

BETTER MARRIAGES

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IN THE "IN THIS HOUSE" SERIES:

May 24: *Family Foundation*

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1) God designed marriage to be a _____ with God and our spouse.

Malachi 2:13–16 (NLT) (13) Here is another thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn't accept them with pleasure. (14) You cry out, "Why doesn't the LORD accept my worship?" I'll tell you why! Because the LORD witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows (covenant). (15) Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. (16) "For I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel. "To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. "So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife."

Deuteronomy 23:21–23 (NLT) (21) "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, be prompt in fulfilling whatever you promised him. For the LORD your God demands that you promptly fulfill all your vows, or you will be guilty of sin. (22) However, it is not a sin to refrain from making a vow. (23) But once you have voluntarily made a vow, be careful to fulfill your promise to the LORD your God.

2) Act in a _____ toward one another even if the feelings of love diminish.

Matthew 5:43–44 (NLT) (43) "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. (44) But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NLT) (4) Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud (5) or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. (6) It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. (7) Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

THE FEELINGS OF LOVE OFTEN FOLLOW ACTIONS OF LOVE.

3) Ask for _____ when you mess up and forgive your spouse when they mess up.

GREAT MARRIAGES ARE NOT MADE UP OF PEOPLE WHO ALWAYS DO THE RIGHT THINGS.

1 Peter 4:8 (NLT) (8) Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) (32) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

CHOOSE TO FORGIVE THEM BECAUSE YOU ARE FORGIVEN BY GOD.

4) Choose to _____ you have been given by God in your marriage.

Ephesians 5:21–33 (NLT) (21) And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

(22) For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. (23) For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. (24) As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

(25) For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her (26) to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. (27) He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. (28) In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. (29) No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. (30) And we are members of his body. (31) As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” (32) This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. (33) So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

5) Watch out for the _____ and make pursuing a great marriage a priority.

Revelation 2:4–5a (NLT) (4) “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! (5) Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.

Three Principles:

- a) Look how far you have _____.
- b) _____ to me.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS ARE ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN YOU ARE ATTENTIVE TO THE PEOPLE IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

- c) Do the _____.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE TO TRY DOING IT GOD’S WAY?

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF A GREAT MARRIAGE!

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking “**Next Steps > Jesus**” on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.*