

Marriage Preparation Course

I. Are You Ready for Marriage?

- A. Parental Approval
- B. Personal Maturity - Spiritual, Emotional
- C. Maturity in Relationship - Spiritual, Roles, Love
- D. Life Goals - Careers, Children, Church, Location
- E. Engagement Period - Growth in Roles, Temptation, Family

II. God's Design For Marriage

- A. Origin of Marriage - Roles, Intimacy, Permanence, (Divorce) Independent Family Unit.
- B. A Picture of Our Relationship with God - OT and NT

Reading Assignment: Genesis 2:18-25 Matt. 19:1-9
Mack: p. 1-48

III. Marriage Roles

- A. The Role of the Husband - Sacrificial Leadership, Provider, Understanding
- B. The Role of the Wife - Helper, Submission, Encouragement, Motherhood, Work?, Dealing with Emotional Swings

Reading Assignment: Ephesians 5:22-33 I Peter 3:1-7
Mack p. 91-102, 128-135
Sproul p. 27-48, 109-127
Adams p. 43-57, 69-102

IV. Communication

- A. Building Intimacy: Time Together, Commitment, Methodology
- B. Understanding Each Other's Needs - Husband, Wife
- C. Family Spiritual Life - Prayer, Devotions, Children
- D. Conflict Resolution and Counseling
- E. Life Goals: Calling, Career, Children, Friends, Location

Reading Assignment: I Corinthians 13 Titus 2:4 Ps. 127
Mack p. 49-90, 141-148
Sproul p. 7-25, 49-64, 69-88
Adams p. 103-125

V. Finances

- A. Male and Female Perspectives on Money - Security, Job Fulfillment, Generosity, Roles (Whose Money is it?)
- B. Budgeting and Record Keeping
- C. The Use of Credit - Advantages, Buying a House, Dangers
- D. Giving to the Lord's Work

Reading Assignment: I Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19
Mack p. 103-113
Sproul p. 65-68
Burkett - All

VI. The Wedding Ceremony

- A. Families and Weddings - Who is this For Anyway?
- B. Logistics - Place, Time, Attendants, Cost
- C. Ceremony - Traditional, Modern, Custom, Music(?)
- D. Vows - Traditional, Write Own(?)

Reading Assignment: Ruth 4:7-13
Revelation 19:1-10
Mack p. 121-122

VII. Sex in Marriage

- A. God's Design - Intimate Pleasure
- B. Birth Control - Right or Wrong, Options
- C. The Female Perspective
- D. The Male Perspective
- E. Dealing with the Past
- F. Avoiding Future Problems

Reading Assignment: I Corinthians 7:3-5
Proverbs 5:1-23
Song of Solomon - All
Mack p. 113-120
Sproul p. 89-107
LaHaye - All
Wheat - All

Recommended Reading:

- A. Adams, Christian Living in the Home
 - B. Burkett, The Complete Financial Guide for Young
 - C. LaHaye, The Act of Marriage
 - ** D. Mack, Preparing for Marriage God's Way
 - E. Sproul, The Intimate Marriage
 - F. Wheat, Intended for Pleasure
- ** - Primary Text