

BRENT & AMY DEFFENBACHER  
"I LOVE YOU MORE"

# MARRIAGE MATTERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20



## 5 Commitments to Safely Guard Your Marriage

### SEEK God.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **Matthew 22:37-39**

- **GOD IS YOUR ONE AND YOUR SPOUSE IS YOUR TWO.**

**PRAY EVERY DAY.** <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14**

**WORSHIP EVERY WEEKEND.** <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

### FIGHT Fair.

Everyone should be **quick to listen, slow to speak** and **slow to become angry**, <sup>20</sup> for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. **James 1:19-20**

- **STOP TO LISTEN CAREFULLY.**
- **GUARD YOUR WORDS FAITHFULLY.**
- **HANDLE YOUR ANGER RIGHTEOUSLY.**

### **AVOID: Criticizing, Contempt, Defensiveness & Stonewalling**

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:21**

### Talk It Over

Do you typically fight fair or unfair?

Which of the three rules do you practice and which do you not? Explain.

### HAVE Fun.

Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love... **Ecclesiastes 9:9**

- **FACE TO FACE.** Song of Solomon 7:1-4
- **SIDE BY SIDE.** Song of Solomon 7:11
- **BODY TO BODY.** Song of Solomon 7:11-12

## Talk It Over

Share a fun experience you've had with your spouse.

What's something fun you could plan to do this week that your spouse would enjoy?

## STAY Pure.

*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. **Hebrews 13:4***

- **OUTWARD PURITY: THE BEHAVIOR.**  
Ephesians 5:3, Proverbs 5:8, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
- **INWARD PURITY: THE HEART.**  
Psalm 119:9-11, Matthew 5:28

## COMMON RESPONSES: Defensiveness, Remorse & Repentance

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. **2 Corinthians 7:10***

## Talk It Over

What outward or inward changes do you need to make to ensure you live a life of purity?

## NEVER Give Up.

*Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." **Matthew 19:6***

- **MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT NOT A CONTRACT.**  
Contracts are based in Distrust. Covenants are based in Commitment.

*God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **Galatians 6:7-9***

- **SOWING AND REAPING IN A MARRIAGE.**  
You Reap WHAT & WHERE you Sow.

## Talk It Over

What and where are you sowing right now?

What type of harvest do you ultimately want your marriage to reap?

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