



***Spring Cleaning For  
Your Dynamic  
Marriage in Christ!***

*June 2, 2018  
Killeen church f Christ  
Killeen, TX*



# ***Spring Cleaning Agenda***

Introduction/Purpose/Focus of the Seminar

Ground Rules

Pre-Assessment Exercise

Session One: *Cultivating* a Christ-centered  
Marriage or a Mirage?

Session Two: *Cultivating* Christ-centered  
Communications

Session Three: *Cultivating* Intimacy in Your  
Relationship [Working Lunch]

Session Four: “Father Help Me Control My  
Temper & My Tongue!”

# Intro/Purpose/Focus

## GROUND RULES

- Check your Ego at the “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- Focus on seeing yourself through God’s Eyes
- Listen to what the Scriptures have to say to ***You!***
- Celebrate growth opportunities that emerge this weekend
- Remember Phil 4:13 & Gen 18:14a
- Utilize the Minute Paper Exercises/Marriage Success Plan for each session
- ***LISTEN...***



# Intro/Purpose/Focus

*Welcome to the “First Day of the Rest of Your Life”!*

- *Arm yourself* to fight for the family—as God intended
- *Learn* how to use the challenges, joys, struggles and celebrations of marriage to draw closer to God and grow in Christian character
- *Roll up your sleeves*—open your heart—challenge yourself to fall deeper in love with God and your family!



# Pre-Assessment Exercise

1. How many times in 2017 did you spend the night in prayer, seeking God's wisdom and direction with regard to serving and loving your spouse and family? (Minimum of 5-6 hours)
2. What is your husband/wife's "Love Language"?
3. How much money did you **intentionally spend** last year to nourish and enrich your marriage, i.e., books, seminars, weekend get-aways, etc.?



# Pre-Assessment, conclusion

4. Would you describe your marriage as a desert (**not dessert**) or an oasis? Would your spouse agree/disagree with you?
5. How long have you been married?
6. I continually demonstrate that going to heaven and making sure that my family goes with me is the **Top Priority** in my life. T/F



# ***Cultivating a Christ-Centered Marriage or Mirage?***

***The Million Dollar  
Question:***

***What does the greatest  
retail merchandise theft  
in history have in  
common with the decline  
in marriage as God  
designed it?***





# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

The ***invaluable*** has been substituted for the ***regular***—and no one has noticed or seem to care!

**Prime Directives of the Evil One:**

- Separate men **from their wives**
- Separate men **from their children**



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

## Evil one's *Unholy* Schema

- Desensitize people to the Word of God
- Sensitize/glorify man's feelings/perspectives
- “It doesn't matter what God says... what I want matters more...”



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

- Gen 1:27, Male & female
- Gen 3:1-7, Disobedience
- Gen 3:21, God knows best
- Isa 5:21-24, Woe...
- Jer 6:13, 15, Blush challenged?
- Jer 5:1-3, Faces away from God
- Jer 5:27, 28
- Neh 9:25-26
- Num 16:3-4



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

• Ezra 9: 5-6

Applications:

-- Get more serious about the ***things of God***

-- Go beyond pointing out the sin of others to ***confessing your own***

-- Execute ***night/day vigilance*** against the Evil One



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

Genesis— Chapters 1-11... Do you believe the verbal, plenary inspired Word of God? If you don't you *will:*

- **Devalue** God's Commandments
- **Devalue** Human Life
- **Devalue** God's Plan for the Family
- **Devalue** God's love & concern for mankind



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

## **What is the result?**

“Have it your way,  
anything goes” mentality  
toward marriage...

Let's review some sobering  
consequences...



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

- **One out of every two** marriages end in divorce
- **60%** of all children born in this country do not have a father in the home
- In 1990, **one million teens** got pregnant; **500,000** of them aborted their babies
- In 2000, **60%** of all church-involved teens were sexually active
- During CY 2000, a teen attempted suicide **every 78 seconds**



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

God gives you Christ as the foundation of your marriage. “Welcome one another, therefore as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”, (Rom 15:7)... Don't insist on your rights, don't blame each other, don't find fault with each other, but accept each other as you are, and forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*





# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

## ***What's the Solution?***

- Get '*Spiritually Hydrated*',  
Prov. 5:15-23
- Hold your marriage and God-centered marriages *in honor*,  
Heb 13:4
- Fall in love with your *mate*—  
*over and over and over again!*



# ***Marriage or Mirage?***

“When reference is made to an individual’s **commitment to marriage**, what is being described is the degree to which that person is willing to compromise self-interest, personal ideals of perfection, indulgence in tastes, and so forth, so that a particular relationship can continue. The alternative to making a commitment is not having a relationship—that is remaining alone.”

William Lederer, *The Mirages of Marriage*



# ***Marriage or Mirage? Conclusion***

## ***Minute Paper Exercise***

--The most important thing that I learned from this lesson is...

-- The question(s) that remain uppermost in my mind is/are...



# ***Marriage or Mirage? Conclusion***

## ***My Marriage Success Plan***

- What I Want to Happen:
- How I am going to do it  
(My Strategies):
- Specific Time I Plan to  
Start:



***BREAK TIME!***

