Cont...

- 4- Adjust to your type of problem.... A quiet husband, a talkative wife, a short tempered husband, etc.
- No spouse is spotless and perfect.
- Everyone is living with or putting up with something.
- Recognize your issue and live with it with acceptance and maturity.

Cont...

- 5- Grow up to appreciate and accept the different stages of human growth and body changes.
- Every stage has its own blessings and dignity.
- Recognize these changes and embrace them.

Cont...

- 6- Forgive all the time. Why count when your stay is to be forever.
- Why hurt yourself with counting mistakes, and what are you going to do with it anyway?
- Remember there is no room for divorce.
- What God has joined together, let no man put asunder... (Mt 19: 6)

Cont...

- 7- Come into marriage with the mind for permanence, not trial.
- If deep in your heart, you have no mind to accommodate divorce..., you have no mind for trial period..., you have no intention to go anywhere or try somebody else, you set a foundation for stability and your marriage will definitely work.
- If on the other hand you have a mind for trial..., you keep thinking of comparing..., etc you are creating the foundation for the instability of your own marriage.
- Your marriage is likely not going to work.
- Remember Marriage is a decision.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING...