

*MARRIAGE
BIBLE
STUDY*



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The following lessons were taken from a marriage class at Bible Baptist Church, Santa Monica. The purpose of these lessons was to show what the Bible has to say about marriage. Pastor Russ has been married to his wife Tammy since 1993. They have three sons. They have been serving the Lord in Bible Baptist Church since 1995. If you have any questions regarding this study or concerning marriage in general, please feel free to contact the Pastor or the Church.

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THE GOAL OF MARRIAGE

Often the goal of many couples for their marriage is misunderstood. Some have no goal for their marriage. They never think that deeply about marriage. They get married because that is what one is supposed to do. Others fall too short. They have goals (whether stated or unstated), but they come short of God's goal.

"I want to have a happy marriage."

"I don't want to get divorced."

"I want to have a faithful marriage."

"I want to have a good home for my children."

While these are commendable desires for marriage, they are not what the Bible teaches the primary goal should be. What is God's goal for your marriage?

1. GOD'S GOAL OF ONENESS.

Genesis 2:18-25

- God desired that Adam not be alone, *v.18-20*

Adam needed a helper suitable for him. He needed someone with whom he could experience oneness.

- God made Eve for Adam, *v.21-23*

He made Eve from one of Adam's ribs. He did this to show His plan for their oneness. Adam's naming of Eve shows that he understood the concept of oneness.

- Moses' commentary on the first marriage, *v.24*

The concept of oneness is made very clear in this verse. It is expressed by a man leaving his parents and cleaving to his wife. She becomes his closest possible relationship. They become one flesh.

- Perfect oneness in the Garden, *v.25*

Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect oneness. They were both unashamed before each other.

Nothing came between them. Nothing was held back from the other.

These Bible verses show that God's goal for the first marriage and every other marriage is oneness.

2. CONCEPT OF ONENESS IN THE BIBLE.

- Trinitarian oneness

Deuteronomy 6:4, 5

God wanted Israel to know that He is one God. Israel misunderstood this to mean that He is one God and one person. God meant to show them that He is the perfect picture of oneness - three persons and one God. As the three persons in the Trinity love each other, so God's people must love Him.

John 10:30

Jesus tried to explain this concept of oneness to the Jews in Jerusalem during the feast of Hanukkah. He told them that He and the Father were one. This expressed the idea of the Trinity. Jesus as God the Son was one with God the Father. They were distinct, yet one.

- Spiritual Oneness with God

Ephesians 2:1-10

We are sinful human beings who have rebelled against God. But, God in His grace has provided a way that we can experience oneness with Him. Jesus' death on the cross paid the redemption price for us so that we could be reconciled with God. When anyone acknowledges their sin and turns to Christ for salvation, they become one with Him. As Paul describes it, they are 'in Christ Jesus'.

Ephesians 5:25-33

Believers in Christ are so united with Him that it is as if they were married to Him. This is spiritual oneness with God.

- Oneness in the Church

John 17:21-23

In Jesus' prayer concerning the disciples, He expressed His desire for oneness among believers. In our oneness with each other, we are supposed to experience something patterned after the oneness among the persons of the Trinity.

Acts 1:12; 2:1; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25

These verses all speak of the early church being in 'one accord'. This refers to oneness in relationship. The Greek word translated 'one accord' has the idea of rushing along in unison. The Holy Spirit caused the early church to work together in oneness.

God wants this type of oneness in marriage. Marital oneness is the closest thing in the world to Trinitarian oneness. There is no better illustration of the Trinity than a happily married couple experiencing oneness.

3. INDICATORS THAT SHOW LACK OF ONENESS

Unfortunately, many marriages today do not experience oneness. Sin destroys the perfect oneness like Adam and Eve had in the Garden. It would be helpful to know some indicators that show a lack of oneness in marriage.

- Keeping separate friends and activities

This is not simply one having other friends or activities, but isolating one's spouse from those friends and activities. This would involve secretly having friends or activities that your spouse does not approve of.

- Keeping secrets

This refers to hiding things from your spouse, or feeling that there are things you cannot tell your spouse. Untouchable topics of discussion show lack of oneness. Involved in this is a feeling of fear about bringing up certain things, or about sharing your feelings and dreams.

- Having overly close relationships with other people

This is not just referring to extra-marital affairs. This involves seeking fulfillment from friends that should only come from your spouse. This also involves refusing to break paternal ties. If any

other relationship is closer than your relationship with your spouse, that shows lack of oneness.

- Maintaining activities that intrude on time with your spouse

This could refer to entertainment, hobbies, or even work. If certain activities take away needed time with your spouse, then you have a lack of oneness. If you enjoy other things more than your spouse, you do not have oneness.

- Feeling too comfortable with alone time

This means being relieved when your spouse leaves. This means feeling more yourself when you are alone, because you feel on edge when you are with your spouse. If you don't want to be around your spouse, you obviously lack oneness.

- Criticizing your spouse

This would include saying critical things to your spouse. Also included would be saying critical things to other people about your spouse. Also, this means just having a critical attitude toward your spouse.

- Keeping separate bank accounts

This shows lack of trust whether that is meant or not. Lack of trust means lack of oneness.

- Sleeping in separate beds

While there will be many excuses for not sleeping in the same bed, it screams out lack of oneness.

4. STEPS TO TAKE TO CULTIVATE ONENESS.

The previous things were indicators of lack of oneness. They are red flags that show that something is coming between you and your spouse. We live in a society that is constantly trying to come between spouses. We should do things that will cultivate oneness. Relationships cannot be mechanically manufactured. They must be cultivated. There is no quick fix for broken trust, but steps can be taken to cultivate new trust.

- Find oneness with God

A married couple will never experience true oneness until they are both first experiencing oneness with God. Oneness with God can only come through repentance from sin and trust in Jesus Christ.

- Accept the goal of oneness

Do not be satisfied with anything less than oneness. Your goal for marriage must be the same as God's goal. Do not be fooled by the world's goal of a 50/50 partnership. Not even happiness should be your goal, since only oneness will bring true happiness in marriage.

- Confide in your spouse

Share your innermost feelings. Not your sinful, fleshly, surface feelings, but your real inner struggles and desires. Oneness with another involves risk. Share your secrets. Talk about your past. Dream about the future together.

- Keep other people out of your marriage

Marriage oneness is only for two people. Allowing any other relationship in will crowd out oneness. This is why Genesis talks about leaving and cleaving.

- Serve your spouse

Look for things you can do for your spouse. Serving gets your eyes off yourself. In the example of the Trinity you see each person serving the others. If you serve each other, your needs will be met by the other. This is oneness at its best.

- Serve God together

Look for a ministry you can do together. Aquila and Priscilla are great examples of this in the Bible. Ministering together brings you together.

- Pray for and with your spouse

Do not just pray about your spouse, but pray for your spouse. Pray that God will make your spouse into the person he or she ought to be. Pray for your spouse because you really care about your spouse. Pray together. When you pray together, you share your heart.

- Share spiritual truth with your spouse

Figure out how you can best have some sort of family devotions. Tell your spouse the things that you are discovering from the Word.

- Study your spouse

Get to know what his or her personality is like. Learn how the other reacts to things. Discover what the other enjoys the most. You should know your spouse better than anyone else. You should be an expert on your spouse.

THE PERMANENCY OF MARRIAGE

We live in a society where marriage is not viewed as a permanent thing. Unfortunately the divorce rate among professing Christians is just as high as it is in the world. What one believes about the permanency of marriage will affect the experience of oneness in that marriage. According to the Bible, marriage is a permanent thing.

1. PERMANENCY OF MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

The Bible clearly presents marriage as a permanent relationship.

- Married couples are said to be one flesh

Genesis 2:24

Matthew 19:5

Ephesians 5:31

If married couples are one flesh, then it must be a permanent union. The only way to separate a one flesh union would be to do violence to it.

- In marriage God joins the couple together

Matthew 19:5, 6 - In describing the one flesh union in marriage, Jesus says that God actually joins the couple together.

Ephesians 5:32 - Paul calls the one flesh union a mystery. In a mysterious way, God joins the couple together.

If God joins couples together, then it must be a permanent union. The only way it could be separated would be for God to separate the couple.

- Marriage is presented as a covenant relationship

Malachi 2:14 - Malachi speaks about the 'wife of thy covenant'. Covenant relationships are legally binding agreements. In the marriage covenant ceremony, vows are exchanged. These vows are made before God.

If marriage is a binding covenant, then it must be a permanent union.

- Marriage is used as a picture of God's relationship with His people

Jeremiah 3:14 - God's relationship with Israel is like a marriage relationship.

Ephesians 5:22-33 - Christ's relationship with the Church is like a marriage relationship.

If God has chosen to use marriage as a picture of His relationship with His people, then it must be a permanent union. God will not leave His people. If we think of marriage as anything less than a permanent relationship, we are not thinking biblically. We must not let our culture determine how we will think about marriage.

2. BIBLE'S TEACHING ABOUT DIVORCE

In harmony with the idea of permanency of marriage, the Bible teaches against divorce.

- Moses' teaching on divorce

Deuteronomy 24:1-4 - The Law of Moses was regulating a practice that was already too common. Because of the hardness of men's hearts, God regulated divorce. Mosaic law made divorce a legal issue, not just based on the whim of a man or woman. It also forbade spouses returning to each other after being remarried.

- Jesus' teaching on divorce

Mark 10:2-12 - This is Jesus' own interpretation of Moses' law concerning divorce. It was clearly only because of the hardness of hearts, not because God wants divorce. Man should not attempt to put asunder what God has joined together. Divorce leads to adultery, in that when divorcees remarry, they commit adultery. Why would they commit adultery? Because man cannot separate what God has joined. Only God can truly separate what He has joined.

Matthew 19:1-12 - In this parallel passage, Jesus adds an exception. The exception is 'fornication' (persistent, unrepentant adultery).

- Paul's teaching on divorce

1 Corinthians 7:8-16 - If a spouse leaves and gets divorced, then both spouses must remain unmarried. When a husband or wife get saved, it does not change their marital status. If the unsaved spouse threatens to leave over the spiritual life of the other, the saved spouse is not bound. Paul never says that this spouse is free to remarry.

Considering the biblical teaching on divorce, marriage is a permanent union. There is no option to leave your spouse if things get too difficult. There is no escape clause.

3. THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF YOUR BELIEFS ABOUT MARRIAGE

What you believe about the permanency of marriage will directly affect your marital oneness.

- Giving all or holding back?

If you believe that divorce might be an option, then you will be holding something back. For example, prenuptial agreements are made just in case you might have to leave your spouse. Clearly, if you make a prenuptial agreement, you have not given you all to your spouse. Marriage may seem like a risky thing. You cannot protect yourself in marriage. You must give yourself completely. Marriage is both spouses giving 100%.

Matthew 19:10 - The disciples saw the risky nature of the marriage that Jesus was talking about.

- Security or insecurity?

If you hold out the thought that you can always get divorced if things don't work out, then your spouse will never feel secure. If you ever use the 'D' word in an argument, your spouse will never feel secure. If your spouse does not feel secure, it will erode the trust. When trust is eroded, then love also is eroded. Only in a completely secure relationship can your spouse feel free to love and trust completely.

Proverbs 31:11 - The woman described here gives her husband no reason to doubt. He safely trusts her.

RESPONSIBILITIES IN MARRIAGE

Just a couple of days after Tammy and I were married, I felt overwhelmed with the weight of responsibility as a husband. I suddenly realized that I was responsible for another human being for the rest of my life. I knew that Tammy and I would be happy together for the rest of our lives. There was no doubt about that. It was not her that I was overwhelmed with, but my responsibility in regards to her. Could I be the husband I should be? There are responsibilities that come with marriage. Fulfilling these responsibilities can be the best thing in our lives. But, it will involve diligence on our part.

When people speak about marriage being a lot of work, it is true if they mean that fulfilling their responsibilities is a lot of work. Fulfilling any God-given responsibilities takes effort and fighting against our natural sinful tendencies. If they mean that marriage is a lot of work because they do not like their spouse very much, perhaps that reveals a bad choice for a marriage partner. Marriage should not be a lot of work in that sense, but it will be in the other sense. If you feel that your marriage is too much work because you picked the wrong person to marry, then what should you do? You should stay in the marriage and do your best to fulfill your responsibilities to your spouse in obedience to God. You will soon find that God will create in you a love for your spouse.

1. BIBLE TEXTS ABOUT MARRIAGE RESPONSIBILITIES

There are 4 major Bible texts that deal with marriage responsibilities. We will consider the context of these passages.

Ephesians 5:18-29

v.18-21 - These verses show that there is a need to be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill your marriage responsibilities. It cannot be done in the flesh. It was never meant to be done in the flesh.

v.22-24 - Here Paul addresses the responsibilities of wives to their husbands.

v.25-29 - Here Paul addresses the responsibilities of husbands to their wives.

Colossians 3:16-19

This is a parallel passage with the one in Ephesians.

v.16 - Not only must we be filled with the Spirit to fulfill our marriage responsibilities, but we must also be filled with the Word of God. The Word of God dwelling in us and the Spirit filling us go hand in hand.

v.17 - As we fulfill our marriage responsibilities, we should do it as unto the Lord. It is not a question of whether your spouse deserves it or not. It is that the Lord has commanded it, and we must do it as unto Him. An unresponsive spouse does not relieve you of your responsibilities. If a doctor has a patient who is a jerk, does that relieve him of his responsibility to give proper treatment? If he did not fulfill his responsibilities we would call it malpractice.

v.18 - Here Paul addresses the responsibilities of wives to their husbands.

v.19 - Here Paul addresses the responsibilities of husbands to their wives.

Titus 2:1-6

v.1-3 - Paul exhorts Titus to teach things that go along with sound doctrine. Right doctrine must be adorned with right living. He speaks about elder men and women. Much of the book of Titus is about living according to what we believe.

v.4-5 - Older women in the church are supposed to teach the younger women about marriage responsibilities.

v.6 - Titus was supposed to teach the younger men about their responsibilities as husbands.

1 Peter 3:1-7

The book of 1 Peter was written to Christians who were going through persecution for their faith. Peter wrote to remind them

that they were pilgrims and strangers in this world. Their real home was heaven.

v.1-6 - Wives are told how to act toward their husbands as they live as pilgrims in this world.

v.7 - Husbands are told how to act toward their wives as they live as pilgrims in this world.

2. SPECIFIC COMMANDS ABOUT MARRIAGE RESPONSIBILITIES

The commands in the texts we just looked at show us the responsibilities that husbands and wives have toward each other. Let's consider them in more detail.

- Wives are responsible to submissively help their husbands.

In *Ephesians*, *Colossians*, and *1 Peter* the word 'submit' is used. 'Submit' (ὑποτάσσω, *hupotasso*) literally means to assign or appoint yourself under someone else's leadership. It was a military term used for the arranging of troop divisions under a commander.

Ephesians 5:22-24 - Wives are responsible to submit to their husbands as if they were doing it to the Lord. As the Church is under Christ's leadership, so the wife is to be under the husband's.

Colossians 3:18 - Here again the wife is to submit to the husband. But, it is to be done as is 'fit' or proper or right in the Lord. This is not talking about blind obedience. The wife has a conscience, and she will answer to God for it.

Titus 2:4-5 - The word 'submit' is not used here, but the practical outworking of the idea is seen. The main word in this text is 'sober'. It means to be sensible, of sound mind, controlled. Wives are to think sensibly and biblically concerning their marriage. They are to submissively help their husbands in the various ways mentioned in these verses.

1 Peter 3:1-6 - Peter gives a specific example of how to submit to the husband as a pilgrim in this evil world. The specific

case is of a Christian woman married to a non-Christian man. Submissively helping him would not involve nagging him to become a Christian as if she were against him. It would involve a meek and quiet spirit, as if she were really trying to help him be the man he ought to be.

- Husbands are responsible to lovingly lead their wives.

In Ephesians and Colossians the word 'love' is used. 'Love' (ἀγαπάω, *agapao*) means to be willing to lay down your life for another. Inherent in this word is the idea of self-sacrifice. It means to be so committed to another that you will sacrifice yourself for that other person.

Ephesians 5:25-29 - Husbands are responsible to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. Jesus' love for us was best expressed when He gave Himself for us on the cross. Husbands are responsible to love their wives as they love their own bodies. How does a man love his body? He feeds and tenderly cares for it. Men are often overly protective of their bodies when they are sick. Men tend to seek comfort for their bodies, even more than women do. The husband should care for his wife as he cares for himself when he is sick. This is not abusive leadership, but caring, loving leadership.

Colossians 3:19 - The husband's love must be opposed to any kind of bitterness. He is responsible to not walk all over his wife as he leads her.

Titus 2:6 - The husband is to think soberly about his relationship with his wife. He must not lead like husbands on TV sitcoms. He must lead biblically.

1 Peter 3:7 - Peter gives brief but hard instructions to husbands as they lead their wives as pilgrims in this world. The husband's loving leadership must be thoughtful. He is responsible to put thought into his relationship with his wife. His loving leadership must be careful. He is responsible to treat his wife like fine china which can be easily broken. His loving leadership must be relational. He is responsible to realize that he

and his wife are joint-heirs. God has joined them together. He must not neglect the relationship.

In the Bible, the book of Ruth gives a great example of a man and woman fulfilling their responsibilities to one another. Boaz lovingly and tenderly leads Ruth, and she submissively seeks to help him. It is no accident that they were also romantically in love with each other. When husbands and wives fulfill their responsibilities, they will both be romantically in love. God wants us to fulfill these responsibilities because He knows that it will lead to a relationship that is like a little taste of heaven on earth.

COMMUNICATION IN MARRIAGE

Communication is an essential ingredient of oneness in marriage. Can two people possibly be one without communicating?

1. NEED FOR COMMUNICATION

Song of Solomon 1:1-17

This book of the Bible is an ancient love song about King Solomon and his wife. It expresses intimacy and oneness from the husband and the wife's point of view.

- She communicates how much she loves him, *v.1-4*
- She tells him that he is the most important thing to her. She tells him that she loves him because she respects him.
- She communicates her insecurities to him, *v.5-7*
- She is insecure about her beauty. She is insecure about her financial status. She wants to know more about him.
- He communicates how much he loves her, *v.8-11*
- He tells her more about himself. He opens up to her. He describes how beautiful she is to him. Beauty is a subjective thing. He tells her how he will provide for her.
- Their communication leads to oneness, *v.12-17*

Would there have been oneness if there had been no communication?

2. COMMUNICATING LOVE

The way people communicate and receive love differs from person to person. The book, *The Five Love Languages*, by Gary Chapman, recognized this principle and listed five different ways love is communicated. These five ways to communicate love seem to make sense.

- Affirming words (saying kind, encouraging things)

- Quality time (spending time together, giving attention to each other)
- Gifts (giving presents, buying surprise gifts)
- Acts of service (doing things for each other, washing dishes, cooking, etc.)
- Physical touch (cuddling, holding hands, hugging, etc.)

How do you know which of these ways of communicating love is most natural to you? Ask yourself what things your spouse does that mean the most to you. What things does your spouse fail to do that hurts you the most, or makes you feel most unloved?

3. BIBLICAL LAWS OF COMMUNICATION

Sometimes communication in marriage is a problem because we do not communicate biblically. We do not use words in the way that God intended. When we do not use our words properly, our communication becomes divisive rather than leading to oneness.

- Know when to hold your tongue

Proverbs 11:12 - You should learn when to not speak.

Proverbs 11:13 - Sometimes there are issues that need to be covered, not exposed. Only bring up issues when it will be best for your spouse.

Proverbs 29:11 - Do not always say what you think. We ought to fight against fleshly thoughts, not bring them up.

- Speak softly

Proverbs 15:1 - Do not raise your voice to your spouse. If it cannot be said in a calm way, should it be said?

Proverbs 25:15 - The way to win over your spouse is not by yelling. Soft words are much more persuasive.

- Think before you speak

Proverbs 15:28 - Words quickly spoken are often regretted.

Proverbs 16:23 - Teach your mouth what to say.

Proverbs 29:20 - Never speak about something important with your spouse in a hasty manner.

- Listen at least as much as you speak

Proverbs 18:13 - Never answer your spouse without first listening.

Proverbs 10:8 - Be teachable, especially with your spouse.

- Do not exaggerate

Proverbs 19:1 - Speak what you mean. Do not twist your words by making claims that you know are not true.

Proverbs 19:5 - Exaggerations in communication are actually lies.

- Be careful how you joke

Proverbs 26:18, 19 - Joking can sometimes be an excuse for cutting remarks.

- Use encouraging words

Proverbs 12:18 - Words can either cut or heal your spouse.

Proverbs 12:25 - Words can be used to refresh the spirit of your spouse.

Proverbs 16:28 - Words can sometimes be used to stir up arguments.

- Speak as you would be spoken to

Proverbs 31:26 - The law of kindness must be applied to all we say.

If we cannot speak in this way, we will never have good communication.

4. MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO AVOID IN COMMUNICATION

- For women - complaining

1 Peter 3:1-6 - Meek and quiet spirit as opposed to complaining and pestering. Peter says that quiet encouraging will change a man much more than pestering.

Proverbs 21:9; 25:24 - A brawling woman is hard to live with.

The wife is supposed to be the helper of the husband. Complaining does not help him, it hinders him.

- For men - harshness

1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands must think about how they treat their wives. They must cherish them, as they would fine china.

Colossians 3:19 - Husbands must not be bitter toward their wives.

The husband is the authority in the home. He must never abuse his authority by being harsh toward his wife.

WORKSHEET #1

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

Each spouse should answer the following questions. This will help you open up to each other.

1. What was the most difficult experience of your childhood?
2. What do you believe about God? Describe your best experience with God.
3. What is your religious background? How do your religious convictions differ from your parents?
4. What was your first impression of your spouse when you first met?
5. What was it about your spouse that attracted you the most before you were married?
6. Have you had previous intimate relationships before you met your spouse?
7. Are there any secrets from your past that could hinder your relationship? (Sexual abuse, physical abuse, abortion, bankruptcy, criminal record, etc.)
8. What has been your best experience with your spouse since you have been married?
9. What do your parents think of you being together?

WORKSHEET #2

QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. List the good things and bad things about marriage that you learned from your parents.

2. Give 2 or 3 good examples of marriage, and why they are good examples.

3. What worries you the most about your ability to make marriage work?

4. What things do you think you need to work on the most in your marriage?

WORKSHEET #3

COMMUNICATING LOVE EVALUATION

Rate yourself and your partner on the following ways in which you would want your partner to show love to you (1 = least; 10 = most). Then answer questions 6-8 to help further determine how you communicate love.

You Partner

___ ___ 1. Words of affirmation; saying, "I love you," "You did a great job," etc.

___ ___ 2. Quality time; spending time with you; giving undivided attention to you.

___ ___ 3. Gifts; giving special gifts to you; surprising you with your favorite things.

___ ___ 4. Acts of service; doing things for you: cooking, bringing in groceries, etc.

___ ___ 5. Physical touch; cuddling, holding hands, hugging, etc.

6. What thing did your parent or parents routinely do that made you feel most loved or secure?

7. What thing does your partner routinely do that makes you feel most loved or secure?

8. In your daily relationship, what thing could your partner routinely do or neglect to do that would make you feel most unloved or insecure?

WORKSHEET #4

COMMUNICATION EVALUATION

Rate how much you communicate about the following areas of life.

1 = seldom or never

2 = sometimes

3 = frequently

___ 1. Entertainment, TV, movies, books

___ 2. News, politics, current events

___ 3. Work, school

___ 4. Hobbies, interests

___ 5. Finances

___ 6. Family matters, parenting

___ 7. Spiritual issues, church, ministries

___ 8. Dreams, future goals

___ 9. Problems, failures, defeats

___ 10. Feelings, emotions

Add up your points. How well did you do?

30-25 = good communication

25-20 = mediocre communication

20-10 = poor communication

In which group did you have the most 3's?

1-4 = surface communication

5-6 = close communication

7-10 = deep communication

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Hopefully these lessons on marriage have been helpful to you. It is my desire that you will experience the same joy that I have experienced in my years of marriage. Please consider that there is one thing that a marriage cannot do without. If you are to have a right relationship with your spouse, you must first have a right relationship with God. Has there ever been a moment of spiritual crisis in your life when you recognized that you were lost apart from Christ? Have you ever turned to Jesus for salvation from your sins? Have you ever had a spiritual rebirth? Without this miracle of God in your heart, your marriage will never be right. Please consider the following truths in the Bible.

- You were created by Almighty God.

Romans 1:19-20

- You are guilty of rebellion against God.

Romans 3:10-23

- Apart from God's salvation, you have no hope.

Romans 6:23

- God loved you enough to send Jesus to die for your sins.

Romans 5:6-8

- Your attempts at good works can never earn God's favor.

Romans 4:4-5

- You can receive God's salvation by trusting in Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-13