

The background of the poster is a warm, sepia-toned photograph of a couple in a close embrace. A single stalk of wheat or grain is positioned diagonally across the upper left corner, adding a rustic and natural feel to the design.

marriage conference

OCTOBER 14-15, 2022



CANYON HILLS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

GREETINGS



Thanks for coming this weekend. Our consistent prayer for this weekend has been for you. We are praying this time will help with the growth of your marriage or future marriage.

Marriage is very important to God. Before God made the church, he gave us marriage as an example of how he wants relationship with us. Because of that, we want this weekend to be a

time where you can grow in your love for the Lord and for each other.

My hope for you this weekend is that you will be able to learn, laugh, and renew commitments you have made within your marriage or instill values for your future marriage. This should be a great weekend!

Praying for your marriages this year,

Pastor Steve Walker

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY NIGHT

- 6:30-7:30 Session 1
- 7:30-7:40 Break
- 7:40 – 8:30 Session 2

SATURDAY MORNING

- 9:00-9:20 Worship
- 9:20-10:10 Session 3
- 10:10-10:20 Break
- 10:20-11:10 Session 4
- 11:10-11:20 Break
- 11:20-11:30 Giveaways
- 11:30-12:00 Q&A with Rob and Stephanie
- 12:00 Dismiss (childcare done by 12:15)

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SPEAKER



ROB GREEN

- ▶ Pastor of Counseling and Seminary Ministries at Faith Church
- ▶ B.S. - Engineering Physics, Ohio State University
- ▶ M.Div. - Baptist Bible Seminary
- ▶ Ph.D. - New Testament, Baptist Bible Seminary
- ▶ Dr. Rob Green joined the Faith Church staff in August, 2005. Rob's responsibilities include oversight of the Faith Biblical Counseling Ministry and teaching New Testament at Faith Bible Seminary.
- ▶ He serves on the Council Board of the Biblical Counseling Coalition and as a fellow for the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors.
- ▶ Pastor Green has authored, co-authored, and contributed to 9 books/booklets including:

TYING THE KNOT: *A Premarital Guide to a Strong and Lasting Marriage*

CAN WE TALK?: *The Art of Relationship Building*

TYING THEIR SHOES: *A Christ-Centered Approach to Preparing for Parenting.*

A FATHER'S GUIDE TO RAISING BOYS

- ▶ Rob and his wife Stephanie have three children.

JESUS MUST BE THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE

KEY PRINCIPLE: All behavior flows from the heart

LUKE 6:43, *“For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit.”*

LUKE 6:44, *“For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. Luke 6:45 “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”*

In this first session, I would like us to think of three truths that can help us put Jesus at the center of our lives and thus, have a godly marriage.

I. To have a godly marriage you must love the Lord with everything you have.

MATTHEW 22:37-40, *“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’ ”*

Any divergence from loving Jesus most threatens not only your marriage, but all areas of your life.

What follows are four tests to determine your willingness to love the Lord first.

- 1. Your purpose in life is to glorify God.**
- 2. You have regular “come to Jesus” moments.**
- 3. You regularly reflect on the grace of God.**

4. Your passion for God will be greater than your passion for other things.

Marriage struggles, even if they seem small and unimportant, are circumstances that provide opportunities for the heart to be revealed. The circumstance may be small, but the heart realities are very significant because they show weaknesses in our relationship with Christ.

II. To have a godly marriage you must appreciate what the Lord has done for you

The Lord has done many things. For the purpose of this conference I will limit my comments to three of the things that the Lord has done for you.

1. *Jesus died for you*

ROMANS 5:8, “But God demonstrated his own love toward us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.”

MATTHEWS 27:46, “My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?”

2. *Jesus gave you a new identity*

Identity refers to how we think about ourselves. What do I believe is true of me?

Consider this picture of that identity:

- ▮ You are redeemed instead of being in the slave market of sin; (1 Peter 1:18)
- ▮ You are adopted instead of being an orphan; (Ephesians 1:5)
- ▮ You are friend instead of an enemy; (John 15:5)
- ▮ You are reconciled instead of separated; (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
- ▮ You are free instead of bound; (Galatians 5:13)
- ▮ You are prayed for instead of ignored; (Romans 8:26)
- ▮ You are in his presence instead of being alone; (Hebrews 13:6)

- ▶ You are loved instead of hated; (1 John 4:19)
- ▶ You are regenerated instead of dead; (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- ▶ You are rescued from wrath rather than being the recipient of it. (Romans 5:9)

The identity that Jesus gave us is not intended to make us proud, but to make us humble. It is intended for us to love him not take advantage of him. It is intended for us to set our affections on Christ rather than the pleasures of this world.

3. *In a godly marriage, each one believes that Jesus provides all the spiritual resources that you need so you can love, serve, and give*

ROMANS 8:31-35, “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?”

1. Christ provides all that you need.
2. Jesus’ opinion is the one that matters.
3. You are secure.

STEPS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Attending a conference does not automatically result in Christian growth. Christian growth requires change and commitment. Consider some of the following possible action steps you could take after the conference.

1. I commit to leading my family in daily prayer at meals and before bed.
2. I commit to leading my family to have a more active investment in our local church.
3. I commit to reading the New Testament by the end of the year.
4. I commit to thinking about God's glory and His will before I make decisions.
5. I commit to thinking about Christ in my daily activities (having "come to Jesus" moments) before I respond with worry, fear, or anger.

JESUS, IDOLATRY, AND THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART

We must face the reality that sometimes we want the wrong things and other times we want good things too much.

I. Our Desires motivate us to speak and act in certain ways

JAMES 4:1-2, “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.”

A. Desires partially explain how a Christian couple could spend time in harmful arguments

Common characteristics of those who argue often:

1. Their arguments often end about something other than what started the conversation.
2. They believe that their arguments are over small issues.

B. Desires partially explain how a Christian couple creates a culture of rivalry rather in their marriage.

1. They make judgments based on their own preferences
2. They do not appreciate the work, value, and efforts of the other person in the marriage.

To have a war with another person you must first have a war on the inside.

C. Desires lead us to very important decisions

JAMES 4:2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

DESIRES

→ Murder (cf. Matthew 5:21-22)

INABILITY TO FULFILL DESIRES

→ Fighting and Quarrelling

D. Two important questions for self-examination to determine a sinful desire

Am I willing to sin to get what I want?

Am I willing to sin when I cannot have what I want?

People who do not make the connection between their heart and actions (speech or otherwise) do not change.

II. Importance of Changing our Desires in order to change our marriage

Key text: EPHESIANS 4:17-24

A. Christians are expected to mature (v. 17-21)

The tragedy is sometimes we (Christians) want what unbelievers want --- greed, money, power, sex, etc. --- and forget how they are described.

B. Change begins with a change in the heart (v. 23)

C. Put off the old desires and habits and Put on the desires and habits pleasing to Christ (v. 22, 24)

STEPS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Attending a conference does not automatically result in Christian growth. Therefore, it is important that you think carefully about how each session should impact the way you live. The inventory that you just took may have pointed to weaknesses and struggles in your relationship with Jesus.

Please commit to two action steps for after the conference has concluded. Here are a few possibilities:

1. I commit to stop making excuses for my poor communication. I realize that I always communicate because I want something.
2. I commit to changing my attitudes toward the areas that you find irritating. I will humble myself and ask the Lord to help me think about those two areas differently.
3. I commit to teach each member of my family the importance of understanding how their desires explain their actions.
4. I commit to want to bring God glory in the way I speak and act.

HOMEWORK FOR FRIDAY EVENING

Questions from Session 1:

1. Explain to your spouse (again if necessary) how you were converted and what have been 5 of the most significant steps of Christian growth you have taken?
2. How often do you think about Christ before you make a decision, before you respond with anger, before you are discouraged, or when you are tempted to worry (these moments require “come to Jesus” moments to handle well)?
3. How often do you pray and read your Bible? Do you believe that the Lord is satisfied with your commitment to prayer and to His Word? Why or why not?
4. Do you think about how you and your marriage gives glory to God by the way you spend time together, the way you parent together, the way you serve one another?

5. Do you, husband, lead your wife to pray? Do you encourage her to look to Jesus for her joy and satisfaction? Do you help her see that her relationship with Jesus is what helps her have a better relationship with you?

Questions from Session 2:

6. What are the two most common subjects that you as a couple argue about most frequently? What are the reasons?
7. What are two things that you do that irritate your spouse? Should you consider changing in those areas?
8. After reading James 4:1-2 and Psalm 115, what must you do with the sinful desires (or ruling desires) of your heart? What will happen if you choose to continue in your idolatry?
9. What is preventing you from repenting to the Lord and one another?

JESUS AND THE SKILLS OF GODLY ENCOURAGEMENT

I. Be Honest (v. 25)

EPHESIANS 4:25, “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.”

- A. We must put off falsehood
- B. We must speak the truth
 - 1. Because problems cannot be solved unless they are expressed.
 - 2. Because people cannot read your minds - 1 Corinthians 2:11.
- C. We must speak the truth because we are members of one another.
- D. We must speak truth in the context of love

EPHESIANS 4:15, but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

II. Keep Current

EPHESIANS 4:26-27, “BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

- A. Use anger to solve today's problems today
- B. Do not make excuses for failing to communicate

MATTHEW 6:34 “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

- C. Questions to ask before bringing up a problem.
 - 1. Do I have the facts right?
PROVERBS 18:13, “He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.”

2. Should love hide it? Is it sinful? Is it hindering growth?
1 PETER 4:8, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins."
3. Is my timing right?
PROVERBS 15:23, "A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!"
4. Is my attitude right? Am I trying to help the other person?
EPHESIANS 4:15, "...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,"
5. Are my words loving?
EPHESIANS 4:15, "...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,"
6. Have I prayed for God's help?
PROVERBS 3:5, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding."

III. Be Encouraging

EPHESIANS 4:29-30, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

A. Avoid "unwholesome words" that attack the person.

1. Words that attack person's character
MATTHEW 5:21-22, "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell."

2. Words that tear down, rip apart or hinder growth.
JAMES 3:5-6, "So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell."
3. Words that confuse the discussion or by-pass the conflict.
4. Words that grieve the Holy Spirit.
EPHESIANS 4:30, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

B. Use "edifying" words that encourage others and build them up.

1. Our words are supposed to encourage growth.

I think it is easy to identify at least three types of encouraging words:

- ▮ Words of affirmation
- ▮ Words of affection
- ▮ Words of security

2. Our words are supposed to fit the need.
3. The result of this type of communication is a benefit (grace) to those who hear .

IV. Be Kind and Forgiving

EPHESIANS 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

- A. We must guard against sinful reactions in our hearts and our actions.
- B. We must guard against our natural tendency to be defensive about dealing with our own sins.

SESSION THREE NOTES

C. We must seek to apply Godly Actions and attitudes.

D. We are motivated by God's forgiveness of us (v. 32).

HOMEWORK FOR SESSION 3

1. What gifts, skills, and abilities does your spouse have for which you are most thankful?
2. How has your spouse loved you during your time in marriage?
3. Take time to communicate these areas of appreciation to your spouse.
4. Ask each other the following 5 questions:
 - a. What interests do you have that you would like me to support?
 - b. What are two ways that I could regularly encourage you?
 - c. What goals do you have for our future together?
 - d. What concerns you the most about our relationship?
 - e. What is one thing that we could do together that you would enjoy and that would strengthen our relationship?

STEPS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. Put Ephesians 4:29 on an index card and review it 5 times each day for the next 3 weeks.
2. After you finish #4 above, please commit to making two changes as a result of the information you learn.
3. Commit to asking one another the questions in #4 above once every three months for the next year.

JESUS AND THE SKILLS OF LEARNING TO LOVE

I. A 360 degree view of Love

- A. God's love for you (1 John 4)
- B. God's call to love (Matthew 22:37-40)
- C. The significance of love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
- D. Our desire for and struggle against self-love

II. The Portrait of Biblical Love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

- A. Patient
- B. Kind
- C. Not Jealous
- D. Does not Brag and is not Arrogant
- E. Not Rude
- F. Not Self-serving
- G. Not easily Provoked
- H. Does not hold grudges
- I. Is not glad about injustice but rejoices in the truth
- J. Bears all things
- K. Believes all things
- L. Hopes all things
- M. Endures all things

III. The Call to Depend on Jesus to love like this (John 15)

HOMEWORK FOR SESSION 4

1. Thank the Lord for his abundant love for you. You can express your thanks for the gift of his son as well as the many gifts the Lord has given (e.g., your spouse)
2. Thank your spouse for the ways that he or she has been a reflection of this type of sacrificial love.
3. Ask the Lord to help you identify the two characteristics of love that you struggle the most to apply.
4. Commit to working on one of the two characteristics you identified in #3 above.

STEPS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Please consider two action steps that you are going to take. Here are several possibilities.

1. Make a set of index cards from this conference that could serve as key memory verses for you over the next few months.
2. Make a list of your commitments.
3. Communicate your commitments to a friend who would be willing to ask you about them at least one time per month over the next three months.

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This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal grey lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook or school paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines, text, or other markings on the page.



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