

FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE

INTRODUCTION

In our marriages some of us have a basis, a foundation, that we believe will give us ultimate success in our role as a spouse. This basis or core value for our marriage can usually be summarized in one word. What do you think that one word would be for you? Please write your word here: _____ We will address the “one word” later in the study.

Kent Hughes, in his brilliant commentary on II Timothy 2:15 exhorts us to “get it and give it straight.” Since the divorce rate is embarrassingly high among believers, we need to “get it and give it straight” concerning our God-given roles and responsibilities in the marriage relationship.

For these lessons to be effective, we recommend that those who are married do them together as a couple. That will literally keep you on the same page. The lessons are directed to you as an individual to apply what you learn in your marriage.

As you try to put these principles into practice, you may find that your spouse just doesn't get it. This is a time when you must remember that God has called you to this marriage and has desired through it to strengthen your relationship with Him. Remember that with each instruction or command that God gives us in Scripture, He also gives us His grace (power) to fulfill it. A word of caution: You do not want to resort to being the “marriage police.” Leave that responsibility to the Holy Spirit as you walk in obedience to Him. Please note: In Ephesians 5:22-33 in the analogy of Christ and the church, the husband represents Christ and the wife represents the church.

I studied many different writers on marriage, and tried to glean what I thought were priceless truths from their books. You will notice that I have quite a lot of quotes from them. One book I would highly recommend is Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. You can order his book in large print at 1 (800) 247-4784. His DVD's are also excellent.

Note: Unlike the other Team Discipleship lessons, some of the lessons have more than one page.

Finally, these lessons are for good people with noble intentions whose desire is to have a great marriage. To really be great, each marriage must consist of people who by faith and with God's grace (His power) desire to fulfill their God-ordained roles in the relationship and have the courage to live them as to the Lord.

To get a good start, pray briefly with your spouse for each other each night at bedtime!