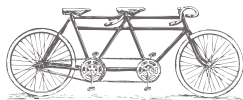


FROM THIS DAY
FORWARD

MARRIAGE SUNDAY
with Dr. Danny Akin

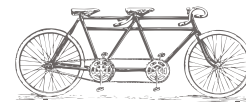
PARTICIPANT GUIDE



FROM THIS DAY
FORWARD

MARRIAGE SUNDAY

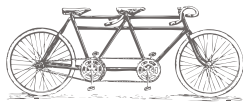
SUNDAY, MARCH 4
with Dr. Danny Akin



SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOUNDATION
for MARRIAGE

SUNDAY, MARCH 4



*“But seek first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness, and all these
things will be added to you.”*

MATTHEW 6:33

Q

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
BELIEVING THE BIBLE IS TRUE AND
BELIEVING IT IS SUFFICIENT?

Matthew 6:33 speaks to the fact that a person’s walk with Christ as a believer is the foundation for life, and therefore also marriage. As husbands and wives, when we are seeking to follow Christ, everything else falls into place.

READ - MATTHEW 7:24-27

This passage does teach us to build our marriages on the foundation of God’s Word, but it also exposes the flaws when we have built our marriages on something other than God’s truths. Ephesians 4:14–15 says, “So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” All of us face storms and difficult times in our marriage...that’s life. The question is...how has your marriage handled those difficult days? Has your marriage grown stronger through each

of those storms or has your relationship begun to falter? If your marriage has taken a step backwards during those times, then it's time to ask yourself...what is the foundation of your marriage?

Q

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FALSE "EXPECTATION" THAT THE WORLD PLACES ON MARRIAGE?

REPAIRING THE FOUNDATION

Q

IN WHAT WAYS IS THIS STATEMENT TRUE: "FOR ANY MARRIAGE TO HAVE A 'MAKEOVER' THERE MUST BE A SPIRITUAL MAKEOVER FIRST?"

Next week we will look at Ephesians 5:21–33, which will speak to the biblical roles in marriage for both husbands and wives. The role for a husband is to love, serve, and lead. The biblical role for the wife is to help, respect, and submit. Many husbands and wives are waiting for their spouse to make changes before they are willing to do anything different themselves. Before these roles of the husband and the wife can be filled, their individual walks with the Lord should be in a good place.

Q

DO YOU BELIEVE WE TEND TO JUDGE OTHERS BY THEIR ACTIONS AND OURSELVES BY OUR INTENTIONS?

Q

THINK OF A TIME YOU WERE IN "BLAME MODE" AND HOW DID THAT WORK OUT?

WHAT WOULD BE A BETTER WAY OF ADDRESSING ISSUES IN A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP INSTEAD OF BLAMING YOUR SPOUSE?

Struggling marriages are often locked in "blame mode." As a woman considers her marriage and family her thoughts may go something like this, "If my husband would just show me more affection, be less harsh with the kids, realize that his work schedule is killing the family, and lead the family devotions then everything around here would change." His thoughts move in the same directions, "If my wife would stop being so anxious about everything, have a positive attitude, stop treating me like a child, and quit being reckless with our money then everything around here would change." There are two reasons why "blame mode" is easy to get into and hard to leave. Just as with our first parents Adam and Eve, our sinful nature always wants to blame others for the problems and suffering in our life. Second, the list of concerns that you have about your spouse is probably totally legitimate. If your spouse did make these changes your family would change dramatically.

But here is the problem. When both of you are in blame mode, your marriage won't change.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Scriptures that speak to our Marriages

This is why all scripture is able to speak into marriages. Here are some examples of how Scripture leads us to a fulfilling marriage:

1. LOVE

When we speak of love, we are not talking about the kind of love portrayed in Hollywood. Movies and television depict love as nothing more than a sexual desire. While the sexual relationship within the context of marriage is very important (1 Corinthians 7:1-5), we are talking of a commitment that flows from a deeper, more spiritual kind of love (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

2. LOYALTY

Ephesians 5:31 speaks of the truth of “leaving and cleaving.” This is a relationship that is so strong that it changes all other relationships. It is the idea of two things being bonded together in such a way that they cannot be torn apart. It is a bond so strong and deep that you cannot tell where one begins and the other ends. This loyalty is defined in 1 Cor. 13:7.

3. ATTITUDE & PERSPECTIVE

Your attitude is one of your most valuable assets! The Stanford Research Institute reports that only 12.5% of success in life is determined by knowledge, the other 87.5% is determined by attitude. More than skill, knowledge, or aptitude, our attitude dictates our success in life. Chuck Swindoll said, “I believe the single most difficult decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. The attitude I choose keeps me going or cripples my progress. When my attitudes are right, there is no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme.”

Galatians 5:22–23 teaches us, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Q

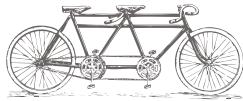
WHY DOES MARRIAGE REQUIRE
CONSTANT EFFORT (WORK) TO KEEP
IT STRONG?

SUNDAY MORNING
MESSAGE

WHEN A MAN
LOVES
A WOMAN

*How to Be the Husband
God Meant You to Be*

DR. DANNY AKIN



NOTES

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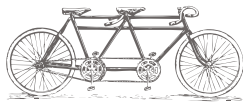
NOTES

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARRIAGE
ROLES

SUNDAY, MARCH 11



READ EPHESIANS 5:22-33

Last week we spent time talking about the foundation of marriage. Our individual walks with the Lord and reliance on the Holy Spirit in our lives is truly the foundation for our marriages. Marriage takes effort; we must be constantly working on building our marriages. If a relationship with the Lord is our foundation, then His Word is the blueprint that we use to build our marriages.

Ephesians 5:22–33 gives us a clear plan for roles as husbands and wives. Without a blueprint, our marriages lack direction and purpose for our lives and the lives of generations to come. As you journey through marriage together, grow in your love for each other to experience life fully, and to truly become one.

*“It is not good that the man should be alone,
I will make him a helper fit for him.”*

GENESIS 2:18

GOD’S CALL TO HUSBANDS

Love, Serve, Lead

1. LOVE

**READ EPHESIANS 5:25-27,
MATTHEW 19:4, 1PETER 3:7**



WHY DO YOU THINK THE WORLD’S
DEFINITION AND GOD’S DEFINITION
OF LOVE ARE SO DIFFERENT?

2. SERVE

**READ EPHESIANS 5:25-26,
MATTHEW 20:28**

Let's look at how the husband is to serve. The husband is to serve his wife as Christ served the church. Christ was a servant. He built up the church. He showed passion and compassion for the church. He taught the church and pursued the church. He prayed for the church. He was patient and forgiving with the church. Christ saw needs both spiritual and physical and he provided. He lived by example for the church. He protected the church. He gave His all and even died for the church.

Side Note: To Dads with Daughters: Do you stress about the man your daughter might marry? Well, the biggest thing you can probably do to ensure she marries a man of integrity is to be that man yourself. Set the standard. How blessed would our kids be if they saw us treat our marriage as an incredible gift and priority?

Q

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DOES BEHAVIOR DRIVE OUR FEELINGS OR DO FEELINGS DRIVE OUR BEHAVIOR?

3. LEAD

**READ EPHESIANS 5:25-27,
EPHESIANS 6:12**

There is a spiritual battle going on, Satan knows the power of a man leading his family in the things of God – it is what shapes our homes, churches, nation, and world.

Q

WIVES, HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT YOUR HUSBANDS ARE UNDER SPIRITUAL ATTACK WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR CALLING TO BE THE SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF THE FAMILY?

HOW WOULD REMEMBERING THIS CHANGE YOUR APPROACH IN REGARD TO HOW YOU ENCOURAGE HIM TO ENGAGE SPIRITUALLY AT THE HOME?

GOD'S CALL TO WIVES

Help, Respect, Submit

1. HELP

READ GENESIS 2:18-22

Q

WIVES, WHAT IS YOUR FIRST RESPONSE WHEN YOU HEAR THIS GOD-GIVEN JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A WIFE TO BE A HELPER FIT FOR YOUR HUSBAND?

HOW HAS CULTURE IMPACTED YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN WIFE?

“To call a woman a helper is not to emphasize her weakness, but her strength. Not to label her as superfluous but as essential to Adam's condition and to God's purpose in the world. Helper is a position of dignity given to the woman by God Himself.”

Some women might find it offensive to be identified as their husbands' "helpers," but the title is not a criticism of Eve's insufficiency. Instead, it is an identification of Adam's inadequacy!

2. RESPECT

**READ EPHESIANS 5:33,
PROVERBS 31:25-26**

Respect to a husband is as important as love is to a wife. You might say that the way a husband interprets love from his wife is seen through the lens of how much he believes she respects him.

A wife's words of encouragement, "cuts," praise, criticism, attitudes, and counsel are the largest influence in a man's life. It not only affects how the world sees your husband, it affects how he sees himself. The home can either be a place where he can recharge and gain strength to face the world or it can be a place where he is told all of his shortcomings. Which encourages him more toward being a godly man in today's world? God has designed your husband's heart to respond to your respect.

Q

WIVES HOW CAN YOU VOICE
CONCERNS ABOUT THINGS IN
YOUR FAMILY'S LIFE AND STILL BE
RESPECTFUL?

HUSBANDS, WHAT SPIRIT SHOULD
YOU RECEIVE INPUT ABOUT FAMILY
MATTERS FROM YOUR WIFE?

3. SUBMIT

READ EPHESIANS 5:21-33

Jesus himself bound himself with a towel and got down on the floor and washed his disciple's feet, but not for one minute did any of the apostles in that room doubt who the leader was in that moment. In other words, mutuality of submission and servanthood does not cancel out the reality of leadership and headship. Servanthood does not nullify leadership; it defines it. Jesus does not cease to be the Lion of Judah when he becomes the lamblike servant of the church.

Therefore, headship is not a right to control, abuse, or neglect. Rather, it is the responsibility to love like Christ in leading, protecting and providing for our wives and families. Submission is not slavery, coercion or cowering. That's not the way Christ wants the church to respond to his leadership, protection, and provision. He wants the submission of the church to be empowered, willing, grateful, hopeful, and strengthened.

BUILT 4:2
MARRIAGE GROW CLASS

BEGINS MARCH 14

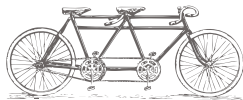
4-WEEK GROW CLASS AT 6:00
ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
(will not meet spring break)

COST: \$15
(covers the cost of Couple Check Up)

Continue the momentum from this Sunday by investing in your marriage in our Built 4:2 Grow Class. This class will utilize resources like ***Couple Checkup*** to help you strengthen your marriage.

WHAT IS COUPLE CHECKUP?

Couple Checkup is an online assessment tool, which will help you discover your strengths as a couple. Strengths are what enable you to enjoy and continue developing a healthy relationship. It will also help you identify issues that are threatening to the vitality of your relationship and may need to be addressed.





I M M A N U E L
B A P T I S T C H U R C H