

Living Waters Chapel
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

Pastor D. Dean Cover
July 20, 2008

SERMON SERIES: *“Maintaining Your Marriage So You Never Need A Miracle” – Part 2*

SERMON TITLE: *“When in Doubt Follow the Directions in the Owners Manual”*

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:18; 21-25; 3:6-7

THEME: Marriages are not wrecked by a blowout but rather by a slow leak the result of continued negligence and inattention.

INTRODUCTION: Many marriages are literally coming unglued today. My prayer is that through this sermon series we can help stop the trend and for others that this series will be the instrument for healing so you can look to the future with hope. As a church we should want to help couples build God honoring marriages. But this will only happen if we're willing to hear what God has to say about marriage and then act upon His Word.

(First point is a review from last week's sermon.)

I. A REALISTIC OVERVIEW OF MARRIAGE

A. Definition of marriage: One man and one woman.

1. Genesis 2:20-23
2. Matthew 19:4-6

B. Five normal stages of marriage

II. THE OVER RIDING PRINCIPLE FOR MARRIAGE

A. Men and women were created for mutual dependency.

B. The false expectations couples have about marriage

1. They are going to be the "Perfect Couple."
 - Matthew 22:25-30
 - Hebrews 13:4
2. Getting married is the way to find true happiness. (1 Corinthians 7:25-26)
3. Pre-marital counseling will immune you from attacks.
4. The belief if I marry a Christian then I'll never have to worry about divorce. (Deuteronomy 24:1-3; Matthew 5:31ff; 1 Corinthians 7:12ff),

C. Apart from your relationship with God, your marriage relationship is the single most important relationship in your life. And if you fail to realize this your marriage is doomed to failure.

1. Ephesians 5:21-33
2. Revelation 2:4-5

D. Husbands want and need to share experiences together with their wife but not the same way she wants to as a woman.

E. To maintain your marriage there must be the application of the 1 Peter 3:7 principle.

CONCLUSION: A Christ centered marriage is really a discipleship issue. Christ is calling every spouse away from a life of selfishness and being self-centered. Here's the challenge for every married couple and every couple who may be dating preparing for marriage: Are you treating your spouse like you would treat and respond to Christ? What do you want your marriage to become? Start living that way

and you and your entire family will be the beneficiary of a very happy home.