

THE OUTLINE

PART 1

POSITIVE ADAPTABILITY

-What are key ingredients that make up a successful marriage?

-True intimacy is built around the freedom to disagree

1. BE ADAPTABLE

-What is the most important trait of a healthy, vibrant marriage? Adaptability.

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash." Matthew 7:24-27

"If I could give one gift to every couple on their wedding day, I'd wrap up a large box filled with adaptability. Because no matter how good your relationship is, you will have to be flexible enough to change yourself and at least tolerate your partner's differences." Dr. Neil Clark Warren

- Does it really matter?

"You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks." Winston Churchill

- Be Adaptable.

- Adaptable Spouses Don't Whine

- Adaptable Spouses Don't Blame

- Adaptable Spouses Don't Shame



PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

PART 1

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you agree with Neil Clark Warren and Jim that adaptability is one of the most important traits for a successful relationship? What are other traits you would add to the list?
2. The end of the Sermon on the Mount is about building your relationship on a firm foundation (the rock). And in this Scripture, those who build their home on the sand end up crashing. What are a few ways you can build your relationship on the rock?
3. "Does it really matter?" That's the principle. Have you ever tried following it? What makes this a healthy example of building a firm foundation?
4. Give an illustration of a time when you did "throw a stone at every dog that barks" in your relationship. What could you have done differently?
5. Adaptable spouses don't whine or blame. Why is this an important part of keeping the spark in your relationship?