

What did you Expect ? Redeeming the realities of Marriage Paul David Tripp

Introduction

1 What Did You Expect ?

Using the Bible Biblically

Please don't Mess This Up

Between the Already and the Not Yet

Prepared Spontaneity

You can Expect the Expected

1) You are Conducting Your Marriage in a Fallen World

2) You Are a Sinner Married to a Sinner

3) God Is Faithful, Powerful, and Willing

2 Reason to Continue

[Several stories]

Not the Way it was Meant to Be

Rooted in Worship

**What does a Marriage Rooted in the Worship of God look like ?
(MLUU : marriage of love, unity and understanding)**

1) A MLUU will flow out of a daily worship of God as creator

2) A MLUU will flow out of a daily worship of God as sovereign

3) A MLUU will flow out of a daily worship of God as Savior

Reason to Continue

3 Whose Kingdom ?

[Gwen and Barry's story]

A Deeper Battle

Attraction or Love ?

The Cart before the Horse ?

4 Day by Day

[in the Forrest Theatre]

Brick by Brick

**Reconciliation as a lifestyle : What does this Mean ?
2 Corinthiens 5.14-21**

Marital Reconciliation as a Way of Thinking

1) You must live in your marriage with a harvest mentality

2) You must live in your marriage with an investment mentality

3) You must live in your marriage with a grace mentality

Daily Commitments of a Reconciliation Lifestyle

**1) We will give ourselves to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness.
We will come clean and deal honestly with our sin, weakness, and failure.**

2) We will make growth and change our agenda

3) We will work together to build a sturdy bond of trust

4) We will commit to building a relationship of love

5) We will deal with our differences with appreciation and grace

6) We will work to protect our marriage

A Better Way

COMMITMENT 1

We will give ourselves to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness

5 Coming Clean : Confession

[Never clean reflexion]

The Grace of Confession

- 1) It is a grace to know right from wrong
- 2) It is a grace to understand the concept of indwelling sin
- 3) It is a grace to have a properly functioning conscience
- 4) It is only grace that protects us from self-righteousness
- 5) It is a grace to see ourselves with accuracy
- 6) It is a grace to be willing to listen and consider criticism and rebuke
- 7) It is a grace not to be paralysed by regret
- 8) It is a grace to know that we can face our wrongs because Christ has carried our guilt and shame

The Daily Habits of a Confession Lifestyle

- 1) We will be lovingly honest
- 2) We will be humble when exposed
- 3) We will not excuse
- 4) We will be quick to admit wrongs
- 5) We will listen and examine
- 6) We will greet confession with encouragement
- 7) We will be patient, persevering, and gentle in the face of wrong
- 8) We will not return to the past

9) We will put our hope in Christ

6 Canceling Depts

[Story facing financial difficulties]

"I don't Think I will ever Be Able to Forgive Him"

[Sally and Jeb story]

The Harvest of Unforgiveness

1) Immaturity and Failure

2) Falling into Comfortable Patterns

3) Establishing Defenses

4) Nurturing Dislike

5) Becoming Overwhelmed

6) Envy of Other Couples

7) Fantasies of Escape

The Why don't People Just Forgive ?

1) Dept is power

2) Dept is identity

3) Dept is entitlement

4) Dept is weaponry

5) Dept puts us in God's position

What is Forgiveness ?

When is Forgiveness Needed ?

What Forgiveness Requires and Returns

Humility

Compassion

Trust

Self-control

Sacrifice

Remembering

A Better Harvest

COMMITMENT 2

We will make growth and change our daily agenda

7 Pulling Weeds

Welcome to my Weed Garden

Jeremiah and Your Marriage
Jer 1:10

Selfishness

Busyness

Inattention

Self-righteousness

Fear

Laziness

8 Planting Seeds

**The Weeds and Seeds
Gal 5:13-26**

The Common Thread

Planting Seeds

Attention : Help Needed

Planting good Seeds Requires Help

**Able to Get Unstuck
[Jodie and Wesley's story]**

COMMITMENT 3

We will work together to build a sturdy bond of trust

9 Sticking Out Your Neck

[Crista and Will's story]

A Trust Questionnaire

No Escaping the Need for Trust

**Where the Rubber Meets the Road
(with 22 questions)**

Restoring Grace

10 Someone to Be Trusted

Trust : Marriage's Construction Project

Play It Straight

Be Good for Your Word

Face Up to Your Wrongs

Watch Out for the Other Person

Keep Short Accounts

Remember Tat Trust Is War

Trust : Homeland Security

Trust : Restoring What's Broken

1) Admit Your Need

2) Get Help

3) Don't Give Up

4) Stick Your Neck Out

5) Get Back Up Again

6) Remember Jesus

COMMITMENT 4

We will commit to building a relationship of love

11 All You Need Is Love

Where is Love ?

[Love drought]

[Disunity]

[Misunderstanding]

[Separation]

[Physical dysfunction]

[Conflict]

Watch Out for Faux Love

A Love Story

[Chris and Sarah's story]

12 Ready, Willing, and Waiting

[Ted and Katie's story]

What is the World is Love Anyway ?

Love is willing...

... self sacrifice ...

... for the good fo another ...

... that does not require reciprocation ...

... or thet the person being loved is deserving.

**Marital Love in Action
(with 23 Love is ...)**

COMMITMENT 5

We will deal with our differences with appreciation and grace

13 Amazing Grace

[Tripp's marriage story]

The Artist of Your Marriage

[What to do with the Differences]

[Celebrate your Creator]

[Refuse to see the differences as right or wrong]

[Determine to respond to your differences with appreciation and respect]

[Learn where your differences create difficulty and call yourself to unification work]

[Admit where these differences challenge you to grow]

Planned Struggle

- 1) God is in absolute control of the detail of your lives**
- 2) He has a purpose for the situations and locations in which he places us**
- 3) Marriage is one of God's primary tools of personal change and growth**
- 4) Three main tools of difference are used to reveal and change our hearts**
- 5) Change begins when we see these differences as grace rather than obstructions of grace**
- 6) God is with you in your struggle**

Dealing with Difference : A Beginning

14 Before Dark

[John and Jackie's story]

Dealing with Reality

- 1) Face reality**
- 2) Deal honestly with your anger**
- 3) Communicate in ways that are wholesome**
- 4) Run to your resources**
- 5) Resist the lies of the enemy**

6) Create something new

7) Humbly admit your ongoing struggle

COMMITMENT 6

We will work to protect our marriage

15 Eyes Wide Open

[Beth and Eric's story]

Lifetime Warranty

Where things Often Go Wrong

What it Looks like to Coast

1) **Visual Lethargy**

2) **Habit Inconsistency**

3) **Laziness**

4) **Impatience**

5) **Responding in Discouragement**

6) **Dining with the Enemy**

Restoring Grace

16 On Your Knees

What Marriage is Meant to Do

The Transforming Power of Prayer

When did We Quit Noticing ?

**The Power and Protection of Marital Prayer
(6 parts of Lord's Prayer applied to the couple)**

Still in the Battle, Still Recognizing Need

17 Worship, Work, and Grace

[Personal testimony worship in marriage]

**Your Marriage and Worship
[When your life is shaped by the worship of God , ...]**

[you live with his plans and purposes in view]

[you live thankfully]

[you don't shrink your world down to the size of your wants, needs, and feelings]

[you don't try to do his job]

[you want to give to others the same grace you have received]

[people and things are in their right place]

[you celebrate his work in your spouse]

[you don't live in fear]

Worship and Work

Driven to Grace