

Retreat Schedule

Same Sessions | Same Speakers | Different Days

Thursday/Friday Retreat	2024 LIVING UNITED RETREAT BRANSON, MO	Friday/Saturday Retreat
Thursday Feb. 15th	Retreat Day 1	Friday Feb. 16th
2:00pm-3:00pm	General Session #1 Pastor Tim Rabon	2:00pm-3:00pm
3:15pm-4:00pm	Elective Sessions:	3:15pm-4:00pm
	Fair Feelings - Communicating Past Your Feelings Pastor Jeremiah Metsinger - Great Hall Fused Family - Blended Family Issues Pastor Jeff Quigley - Madrid/Barcelona Fulfilling Faithfulness - Strengthening a Ministry & Marriage Pastor Josh Carter - Milan/Venice/Florence Family Faith Building - Raising Children God's Way Pastor Tim Rabon - Innsbruck/St. Moritz/Heidelberg	
4:15pm-6:00pm	General Session #2 Pastor Tim Rabon	4:15pm-6:00pm
Dinner Break & Dismiss for the Evening		
Friday Feb. 16th	Retreat Day 2	Saturday Feb. 17th
8:30am-9:45am	General Session #3 Pastor Tim Rabon	9:00am-10:30am
10:00am-10:45am	Elective Sessions:	Lunch Break/Checkout
	Faithful Family - The Joy of Consistency Pastor Mark Bradshaw - Innsbruck/St. Moritz/Heidelberg Financial Freedom - Biblically Handling Money Pastor Matt Deardorff - Milan/Venice/Florence Fixing Fences - Protecting Your Marriage With Boundaries Pastor Don Veazey - Great Hall Faithfully Finding - Waiting on Wayward Children Pastor Bill Marshall - Madrid/Barcelona	
11:00am-12:30pm	General Session #4 Pastor Steve Brudnak	1:45pm-3:30pm

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FAIR FEELINGS 14-22
 PASTOR JEREMIAH METSINGER

FUSED FAMILY 23-26
 PASTOR JEFF QUIGLEY

FULFILLING FAITHFULNESS 27-31
 PASTOR JOSH CARTER

FAMILY FAITH BUILDING 32-34
 PASTOR TIM RABON

GENERAL SESSION #2 35-36
 PASTOR TIM RABON

GENERAL SESSION #3 37-38
 PASTOR TIM RABON

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FEBRUARY 20 & 21 | FEBRUARY 21 & 22

2025
Couples Retreat

CHATEAU ON THE LAKE
Branson, Missouri



Pastor Jason Jett



FEATURED PREACHER

Pastor Tim Rabon



Pastor Tim Rabon began ministering at Beacon Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, in July 1981, having earned a B.A. degree in Bible and Pastoral Training. Prior to becoming Pastor in 1997, he served as Associate Pastor overseeing the various ministries including: bus, children, youth, and soul winning. Pastor Rabon has earned an M.A. in Biblical Exposition and has received two Doctor of Divinity degrees. He and his wife, Sharon, have two sons, a daughter and eight grandchildren.

HOST PREACHER

Pastor Steve Brudnak



Pastor Brudnak has been the Pastor of United Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri for 20 years. At the age of seven, he asked the Lord to save him, and at 15, he surrendered to preach the Gospel of Christ. He began serving the Lord as a youth pastor in Michigan. For 5 years, he pastored Calvary Baptist Church in Charles City, Iowa. God then called him to become the pastor of United Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. He has a great burden to see marriages and homes strengthened through the only answer, Jesus! In the last 17 years he has led United Baptist Church in the oversight of the

Living United Couples Retreat. Pastor Brudnak and his wife, Melissa, have been married for 28 years. They have three sons and two daughter in laws, Josiah and Abigail, Jeremiah and Madison, and Zachariah.

SESSION PREACHERS

Pastor Jeremiah Metsinger



Pastor Metsinger studied at Heartland Baptist Bible College. Upon graduation he and his wife Melissa, moved to Sioux Falls, SD to work with the youth, where they saw great change and growth in the teens. After a couple years of being there he was burdened to pastor, and began seeking direction and further study. In August of 2006 God led Pastor Metsinger and his family to South Knollwood Baptist Church. Bro. Metsinger completed his Doctorate in Ministry shortly following their move to Topeka. Bro. & Mrs. Metsinger enjoy spending time with their four sons and daughter, and involving them in the work of South Knollwood.

love ♥

Pastor Jeff Quigley



Jeff Quigley is the pastor of Smoky Valley Baptist Church of Lindsborg, KS, where he has served since 2018. He and his wife, Angela, met at Pittsburg State University in Kansas where the couple were married in 1991. They have two daughters, one son-in-law and one beautiful granddaughter.

Pastor Josh Carter



Pastor Carter graduated from Heartland in 2003 and immediately went on staff at Lakewood Baptist Temple in Lakewood, WA. He and his wife, Rochelle, were married June 4, 2004. God has blessed their home with five wonderful children; Sean, Olivia, Alexander, Carrie, and Bradley. In addition to serving on staff at two churches pastor Carter and his family have started two churches in Grandview and Ferndale Washington and for 11 years he was the pastor of Bellingham Baptist Church in Bellingham, Washington. In July of 2022 Pastor Carter accepted the call to join the pastoral team of Beth

Haven Baptist Church where he also oversees the Beth Haven Baptist Seminary. Pastor Carter and his family have a heart for missions and church planting and look forward to helping guide Beth Haven Baptist Church as well as working to train men and women for future ministry.

Pastor Mark Bradshaw



Pastor Mark Bradshaw was born in Colorado and raised in the Denver area. He trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior in 1985. His wife, Mindy, was saved earlier that year, and they were both baptized and became members of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, CO. He served as Sunday school teacher, children's church teacher, and deacon during the next four years. In 1990, he moved his family to Springfield, MO to attend Baptist Bible Graduate School of Theology. For the next three years, he served as a Sunday school teacher and worked in the nursing home ministry at Berean Baptist Church in

Springfield, MO. Pastor Bradshaw was called to be pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in March 1993. That same year, he completed his Master of Arts in Biblical Studies. Pastor Bradshaw and his wife have five children.

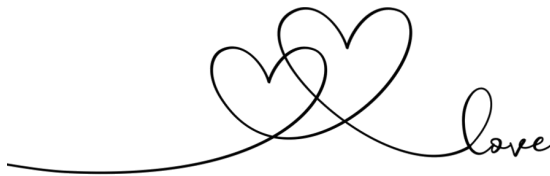
Preachers

Pastor Matt Deardorff



Pastor Matt Deardorff was saved in 1994 and began attending and serving at Calvary Baptist Church in York, PA. After moving to Missouri in 2006, he surrendered to preach in 2007. He began to serve as youth pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Bethany, MO that same year. It was there that the Lord called him to become the full time pastor in 2011, where he and his wife, Jill, served for the next ten years. In December of 2021 the Lord called Matt to plant Victory Baptist Church in Albany, MO where he continues to serve as the Lord builds this church. Matt and Jill have been married for 32 years, and

have been blessed with four children and five grandchildren.



Pastor Don Veazey



Pastor Don and Catherine Veazey met at the age of 9, in the third grade. They were married two weeks after graduating Bible College and have been married for 22 years. God has given them four children (three daughters and one son) and one grandson. Pastor Veazey has been pastoring for 20 years at 3 churches. He has been the Pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Cassville, MO since 2018. He is bi-vocational and they own "The Preacher's Chuckwagon" food truck and they enjoy raising a few head of cattle on their small farm.

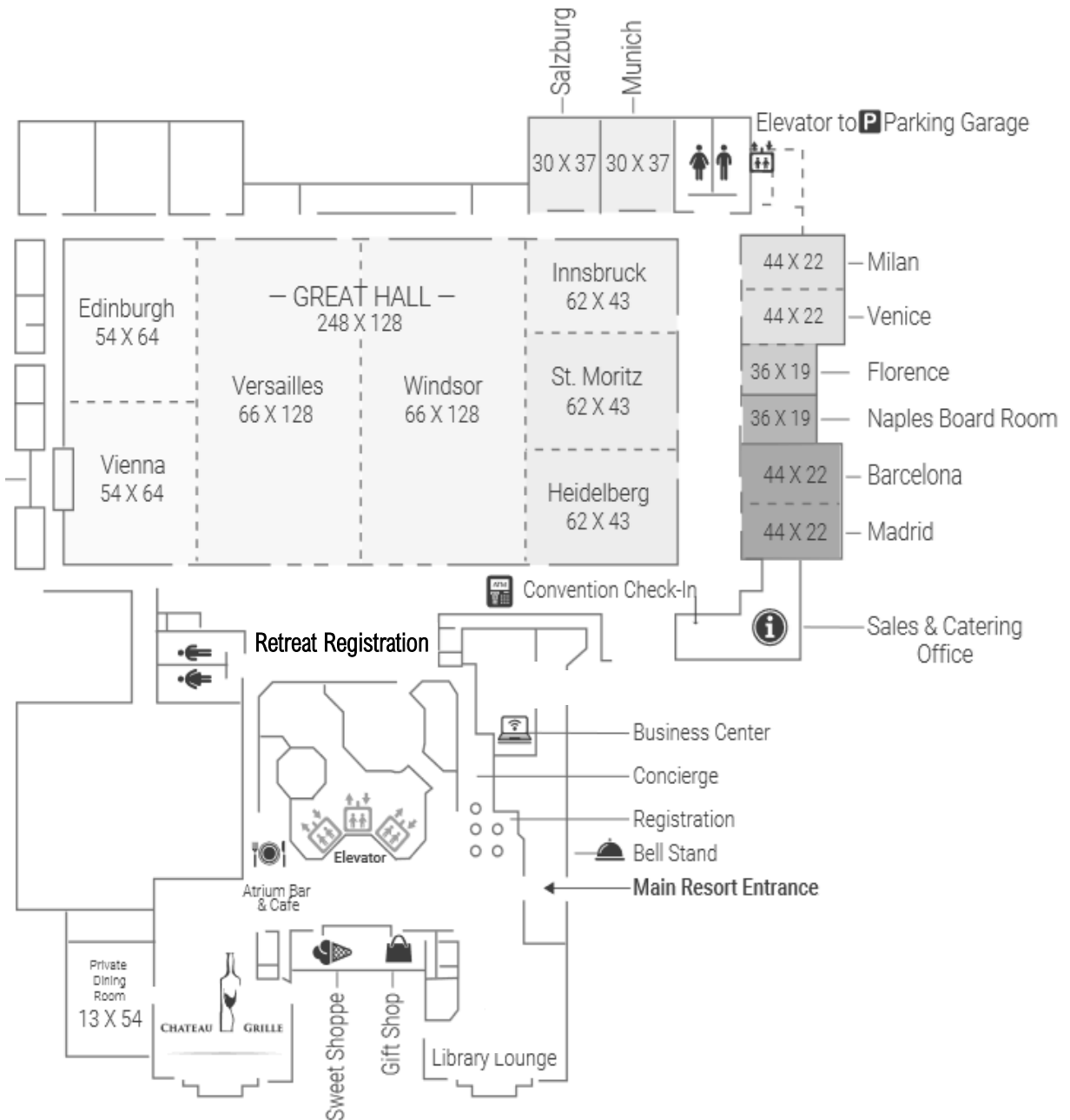
Pastor Bill Marshall



Pastor Marshall was saved in April of 1984 from a life of drug and alcohol addiction. The LORD called him into evangelism in 1989 and he began to preach at every given opportunity. He and his wife, Pam, have been married since August 1978 and have two daughters, Emily and Sara. Pastor Marshall traveled in evangelism for 16 years before accepting the pastorate at Riverside Baptist Church in January of 2008. The Lord has done great things at Riverside, including allowing the church to purchase and remodel the building they now meet in. He is a Bible preacher and has a holy hatred for sin. He has

a sincere desire to see those that are lost repent of their sin and trust Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. He believes that the world needs to see strong Christians living the victorious life that God has for them. He knows that the preaching and teaching of God's Word will give direction toward that life.

Map of Chateau



FIRST DAY SESSION LOCATIONS

FAIR FEELINGS (*Pastor Jeremiah Metsinger*) - **Great Hall**
Communicating Past Your Feelings

FUSED FAMILY (*Pastor Jeff Quigley*) - **Madrid/Barcelona**
Blended Family Issues

FULFILLING FAITHFULNESS (*Pastor Josh Carter*) - **Milan/Venice/Florence**
Strengthening a Ministry and Marriage

FAMILY FAITH BUILDING (*Pastor Tim Rabon*) - **Innsbruck/St. Moritz/Heidelberg**
Raising Children God's Way

NURSERY - **Salzburg & Munich**

SECOND DAY SESSION LOCATIONS

FIXING FENCES (*Pastor Don Veazey*) - **Great Hall**
Protecting Your Marriage With Boundaries

FAITHFULLY FINDING (*Pastor Bill Marshall*) - **Madrid/Barcelona**
Waiting on Wayward Children

FINANCIAL FREEDOM (*Pastor Matt Deardorff*) - **Milan/Venice/Florence**
Biblically Handling Money

FAITHFUL FAMILY (*Pastor Mark Bradshaw*) - **Innsbruck/St. Moritz/Heidelberg**
The Joy of Consistency

NURSERY - **Salzburg & Munich**

Marriage: A Work in Progress The Building Materials

Text - *Colossians 3:12-14*

1. God is the Designer of marriage and made us _____ beings.
2. Being relational, we bring both the good and the bad into our marriages; so, we must continually allow God to work on us.

I. _____ - vs. 12

1. Paul reminds us of our personal responsibility as he opens the passage with “put on therefore” – vs. 12a.
2. Paul gives us a detailed list of goodness that we are to “put on” as you would put on clothing. - vs. 12b.
 - ↳ “Bowels of mercy” speak of a heart of compassion.
 - ↳ “Kindness” has a sense of goodness and integrity.
 - ↳ “Humbleness of mind” is speaking of a proper view of yourself.
 - ↳ “Meekness” is a quiet strength.
 - ↳ “Longsuffering” means _____ and perseverance.

II. Graciousness - vs. 13

1. Out of the goodness of God flows a graciousness, which is exhibited through both forbearance and _____ - vs. 13a.
 - ↳ “Forbearing” is a willingness to bear with those who have faults that are irritating to us or when someone’s behavior is embarrassing to us.
 - ↳ “The failure to give or receive forgiveness probably accounts for nearly every marriage that does not endure.” – Les and Leslie Parrott *When Bad Things Happen to Good Marriages*
 - ↳ The focus of forgiveness is on the reconciliation of the relationship, not the resolution of all the issues.
2. The real test of forbearance and forgiveness is when “you have a quarrel against any” – vs. 13b.

III. _____ - vs. 14

1. As Paul continues the clothing analogy, he says, “And above all these things put on charity” - vs. 14a.

This love is best described for us in *I Corinthians 13:1-8*.

2. _____ love is “the bond of perfectness” – vs. 14b.

Fair Feelings

Communicating Past Your Feelings

To communicate well, we need to become aware of ourselves, aware of others, and aware of the gap between us. Without this awareness, good communication is impossible.¹

-Michael Hyatt

Natural Evolution of Communication Arc

- Level Five: Cliche' Conversation

- Level Four: Reporting the Facts

- Level Three: Ideas and Judgements

¹Michael Hyatt "No-Fail Communication" (Kindle Locations 60-62). Kindle Edition.

- Level Two: Feelings or Emotions

- Level One: Complete Emotional and Personal Communication ²

Virtues to Develop for Solid Intimacy

Communication is the first step to real intimacy. We imagine intimacy is developed in the bedroom. Real intimacy is developed between two naked souls.

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit. Proverbs 15:4

Words of Intimacy Weave a Trusting Relationship.

- ✓ Words of Gratitude

²H. Norman Wright, Wes Robers. Before you say “I Do”. Harvest House. pg. 62-63

- ✓ Words of Acceptance

- ✓ Words of Possession

- ✓ Words of Commitment

- ✓ Words of Unity

Words of Isolation Tear the Fabric of Relationship.

- ✓ Focus on Shame

- ✓ Loaded with Blame

The Difference in Intimacy and Isolation is the Heart.

Your destructive words say more about you than your spouse.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Luke 6:45

Your words become gracious when your heart is full of grace.

The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked. **Proverbs 10:11**

- Seek to be Right with God, then Right with Your Mate.

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: **James 1:19**

- Seek to Encourage More than You Critique.

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:32**

- Learn to Speak the Language of Affection.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
Ephesians 4:29

Content of Conflict

- Seek where My Pride is Causing Pain.

*Own Your Delivery*³

Communication is never just words.

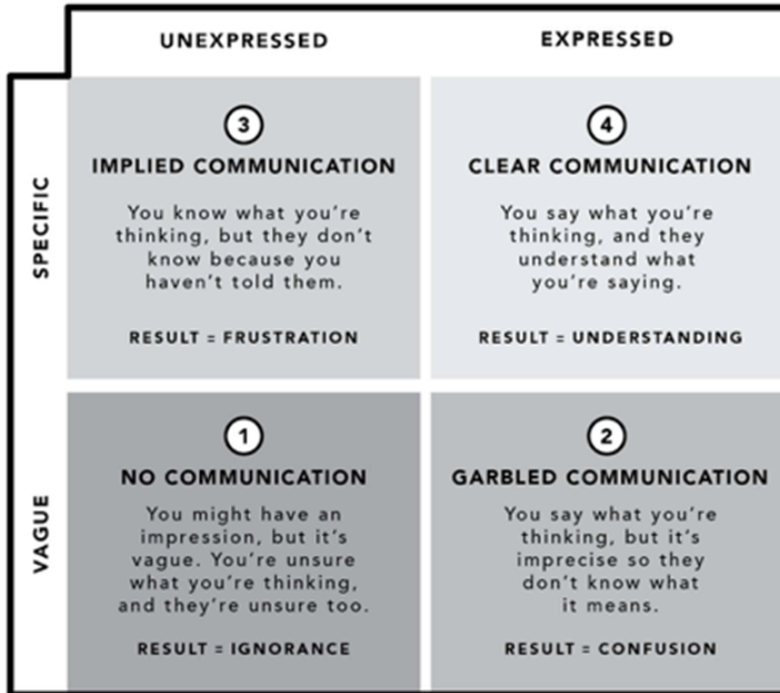
- Content 7%
- Tone 38%
- Nonverbal 55%

*Own Your Miscommunication*⁴

³H. Norman Wright, Wes Roberts. Before you say "I Do". Harvest House pg. 60

⁴Michael Hyatt. No-Fail Communication (Kindle Locations 68-69). Kindle Edition.

CLARITY GRID



Shared understanding is the goal of communication. Clear communication requires the expressed and specific transmission of information. That kind of communication takes place when you have a clear, precise understanding of what you want others to know. And you express the information fully to everyone who needs it. You know what you're thinking, and they know what you're saying. The result is understanding.⁵ - Michael Hyatt

⁵Michael Hyatt. No-Fail Communication (Kindle Locations 134-137). Kindle Edition.

Step back from the emotion to hear the message.

The Principle of First Response:

The course of a conflict is not determined by the person who initiates, but by the person who responds.

The Principle of Physical Touch:

It is difficult to sin against someone while you are tenderly touching him or her.

The Principle of Proper Timing:

The success of a conversation can be maximized if the timing of the conversation is carefully chosen.

↪ The Principle of Mirroring:

Understanding can be enhanced if we measure it often throughout a conversation.

↪ The Principle of Prayer:

Success in communication is more likely when we invite God to be an active participant and guide.

Fusing the Fractures

Healing the Hurts of a Blended Home

In *Genesis 21* we read the story of Isaac's birth and the struggle that followed. In verse 8, Isaac is around 3 years old and his 17-year old stepbrother, Ishmael, is a bully. Sarah insists that Ishmael and his mother be cast out of the home, and Abraham has no choice.

Conflict is inherent with all relationships, and growing through those conflicts helps to strengthen and solidify our bond as families. However, blended families have the added caveat of coming from brokenness. Every fused family is a joining of previously fractured families.

- There are five core causes of strife in the blended family. These root problems manifest themselves in a variety of ways, but they can be categorized into the following:

1. Big Expectations

We come to marriage with a set of ideas and expectations that are often unrealistic and unattainable. Maybe you think “things will be different this time” or we will be one “big happy family” or that your new partner will instantly love your children, and their kids will instantly accept and love you. In reality, no matter how badly we want it, a blended family will never function like a first family. The sooner we understand and accept this, the better chance we have at building a successful and thriving marriage.

- * E. Mavis Heatherington, in *For Better or For Worse, Divorce Reconsidered* wrote, “It takes couples five to seven years to get through the tensions of step-family life, to the point where their stress level declines to match that of a husband and wife in a first marriage.”

2. Broken Trust

Trust is important in any relationship, and broken trust can destroy a family quicker than anything else. Every member of the family is affected by broken trust, whether they realize it or not. A child can have their trust broken by a mother who loves a man other than their daddy. A mother can have their trust broken by a daughter who goes to the mall with a new step-mother. A chance meeting with an ex-husband can be fodder for jealousy and suspicion. We struggle trying to decide who should come first and where our trust belongs.

3. Baggage

No matter the circumstances, we all bring baggage into marriage. When entering a second marriage the baggage may need its own U-haul. Favorite songs, special restaurants, sacred memories...we can't simply put it all into a closet and forget it's there. A second marriage is still 2 becoming 1, not 4 becoming 2.

4. Boundaries

Setting clear boundaries in a blended family is one of the most important things you can do to protect your marriage and establish safety within your home. Boundaries keep the good things in and the bad things out. Our families are like puzzles, and each piece has a place. Blended families are made up of pieces from multiple puzzles, but they can still work, if you'll establish and respect clear boundaries.

5. Blending

Blending families is a continual process, and the final result often isn't visible until many years after the wedding. Just as in a poorly-mixed can of paint, family members may remain as "chunks," unwilling to give in to their new family role. Children may refuse to respect their stepparent, who is "not my dad." A new spouse may be unwilling to combine bank accounts, bracing for the possibility of another failed marriage. Whatever the scenario, a refusal to blend in a fused family is a guarantee for disaster.

- Ron Deal, author of "The Smart Stepfamily" presents seven steps you can take to ensure the family you have today is healthy and honors God.
1. Step Up - Establish a relationship with God. Salvation should be the primary concern in any relationship. *Amos 3:3 - 2 Corinthians 6:14*
 2. Step Down - Adjust your expectations and learn how to "cook" a stepfamily. We are an instant society, and want a great family NOW! Instead of a microwave meal, consider your family crock pot creation. It's going to take time, but it will be worth the wait! *James 1:2-4*
 3. Two-Step - Make your marriage the priority in your home. Just as partners in a dance must respect and rely on each other, husbands and wives must coordinate their moves together. *Ephesians 5:21-33*

4. **Step In Line** - Establish and maintain specific parenting roles. Determine to love and care for all of the children in the relationship, and not just those who came with you to the marriage. *Ephesians 6:1-4*

5. **Side-Step** - Learn to face and deal with these common pitfalls: unrecognized loss and unexpressed grief; menacing emotions and knee-jerk reactions; the combination of special holiday and family traditions. *Romans 8:18*

6. **Step Through** - Learn to overcome the special challenges facing your blended family. As difficult as they may be, remember that you're not alone in this struggle! *James 1:5-7 - Luke 1:37*

7. **Step Over** - Enter into the promised land of family love. Regardless of your broken trust, baggage or big expectations, God has a plan for your marriage and family. *Jeremiah 29:11*

Don't accept that your step-family is a shameful secret or a lesser priority in God's economy. Just as God continued to reveal His plan for Hagar and her son Ishmael in *Genesis 21*, God hears and has a plan for each of us. Allowing Him to reveal that plan, and committing to follow it, will make your family a place of blessing and love for all who get to witness it.

Fulfilling Faithfulness

Strengthening a Ministry and Marriage

Text -2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Introduction: I'm going to assume that when you surrendered to serve God in full-time ministry, your end goal was to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). May I say this is a good and attainable goal that many times can be forgotten amid life and ministry. If you have been in ministry any length of time you know it can take its toll on you spiritually, emotionally, and physically. In fact, balance is something discussed among preachers often. The work of the ministry requires a lot of time, effort, and attention and consequently our personal and family life can suffer.

Please note with me a phrase Paul uses twice in chapter 4, verses 1 & 16, "We faint not." Paul lived a consistent life. He didn't quit amid ministry difficulty, and we can read of his troubles in 2 Corinthians 11:23-33. Ministry done right is hard work, and you will absolutely have a target on your back and your home. In this chapter Paul is addressing what kept him going in the midst of difficulty and trial. Paul found joy and purpose in serving God in good times and bad.

- 1. Paul found joy and purpose in seeing God work in his life and the lives of _____ . ("this ministry" V1)**

Note: Go to chapter 3:18 and see what the “therefore” is there for. Paul is speaking of the change “we all” should be experiencing in our lives. My salvation should be making a lasting, changing difference in my life.

- a. The change God makes in our lives.
 - i. We are saved from the _____ of sin.
 - ii. We are saved from the _____ of sin.
 - iii. We will one day be saved from the _____ of sin.
- b. The change God makes motivated Paul.
- c. The change God makes should motivate us. (*1 Timothy 1:15-16*)
 - i. God wants to work in your life to change you.
 - ii. God is either developing change in you or you are backsliding.
- d. The change God makes is always a _____.
 - i. God doesn't force you to submit to the changes he wants to make in your life.
 - ii. You must choose to accept the change God wants to make in your life.

2. Paul found joy and purpose in living a righteous life and sharing his _____ . (V2-4)

- a. Paul was changed from persecutor to preacher.
 - i. V2- He did right before God and man.
 - 1) Of his own admission he practiced dishonesty, craftiness, and deceitfulness.
 - 2) Now he is living right before God and towards all men.
 - ii. V3. He did right by sharing his faith.
 - 1) It wasn't Paul's fault the people around him weren't being saved and seeing God change their lives.
 - 2) V4 – If they were still lost it was because they have been blinded to the truth he faithfully preached.

Note: Part of “fainting not” is allowing ourselves to be used of God.

3. Paul found joy and purpose in being a _____ . (V5)

- a. Serving _____ – “We preach not ourselves.”
- b. Serving _____ – “Ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.”

4. Paul found joy and purpose in being _____ by the power of God (6-13)

- a. V6 – Just as God created the world and sustains it, He through salvation sustains us.
- b. V7 – We are just “earthen vessels”.
 - i. Common jars of clay and of no great value to ourselves.
 - ii. But we have “this treasure” and that has immense value.
 - 1) We are told that by the end of Paul’s ministry, he was not pretty to look upon.
 - 2) Paul knew that Christ in him was what gave his life value.
- c. V8-11 – Paul was willing to suffer because suffering allowed Christ, the treasure, to be made manifest.
- d. V12-13 – Paul was willing to speak because he knew that through his suffering, men would see Christ and receive salvation unto life.

5. Paul found joy and purpose in knowing something _____ awaits us! (V14-18)

- a. V14-15 – He was willing to suffer for others to be saved.

- i. We live in an entitled Christian world today and we take much for granted.
 - ii. We want all of God's blessings to be ours as we work without the suffering and scars.
 - iii. There are demands in ministry and marriage that require labor, blood, sweat, and tears.
- b. V16-17 Paul's view of ministry.
- i. Perishing on the outside – renewed within.
 - ii. Our light affliction – exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
- c. V18 – We look not to the temporal but the eternal.

Conclusion: Fulfilling faithfulness requires my focus to not be on myself and my temporal troubles and trials but on Him and His eternal plan. My present circumstance should not overshadow His eternal glory.

Family Faith-Building

Text – *Psalm 127:1-5*

- Introduction - 1. All of us realize that these are not the best times to be a parent. Our society is definitely not “family friendly.”
2. Marriage and parenting are two responsibilities that people take on with little or no training.

I. _____

1. Accepting your child is the foundation of a good relationship with your child.
2. When children sense acceptance for _____ they are, they feel secure.
3. The Scriptures teach us that every human being is a creation of God and should have a proper self-image.

II. **APPRECIATION**

1. With acceptance as the foundation of good parenting, appreciation is the _____.
2. Appreciate your child’s effort more than their accomplishment and appreciate their worth more than their effort.

III. _____

1. Acceptance and appreciation come alive through affection. Affection should be the atmosphere of our homes.
2. Children need to see their parents loving each other.
3. Give your child hugs and kisses and often say, "I love you!"

IV. **ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. Accountability gives a child a realization of self-control.
2. Accountability involves two factors:
 - (1) Submission
 - ↳ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
Ephesians 5:21
 - (2) Obedience
 - ↳ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
Ephesians 6:1

V. _____

1. When it comes to parental authority, there are several approaches used:
 - (1) Authoritarian
 - (2) Permissive
 - (3) Neglectful
 - (4) Authoritative
2. Authoritative parenting provides _____ for your children.
3. In authoritative parenting, there must be absolutes.
4. Remember that rules without relationship lead to rebellion; however, rules with relationship lead to _____.

Marriage: A Work in Progress The Codes of Intimacy

Text – *1 Corinthians 7:1-5*

1. Couples who plan to be intimate are happier and healthier than those who wait to feel like being intimate.
2. In real life, there is no _____ without conversation.

I. The _____ – vv. 1,2

1. The world's instruction about intimacy falls far short of what God has planned for your marriage.
2. God's design is for you to have your own spouse and to share physical intimacy as a result of your relationship.

II. THE DUTY – vs. 3

1. The word “render” speaks of the _____ and not just an option.
2. You should understand the importance of both frequency and fervency in your physical relationship.

III. The _____ – vs. 4

1. Selfishness is the great enemy of a happy marriage.
2. Each one of you must live for the other mate.

IV. THE DEFRAUDING – vs. 5

1. “Defraud” speaks of _____ your mate of the intimate relationship and it is most often carried out through deceit.
2. Suspending your intimacy is permitted when three conditions exist: consent, calendar and cause.

The warning is clear that temptation increases when you abstain unnecessarily.

Marriage: A Work in Progress The Foundation of Communication

Text – *Song of Solomon 1:1*

1. There are two types of silence in a marriage: the sweet one and the sour one.
2. God's will is for marriage to be a happy union and not a civil war.

I. Communicate with _____ - *Song of Solomon 1:9-11, 15,16.*

1. One of the greatest gifts you can give to your spouse is the gift of words.
2. Talking is only half of the process. You must also learn to _____.

II. Communicate with _____ – *Song of Solomon 2:10-13*

1. You must continue to invest your time in your relationship.
2. Be sure to carve out time daily, weekly and periodically.

III. Communicate with _____ - *Song of Solomon 2:6*

1. Be sure to hold one another and hug each other.
2. Touch is both a refresher and a _____ of just how precious your relationship is to each other.

IV. Communicate with _____ - *Song of Solomon 7:10-13*

1. It is amazing how just little thoughtful things can build your overall relationship.
2. Be sure to think of your mate's needs first.

Consistency in Marriage

Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10

Introduction: Consistency can be defined with the words; Flexibility, Stability, and Steadfastness (*Patience, Longsuffering*). In marriage this would be the ability to adapt to and overcome the challenges of human relationship by finishing our marital union together as one flesh! No marriage in the Bible faced greater disruption than that of Job and his wife. And we know from the last chapter of Job, he and his wife ended up twice as blessed in the end as they were when the trials began! Therefore, they must have known and employed some tools to keep it all together when their world was rocked by tragedy! We can use similar tools to help us navigate a successful course for our marriages today!

❖ Exercise _____ in your mind

↪ Life has a way of pushing us to _____ in our thinking.

- Elijah in one day went from the highest of highs (*1 Kings 18:37-46*).
- To the lowest of lows (*19:2*)
- NOTE: If he truly believed in God and his power, the fire falling should not have surprised him. And if he understood the enemy, neither should Jezebel's response!

↪ What does it mean to exercise restraint?

- In the best of times know that challenges are coming (*Job 1:5*)

- In the worst of times remember that God always has a purpose for our trials! (*Job 1:21-22*)
 - Correction (*Heb 12:6*)
 - Spiritual growth (*Rom 5:3-5*)
 - Preparation for ministry (*2 Cor 1:3-4*)
- NOTE: Moderation in everything...including moderation!

↪ Have a governor that keeps you from getting too high in good times and too low in bad times.

- ILL: During a Roman Triumph (a parade for a victorious General) they employed a slave to whisper that “all glory is fleeting”!
- Meaning, enjoy your day but remember we have to go to work tomorrow!

❖ Employ a _____ with your spouse

↪ Similar to the one that created this relationship!

- Caveat 1: If this relationship was started the right way!
 - Courtship (Involving: Prayer (seeking God’s will), Parents, and Pastor)
 - Respect for each other
 - Winning our spouses love (*1 Jn 4:19; Eph 5:25-29*)
- Caveat 2: If it wasn’t started the right way...!
 - Educate yourself in the right way!

- Start doing things according to the Bible!
- NOTE: Some marriages have broken up because one spouse wants to live Biblically because of a true conversion, and the other is just not ready to change!
 - ◆ Exercise patience!!
 - ◆ Tell them **why** and invite them on the journey!
 - ➔ No one likes feeling forced to do something!
 - ➔ You are the one who changed. Have patience with them just like God did with you!

↪ A husband or wife is not a _____ to be won!

- One that you hang can on a wall and remember as a past victory!
- But much like parenting our children, it should be a journey of relationship that changes over time as we mature!
- We should embrace those changes much like a proud parent who nurtures their child to future success!
 - Support their _____ faith.
 - Facilitate their _____ life skills (Cooking, carpentry, fishing and cross stitch).
 - ◆ Those that help us to minister to the coupling or partnership of marriage (Cooking and carpentry)

- ◆ Those that help us to develop as growing in our self-actualization (Continuing education, being in a community play)
- Encourage _____ that give joy to life (Fishing, Oil painting, Hiking, etc.)
 - ◆ This is a form of stress management.
 - ◆ Not everything has to be done together. It is ok to pursue individual interests.
 - ◆ All of these things give us joy with our children as we see them develop and grow as individuals. This then needs to be seen as vital for our spouse!

❖ Endeavor to _____ your course

↪ This should be your mindset from the beginning that you _____ !

- ILL: Mountain Hiking
- Success is a matter of the mind more than the body!

↪ Know that the struggle is something you are _____ !

- We criticize Job's wife forgetting she lost everything too!
- Marriage is a journey together!

↪ Remember it is the _____ that keep you together to the finish!

- Holding hands.
 - Ending every phone call and day with “I love you”!
 - Being there in times when you know you really can’t help.
- ↪ ILL: Striving for that last family picture (seven more sons and three more daughters)!
- ❖ Conclusion: Consistency may not seem all that exciting, but it is the best way to finish with joy!

Personal Finances

I. _____ - Defining the Terms

1. Financial Freedom

- ↳ Financial freedom is living by wise financial principles, while entrusting your total financial situation to the Lord.

2. Borrow

- ↳ The word “*borrow*” means to receive something with the expressed intention of returning the same item or something of equal value.

3. Lend

- ↳ Lending means to give out money for temporary use with certain conditions attached for its repayment.

4. Debt

- ↳ Debt is something that is owed; a liability or obligation to pay something.
- ↳ Debt exists when any of the following conditions are true:
 1. Payment is past due for money, goods, or services that have been purchased.
 2. The total value of your unsecured liabilities exceeds your total assets. In other words, if you had to cash out at any time, there would be a negative balance on your account.

3. Anxiety is produced over financial responsibilities and your families basic needs are not met because of past or present buying practices.

II. _____ - "Thus saith the Lord!"

1. The debtor is in servitude to the one who lends to him. *Proverbs 22:7*
2. It is sin to borrow and not to repay. *Psalms 37:21*
3. It's unwise to become surety for another person's loan. *Proverbs 17:18*
 - Can you recognize the symptoms of financial bondage?
4. Overdue bills - *Matthew 18:23-25*
5. Investment worries - "Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money)." *Matthew 6:24*
6. Get rich quick attitude - "A faithful man shall abound with blessings, but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent." *Proverbs 28:20*
7. No gainful employment - "If any would not work, neither should he eat." *II Thessalonians 3:10*
8. Deceitfulness - *Acts 5:1-4*
9. Greed - "For the love of money is the root of all evil." *I Timothy 6:10*
10. Covetousness - "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." *Luke 12:15*
11. Unmet family needs - "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those

of his own house, he hath denied the faith, & is worse than an infidel.”
1 Timothy 5:8

12. Over commitment to work

13. Money entanglements - Don't allow money to rule you. *Galatians 5:1*

III. _____ - “honor God” *Proverbs 3:9*

1. The Warning - *Malachi 3:8-12*

↪ The Problem (3:8) To “rob” God means to defraud, to take forcibly, or to cheat another of his property.

↪ The Penalty (3:9) The word “curse” has the idea of misfortune, evil, calamity, or trouble.

↪ The Promise (3:10) There was a personal initiative here (“ye”).

- Reception of Prosperity (v10)
- Removal of Pestilence (v11)
- Renewal of Productivity (v11)
- Restoration of Prominence (v12)

2. The Willingness - *II Corinthians 8:1-5*

↪ Give with Generosity (v2b, 3b)

- ⇒ Give with Gladness (v2a)
- ⇒ Give without Greed (v4)
- ⇒ Give with Gratitude (v5)

IV. _____ – Getting out of Debt – *Daniel 1:8-15*

1. Desire – (1:8)

- ⇒ Getting out of debt almost always require a change in lifestyle and a reordering of your priorities.

2. Determination (1:12)

- ⇒ Once you have stop charging, the hole you are in will not get deeper. The next challenge is to climb out of it.

3. Discipline (1:14)

- ⇒ You must learn to live on a budget, spending less that you earn.

4. Delight (1:15)

- ⇒ Doing things God's way brings contentment to our lives.

- ⇒ The key to financial freedom is to make the Lord to be Lord of your finances.

Fixing Fences

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Introduction - Fences mainly serve three main purposes:

1. To keep things in

and

2. To keep things out

and

3. To identify boundaries

↪ When you stood at the marriage altar on your wedding day, you made a covenant that drew a boundary around the two of you. A wall was built that is meant to protect you from attack and allow you to flourish within.

↪ Just as God drew a boundary to protect Adam and Eve, setting clear boundaries in marriage safeguards us from temptation and cultivates deeper intimacy and oneness on every level.

📖 *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

↪ We shouldn't be surprised then that Satan's very first attack on Adam and Eve came in the form of an all-out assault on the only boundary God had set – *Genesis 3:1*.

↪ Often Satan seeks to desensitize us to the harmfulness of impurity by taking us there one small boundary break at a time. The truth is that God's boundaries are evidence of His goodness and His desire to protect us from painful consequences.

- ↪ _____ **of boundaries:** In their book *Boundaries in Marriage*, Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend refer to boundaries as the "property lines" that define and protect husbands and wives as individuals within the marriage. Boundaries can also be defined as the limits that spouses agree upon to protect their marriage and to ward off the temptation of exploiting and manipulating each other.
- ↪ Every healthy relationship requires a set of do's and don'ts, and marriage is no exception. Amos 3:3 - Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

I. How to set marriage _____?

- A. Self-Evaluation.
- B. Communication.
- C. Stipulate the Consequences.
- D. Compromise.
- E. Adhere to the Boundaries.

II. Example of Marriage Boundaries

- ↪ My wife and I have come to see boundaries as some of our best friends – calling us to the highest expression of our love.

↳ Our boundaries include:

A. Not Even A Hint of _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

B. Communication About Everything

1. _____

2. _____

C. Sexual Intimacy

1. _____

2. _____

D. Reconciliation

✓ Note: You will have arguments and fights, which means you will need to reconcile

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

E. Integrity/Transparency

1. _____

2. _____

F. Time

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

H. Family and In-laws

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I. Sharing with Others About Your Relationship

1. _____
2. _____

J. Money management

1. _____
2. _____

Conclusion - Boundaries are essential in a marriage because they safeguard your marriage both from yourselves and outsiders. They ensure that each spouse's core needs and values are honored and met. Setting them, however, should not be a one-time event. They should be constantly evaluated and, where necessary, adjusted.

↳ Fixing fences is hard work, but oh so worth it.

The Winning Couple I Peter 3:7

Introduction

- ↪ It's fun to win!
- ↪ Winning can be realized when the proper standard is met.
- ↪ We must understand what winning is.
- ↪ We must make the decision to win.
- ↪ We must take action to win!

I. Winning Defined (Rev. 4:11) (We must understand what winning is.)

A. The Winning _____ (Eph. 1:11-12; I Cor. 10:31; Rev. 4:11; Phil. 2:9-11)

⇒ The winning person is one who glorifies God with their life.

📖 *Eph. 1:11-12 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*


📖 *I Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*


📖 *Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*


📖 *Phil. 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

B. The Winning Couple (I Pet. 3:7; Gen 2:24-25; Tit 2:3-5)

⇒ The winning couple is a couple that glorifies God with their marriage relationship.

 *1 Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

 *Gen 2:24-25 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

 *Tit 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*




⇒ The Path to Living United is best walked with two people with a heart to win. This path is a series of “simple” binary choices.

- Winning | Losing
- Male | Female
- _____ | _____
- _____ | _____
- _____ | _____







C. The Winning Family (Psalms 127:3; Mal 2:15; Exo 20:12; Eph 6:1-4)

⇒ The winning family is a family that glorifies God with their family relationships.

 *Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

-  *Mal 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.*
-  *Exo 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
-  *Eph 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

D. The Winning Church (Acts 18:26; Rom. 16:3-5a; I Cor. 16:19; II Tim. 4:19; Act 21:5)

- ⇒ The winning church is families in a church giving purpose to their family in order to glorify God through local church ministry.
 -  *Acts 18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*
 -  *Romans 16:3-5a Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house...*
 -  *I Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*
 -  *II Timothy 4:19 Salute Prisca [Priscilla] and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.*
 -  *Act 21:5 And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.*
- ⇒ God's plan works in the face of a world that _____ that it doesn't.
 -  *Mar 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*

II. Winning Decision (Mark 8:35) (We must make the decision to win.)

A. The Winning Indifference

⇒ You must care.

⇒ You must understand you can be the person God uses.

↳ You are the unique one that God made in time, eternity, and possibility!

📖 *1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

⇒ You make this decision as an individual, couple, and family.

⇒ To do nothing is doing something.

B. The Winning _____

📖 *Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

📖 *Ephesians 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

📖 *Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

C. The Winning Initiation

📖 *II Cor. 8:11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.*

III. Winning Done (I Cor. 16:13-20) (We must take action to win!)

A. Local Church Ministry is a Duty (v. 13)

- ⇒ Ministry is work!
- ⇒ Everything a church does has hours of preparation and hours of clean up.
- ⇒ Real local church ministry doesn't happen at public events.
 - ↳ Make sure you and your children experience this.
- ⇒ Minister with tough skin


B. Local Church Ministry is a _____ (v. 14)

- ⇒ In the toughness of ministry, we must love.
- ⇒ Don't let your work in the church hurt people.
- ⇒ The baseline for all ministry is loving God and loving others
 - 📖 *Mat. 22:37-40 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*
- ⇒ Love the people you go to church with rather than standing in judgement of them.
- ⇒ Do good to people rather than trying to look good
 - ↳ Contrast Aquila & Priscilla with Ananias & Sapphira
 - 📖 *Romans 16:3-5a Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house...*
 - 📖 *Act 5:1-2 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

C. Local Church Ministry is a Devotion (v. 15)

⇒ Our first fruits will produce the greatest devotion

⇒ The gospel is worth devotion!

 *II Corinthians 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

⇒ Think of the life altering impact of the Gospel Ministry!

D. Local Church Ministry is a Deference (v. 16)

⇒ Submission understands that God is in ultimate control.

 *Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

⇒ _____ to your _____ on _____ issues

⇒ When you work with people there will always be time to submit for the greater good and glory of God.

⇒ Serving in a local church will give you opportunities to know what it's like to work with you.

E. Local Church Ministry is a Dynasty (vs. 17-20)

⇒ It's awesome when a church works together!

⇒ Give your kids a good taste of church.


⇒ Church should be a refreshing venture for our kids and not an anchor.

⇒ Your home and the church are not at odds

Conclusion

⇒ God put you together to have a purpose to serve in a local church and to raise your children to become servants in the local church.

⇒ We must understand what winning is.

 *I Pet. 3:7c "...and as being heirs together of the grace of life"*

⇒ We must make the decision to win.

⇒ We must take action to win!

Planning My Walk of Faith

KNOW RECKON YIELD

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” Hebrews 4:2

🕯️ **Know** (Rom. 6:1-10)

What is true from God’s Word?

🕯️ **Reckon** (Rom. 6:11-12)

What is my plan to memorize & meditate on God’s Word?

🕯️ **Yield** (Rom. 6:13-20)

What is my plan to change my actions & attitudes?

WHAT CHANGES DO I NEED TO MAKE?...

In My Personal Life:

Planning My Walk of Faith

With My Love:

With My Children:

With My Church Family:

Count Your Blessings

Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Edwin O. Excell

1. When up - on life's bil - lows you are tem - pest - tossed,
2. Are you ev - er bur - dened with a load of care?
3. When you look at oth - ers with their lands and gold,
4. So a - mid the con - flict, wheth - er great or small,

When you are dis - cour - aged, think - ing all is lost,
Does the cross seem heav - y you are called to bear?
Think that Christ has prom - ised you His wealth un - told;
Do not be dis - cour - aged— God is o - ver all;

Count your man - y bless - ings— name them one by one,
Count your man - y bless - ings— ev - 'ry doubt will fly,
Count your man - y bless - ings— mon - ey can - not buy
Count your man - y bless - ings— an - gels will at - tend,

And it will sur - prise you what the Lord hath done.
And you will be sing - ing as the days go by.
Your re - ward in heav - en nor your home on high.
Help and com - fort give you to your jour - ney's end.

Count your bless - ings— name them one by one;
Count your man - y bless - ings— name them one by one;

Count your bless-ings— see what God hath done;
Count your man - y bless-ings— see what God hath done;

Count your bless-ings— name them one by one;
Count your man - y bless-ings—

Count your man - y bless-ings— see what God hath done.

CCL# 11398205

love 

Joy Unspeakable

B. E. Warren

B. E. Warren

1. I have found His grace is all com-plete, He sup-pli-eth
2. I have found the pleas-ure I once craved, It is joy and
3. I have found that hope so bright and clear, Liv-ing in the
4. I have found the joy no tongue can tell, How its waves of

ev-'ry need; While I sit and learn at Je-sus' feet,
peace with-in; What a won-drous bless-ing! I am saved
realm of grace; Oh, the Sav-ior's pres-ence is so near,
glo-ry roll! It is like a great o'er-flow-ing well,

I am free, yes, free in-deed.
From the aw-ful gulf of sin. It is joy un-speak-a-ble and
I can see His smil-ing face.
Spring-ing up with-in my soul.

full of glo-ry, Full of glo-ry, full of glo-ry, It is joy un-

speak-a-ble and full of glo-ry, Oh, the half has nev-er yet been told.

I Am Resolved

Palmer Hartsough

James H. Fillmore

1. I am re - solved no long - er to lin - ger, Charmed by the
2. I am re - solved to go to the Sav - ior, Leav - ing my
3. I am re - solved to fol - low the Sav - ior, Faith - ful and
4. I am re - solved to en - ter the king - dom, Leav - ing the
5. I am re - solved, and who will go with me? Come, friends, with-

world's de - light; Things that are high - er, things that are no - bler -
sin and strife; He is the true One, He is the just One -
true each day; Heed what He say - eth, do what He will - eth -
paths of sin; Friends may op - pose me, foes may be - set me,
out de - lay; Taught by the Bi - ble, led by the Spir - it,

These have al - lured my sight.
He hath the words of life. I will has - ten to Him,
He is the liv - ing way.
Still will I en - ter in. I will has - ten,
We'll walk the heav'n - ly way.

Has - ten so glad and free; Je - sus,
has - ten, glad and free; Je - sus, Je - sus,

great - est, high - est, I will come to Thee.

More About Jesus

Eliza E. Hewitt

John R. Sweney

1. More a - bout Je - sus would I know, More of His grace to
2. More a - bout Je - sus let me learn, More of His ho - ly
3. More a - bout Je - sus - in His Word Hold - ing com - mun - ion
4. More a - bout Je - sus on His throne, Rich - es in glo - ry

oth - ers show, More of His sav - ing full - ness see,
will dis - cern; Spir - it of God, my teach - er be,
with my Lord, Hear - ing His voice in ev - 'ry line,
all His own, More of His king - dom's sure in - crease,

More of His love who died for me.
Show - ing the things of Christ to me. More, more a - bout
Mak - ing each faith - ful say - ing mine.
More of His com - ing - Prince of Peace.

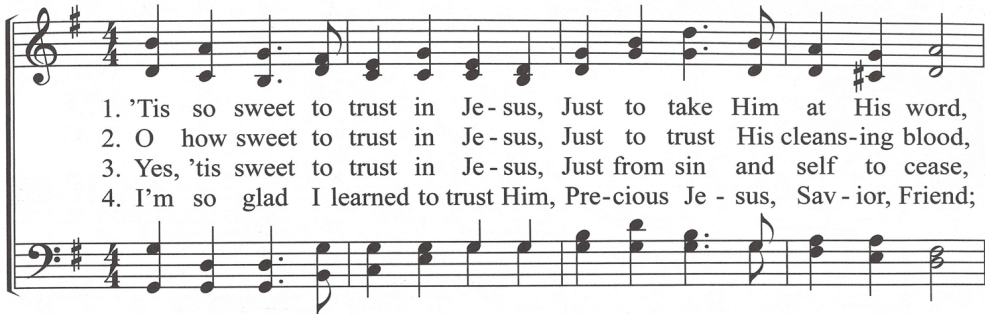
Je - sus, More, more a - bout Je - sus; More of His sav - ing

full - ness see, More of His love who died for me.

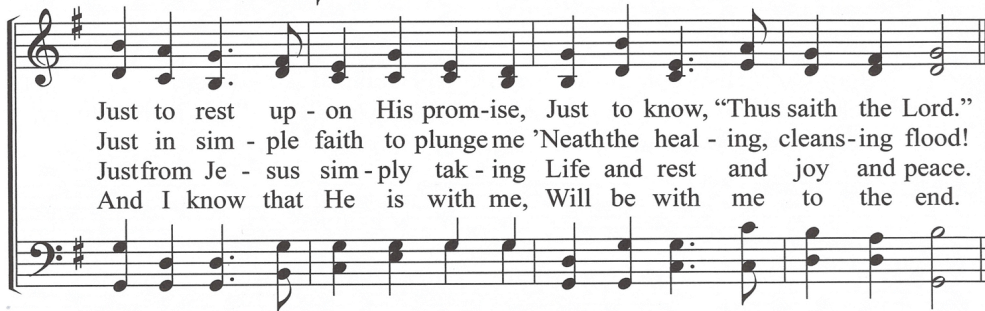
Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus

Louisa M. R. Stead

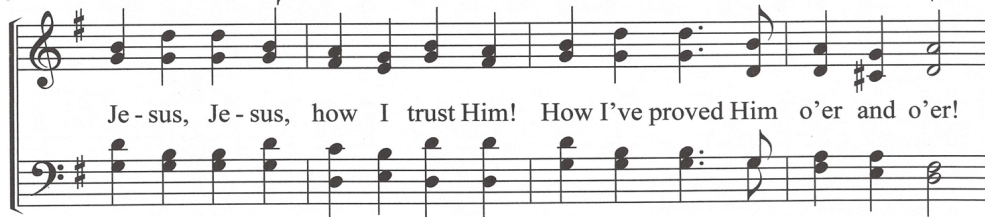
William J. Kirkpatrick



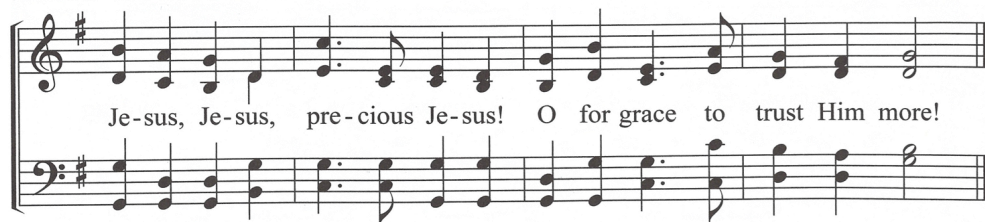
1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je-sus, Just to take Him at His word,
2. O how sweet to trust in Je-sus, Just to trust His cleans-ing blood,
3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je-sus, Just from sin and self to cease,
4. I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, Pre-cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend;



Just to rest up - on His prom-ise, Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
Just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'Neath the heal - ing, cleans-ing flood!
Just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing Life and rest and joy and peace.
And I know that He is with me, Will be with me to the end.

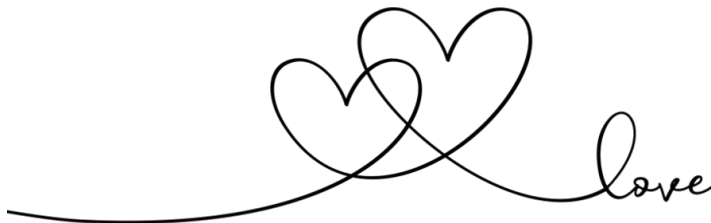


Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!



Je-sus, Je-sus, pre-cious Je-sus! O for grace to trust Him more!

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Sunshine In My Soul

Eliza E. Hewitt

John R. Sweney

1. There is sun - shine in my soul to-day, More glo - ri - ous and bright
2. There is mu - sic in my soul to-day, A car - ol to my King;
3. There is spring-time in my soul to-day, For when the Lord is near,
4. There is glad - ness in my soul to-day, And hope and praise and love

Than glows in an - y earth-ly sky, For Je - sus is my light.
And Je - sus, lis - ten-ing, can hear The songs I can - not sing.
The dove of peace sings in my heart, The flow'rs of grace ap - pear.
For bless - ings which He gives me now, For joys laid up a - bove.

O there's sun - shine, bless - ed sun - shine, When the peace - ful,

hap - py mo - ments roll; When Je - sus shows His

smil - ing face, There is sun - shine in my soul.

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Follow On

William O. Cushing

Robert Lowry

1. Down in the val-ley with my Sav-ior I would go, Where the flowers are
2. Down in the val-ley with my Sav-ior I would go, Where the storms are
3. Down in the val-ley or up - on the moun-tain steep, Close be - side my

bloom-ing and the sweet wa-ters flow; Ev - 'ry-where He leads me I would
sweep-ing and the dark wa-ters flow; With His hand to lead me I will
Sav - ior would my soul ev - er keep; He will lead me safe - ly in the

fol - low, fol - low on, Walk-ing in His foot-steps till the crown be won.
nev - er, nev - er fear, Dan - ger can - not fright me if my Lord is near.
path that He has trod, Up to where they gath - er on the hills of God.

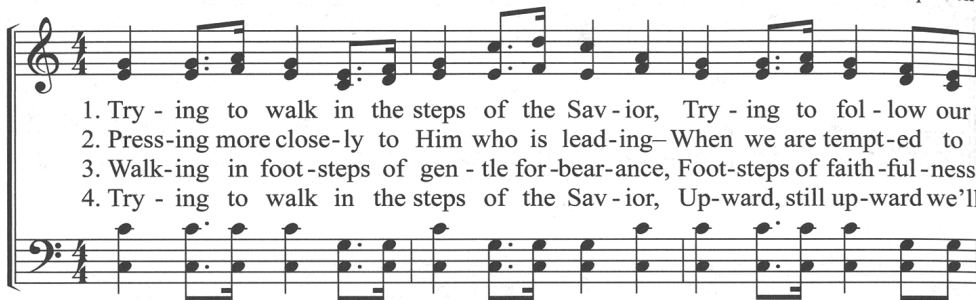
1.
Fol - low! fol - low! I would fol - low Je - sus! An - y - where, ev - 'ry - where,

2.
I would fol - low on! Ev - 'ry - where He leads me I would fol - low on!

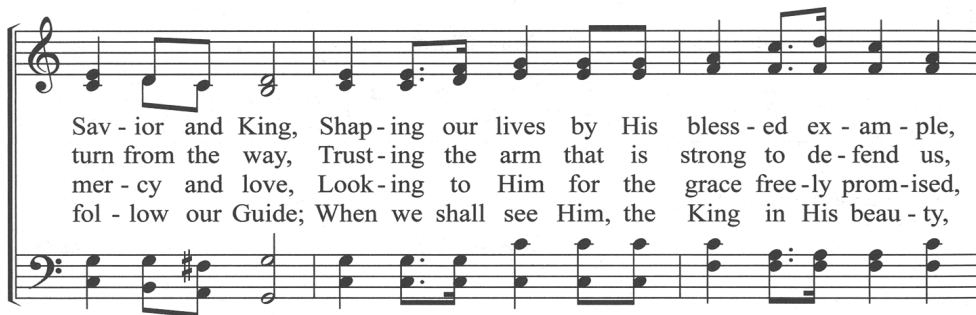
Stepping In The Light

Eliza E. Hewitt

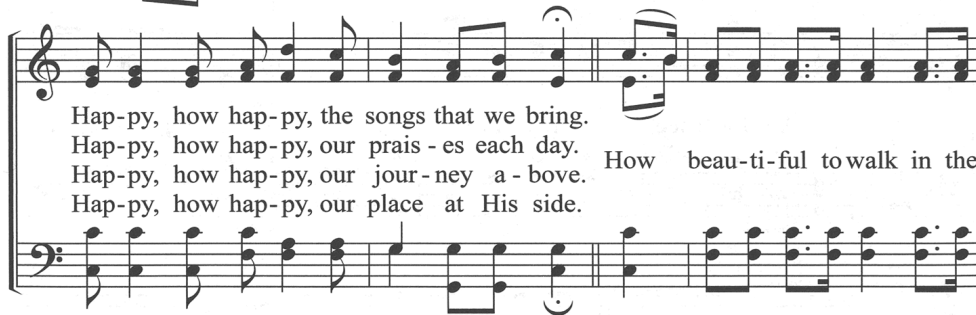
William J. Kirkpatrick



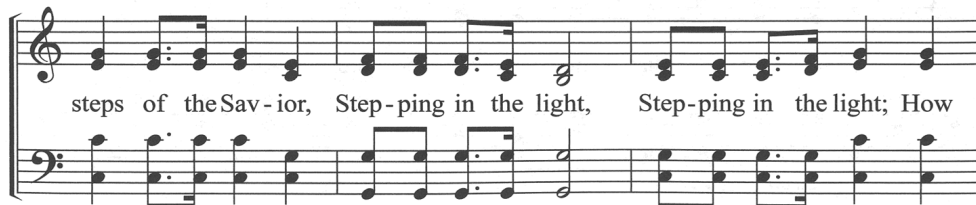
1. Try - ing to walk in the steps of the Sav - ior, Try - ing to fol - low our
2. Press - ing more close - ly to Him who is lead - ing - When we are tempt - ed to
3. Walk - ing in foot - steps of gen - tle for - bear - ance, Foot - steps of faith - ful - ness
4. Try - ing to walk in the steps of the Sav - ior, Up - ward, still up - ward we'll



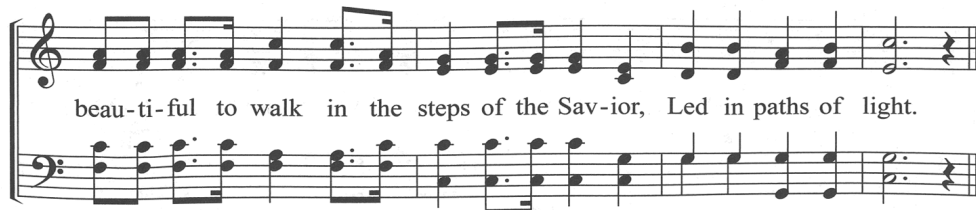
Sav - ior and King, Shap - ing our lives by His bless - ed ex - am - ple,
turn from the way, Trust - ing the arm that is strong to de - fend us,
mer - cy and love, Look - ing to Him for the grace free - ly prom - ised,
fol - low our Guide; When we shall see Him, the King in His beau - ty,



Hap - py, how hap - py, the songs that we bring.
Hap - py, how hap - py, our prais - es each day. How beau - ti - ful to walk in the
Hap - py, how hap - py, our jour - ney a - bove.
Hap - py, how hap - py, our place at His side.



steps of the Sav - ior, Step - ping in the light, Step - ping in the light; How



beau - ti - ful to walk in the steps of the Sav - ior, Led in paths of light.

CCL# 11398205

Jesus Loves Even Me

Philip P. Bliss

Philip P. Bliss

1. I am so glad that our Fa-ther in heav'n Tells of His love in the
2. Tho I for-get Him and wan-der a-way, Still He doth love me wher-
3. O if there's on - ly one song I can sing When in His beau - ty I

Book He has giv'n; Won-der - ful things in the Bi - ble I see -
ev - er I stray; Back to His dear lov - ing arms would I flee
see the great King, This shall my song in e - ter - ni - ty be;

This is the dear - est, that Je - sus loves me.
When I re - mem - ber that Je - sus loves me. I am so glad that
"O what a won - der that Je - sus loves me!"

Je - sus loves me, Je - sus loves me, Je - sus loves me;

I am so glad that Je - sus loves me, Je - sus loves e - ven me.

Cleanse Me

J. Edwin Orr

Maori Melody

1. Search me, O God, and know my heart to - day;
2. I praise Thee, Lord, for cleans-ing me from sin;
3. Lord, take my life and make it whol - ly Thine;
4. O Ho - ly Ghost, re - viv - al comes from Thee;

Try me, O Sav - ior, know my thoughts, I pray.
Ful - fill Thy Word and make me pure with - in.
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love di - vine.
Send a re - viv - al - start the work in me.

See if there be some wick - ed way in me;
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Take all my will, my pas - sion, self and pride;
Thy Word de - clares Thou wilt sup - ply our need;

Cleanse me from ev - 'ry sin and set me free.
Grant my de - sire to mag - ni - fy Thy name.
I now sur - ren - der, Lord - in me a - bide.
For bless - ings now, O Lord, I hum - bly plead.

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

Att. to an Indian prince

Folk melody from India

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
2. Tho no one join me, still I will fol - low,
3. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus,
Tho no one join me, still I will fol - low,
The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me,

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus—
Tho no one join me, still I will fol - low—
The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me—

No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back!
(No turn - ing back,)

The musical score is written in 2/2 time. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second and third systems provide a second and third vocal line respectively. The fourth system continues the vocal line with a dash at the end of the line. The fifth system concludes with the phrase 'No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back!' and a piano accompaniment line that includes a fermata over the final chord.

CCLI# 11398205

LIVING UNITED
Marriage Ministry

Thank You

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WE ASK THAT YOU WOULD KINDLY FILL OUT THIS RESPONSE CARD,
AND RETURN IT TO US AFTER THE LAST SESSION

What is your age group?

- 18-24 25-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

Gender? Male Female

Are you a Pastor? Yes No

What state do you live in?

- MO AR KS OK IA IL IN TX _____

Is this your first year attending the Retreat? Yes No

Lord willing, will you return next year? Yes No

What hotel did you stay in?

- Chateau on the Lake Hilton Westgate
 Radisson Own Lodging

How were your accommodations? Poor Average Good

How important are these:

Not Important.....Very Important

Classroom Set-Up (Tables & Chairs)	1	2	3	4	5
Snacks	1	2	3	4	5
Giveaways	1	2	3	4	5
Staying on site	1	2	3	4	5

What was the most helpful session to you? _____

What new sessions and new speakers would you like to hear in the future?

What was the highlight of the retreat for you? _____

How has God worked in your marriage this weekend?

Comments: (Help us make it better)

*Optional:
Name: _____
Church: _____

Building Materials - Pastor Rabon

1. Relational
- I. Goodness
 - ↳ Patience
- II.1. Forgiveness
- III. Godliness
- II.2. Godly

Fulfilling Faithfulness - Pastor Carter

1. Others
 - 1.a.i. Penalty
 - 1.a.ii. Power
 - 1.a.iii. Presence
 - 1.d. Choice
2. Faith
3. Servant
 - 3.a. Christ
 - 3.b. People
4. Sustained
5. Better

Family Faith-Building - Pastor Rabon

- I. Acceptance
- II.1. Cornerstone
- III. Affection
- V. Authority
 - V.2. Boundaries
 - V.4. Response

Codes of Intimacy - Pastor Rabon

2. Passion
 - I. Desire
 - II.1. Obligation
 - III. Deference
 - IV.1. Depriving

Foundation of Communication - Pastor Rabon

- I. Talk
 - I.2. Listen
- II. Time
- III. Touch
 - III.2. Reminder
- IV. Thoughtfulness

Faithful Family - Pastor Bradshaw

- ❖ Restraint
 - ↳ Extremes
- ❖ Strategy
 - ↳ Trophy
 - Developing
 - Accumulating
 - Activities
- ❖ Finish
 - ↳ Intend to finish
 - ↳ Both experiencing
 - ↳ Little things

Financial Freedom - Pastor Deardorff

- I. Principles
- II. Precepts
- III. Priority
- IV. Plan

Answers Page

Fixing Fences - Pastor Veazey

- ↳ Definition
- I. Boundaries
- II.A. Immorality

Winning Couple - Pastor Brudnak

- A. Person
- ⇒ Screams
- C. Importance
- B. Delight
- ↳ Submit / Pastor / Church



- I am a Pastor, interested in:
 - Coming to this retreat, and would like more information
 - Financially supporting this retreat

- I am a church member who has a desire to see that our church sends our Pastor
 - I have checked with my Pastor, and he doesn't mind you sending information directly to me.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Church Name: (include City & State) _____

2024 Couples Retreat

CHICAGO LAND

November 1-2, 2024

THE SHERATON
Lisle, Illinois



APPENDIX



TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

PHOTO CONTEST

Contest Closes @:

10pm Friday Evening

Win a



CATEGORIES

Romance

Humor

Creative



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GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOTS!

One photo entry per couple

Photo must be taken during your time at the retreat

Please include name of couple



Skit **Contest 2024**

Grand Prize

2 Free 2025 Retreats

&

Inclusion at the 2025 Retreat

- 1 entry per couple
- Skit must be in video form
- Must be submitted by February 1, 2025
- Include couple's name and church name

Please see website for full details: www.livingunited.com



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Sat & Sun 11 am-7:30 pm

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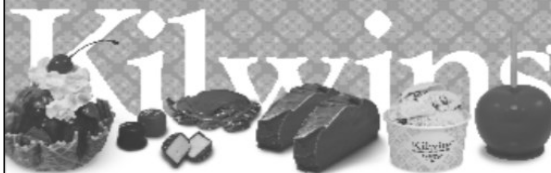
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Couples Inventory

Couples Inventory

Instructions

- This inventory is for the following purposes:
 - Evaluating where you are in your Spiritual Life
 - Evaluating where you are within your marriage
 - Creating a helpful dialogue with your spouse
 - Exposing areas of excuse
 - Opening your eyes to steps of faith you must take
 - Helping develop a plan to make tangible changes of faith actions
- This is not for any of these purposes:
 - Finding problems with my spouse
 - Creating a pile of guilt (rather start you on a path to take care of one thing at a time)
 - Being a complete “fix-all” to marriage problem (rather a tool to help you get started)
 - To be used to cause a fight (rather to create helpful conversation about where your marriage is)
- The framework of this inventory follows the core principles of Living United
- Commitment, Love, & Purpose
- Each inventory should be filled out by each individual separately. Once it is completely filled out, go over the results together.

Living – Evaluating my personal Spiritual Life (circle one or fill in the blank)

- I know I am a born again believer – yes – no – I’m not sure
- Where am I at Spiritually?
 - Personal time of Bible Reading - _____ x’s per month
 - Personal prayer - _____ x’s per month
 - Family Devotions – Together talking about spiritual things - _____ x’s per month

Couples Inventory

- Church Services - _____ x's per month
- Taking steps of faith - _____ x's per month
- Spiritual Inventory Number: Add the above numbers _____ (This does not determine one's spirituality but serves as a gauge of measurement.)
- What wrong/unbiblical thinking/beliefs about marriage have you brought into your marriage?
 - What model of being a husband/wife did you watch growing up?

 - What biblical command about marriage is easiest for you to follow?

 - What biblical command about marriage is hardest for you to follow?

 - Are there any areas of biblical teaching about marriage (i.e. something you've heard your pastor teach, or heard taught at a Living United Couples Retreat) that you disagree with?

United – Commitment

- What is your commitment level to your marriage – till death do us part – I'd leave if there was infidelity – If things get bad, I'm done – I'm considering leaving now – My marriage is almost over
- Does your spouse know your level of commitment? – yes – no
- If you are totally committed to your marriage you must be willing to get help if you are having consistent deep troubles. Are you willing to seek help with your marriage? – yes – no
- Do you believe you need outside help/counseling/coaching with your marriage? – yes – no – maybe

Couples Inventory

United – Love

- Where is your marriage? – great – good – fair – poor – bad
- Where am I at relationally?
 - How often do we fight? – often – sometimes – seldom – never
 - How often do I “lose it” with family? – often – sometimes – seldom – never
 - How often do we have a great day? – often – sometimes – seldom – never
 - How often do we have great conversations? – often – sometimes – seldom – never
 - How often do we have sex? – often – sometimes – seldom – never
- What emotions do I feel when my marriage is strong, fun, and right?

- What emotions do I have when my marriage is weak, fighting, and wrong?

- What is the best and worst part about my sex life?

- What is my communication sin? (circle all that apply) – yelling – clamming up – passive/ aggressive – aggressive – manipulation – accusing – jumping to conclusions – not listening
- Household sins
 - My manly/womanly duties around the house are taken care of – always – sometimes – seldom – never
 - If I get on my spouse’s nerves in this area it would be because – I’m overly a neat freak – I’m a total slob – I don’t get on their nerves because I have the right balance
- What financial sins do we have?
 - As a couple we – spend too much money – are too tight with our money – are just right with our money
 - My spouse – spends too much money – is too tight with money – is just right with our money

Couples Inventory

- Our overall financial picture is – crippling debt – manageable debt – no debt, but living paycheck to paycheck with no savings – no debt and also have savings (no debt does not include your house)
- Do we have a written budget? – yes – no
- What is the biggest way we waste money?

- What is the single biggest problem in your marriage?

- What would your spouse say is the single biggest problem in your marriage?

- Does your love look like God’s description? I Cor. 13:4-8 inventory 1-10 scale

- (Insert Your Name) suffereth [allows] long, (patient – doesn’t blow stack)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) is kind

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) envieth not

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) vaunteth not itself (brags about self)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) is not puffed up (arrogant)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) Doth not behave itself unseemly (rudely)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) seeketh not [their] own (looking out for self)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) is not easily provoked

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

- (Insert Your Name) thinketh no evil (keeps no accounts of evil)

1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

Couples Inventory

- (Insert Your Name) Rejoiceth not in iniquity
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10
- (Insert Your Name) rejoiceth in the truth
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10
- (Insert Your Name) beareth all things
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10
- (Insert Your Name) believeth all things
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10
- (Insert Your Name) hopeth all things
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10
- (Insert Your Name) endureth all things
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10
- (Insert Your Name) never faileth:
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10

United – Purpose

- If you have children, what are your goals for your children?

- Do you agree on how you discipline your children? – totally – mostly – sometimes – never
- What is your family Bible verse? _____
- What are your ministry goals for yourselves as a couple and for your family?

Work & Changes – What could you do to work on your marriage? (tangible and measurable changes)

- Go over each other's inventory and discuss your answers.
- If you have gotten to this point, and you consistently fight, it is a sign you have communication problems. Try to listen more than talk. When you talk make sure not to accuse your spouse. Don't use absolutes like never, always, every, etc. Remember, keep your focus on yourself and what you need to fix.

Couples Inventory

- What does your “Spiritual Inventory Number” (see above) say about your spiritual life?
 - How do you plan to change your schedule and routine to spend more time with God?

- What’s the number one way you have hurt your spouse? Get that right, right now!
- List the top two things you need to work on as an individual. (only two, no more and no less)

1. _____

2. _____

- What could you do to help your spouse make the changes they see they need to make?
- Write out what your spouse thinks you need to work on. Remember this is not what you think you need to work on, but what you think they think you need to work on. Do they agree?

- List the top two specific things you need to work on as a couple. (only two, no more and no less)

1. _____

2. _____

- End with a long (15 seconds or more) kiss!