

# THE MISSIONAL MARRIAGE STUDY

## Session #13: Teamwork in Marriage

*"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together, they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A torn of three strands is not quickly torn apart."*  
*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

### Conceptual Ideas to Convey:

- ❖ God's desire for a husband and wife is that they be "one." This is a theme all throughout the bible (as evidenced in the Trinity, Israel, the Church body, Elders, etc...)- and if marriage is to be a healthy picture of the Christ & His church, then it is absolutely vital that a husband and wife learn to come together as a team of one- not a household of individuals.
- ❖ Although a married couple does not compete for a prize against other couples, in many ways a husband and wife constitute a team that battles against forces that tear at their marriage.
- ❖ To build a winning team in marriage and better accomplish the spiritual mission of marriage, a husband and wife must hold to a few key foundational convictions. Without these biblical principles they will not operate well as a team and will grow isolated in both their relationship and from one another- as well as from their mission.

### Foundational Convictions Essential to Building a Marital Team:

1. **Loving Your Spouse as Christ Loves You**
  - a. Matthew 22:34-40; John 13:34-35; 15:12-13; Romans 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians. 13:1-3; 1 John 4:10-12
2. **Having a Shared Theological Purpose for Your Lives**
  - a. Genesis 1:128; Joshua 24:14-15; Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33; Ephesians 5:15-17; Matthew 18:19-20
3. **Setting Goals "Together"**
4. **Committing to Serve Others Rather Than Yourself**
  - a. Mark 10:45; John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:1-8
5. **Communicating Well / Dealing with Issues**
  - a. Colossians 3:12-17
6. **Fulfilling Your God-Appointed Roles & Responsibilities in Marriage** (and Responding to One Another in Ways that will help each other fulfill those Roles & Responsibilities)
  - a. 1 Peter 3:1-7; Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 12:12-26; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33; Genesis 2:18-22; Proverbs 31:10-31; Titus 2:3-5; Colossians 3:18-19
7. **Allowing the holy Spirit to Equip you (by Yielding to Him- not to Sin!)**
  - a. John 14:15-26; Romans 6:12-14, 8:5-8, 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-18

### Questions for Dialogue:

- If you were to compare marriage to a team sport, what sport would you choose and why?
- What elements are necessary to create a winning team in sports like baseball, basketball, football, and soccer?
- Why do teams with outstanding players sometimes lose to teams whose individual players have lower levels of athletic skill?
- What are some typical challenges couples face in marriage that requires teamwork?
- What are one or two things that typically happen in your marriage when you don't work together as a team?
- Why is it harder to accomplish the mission God has called our marriages to, if only one of the spouses is pulling the spiritual weight?
- What role does "individualism" play in hindering a marriage from God's purposes? What can individualism look like in your own marriage?
- What can teamwork look like in your Ministry together? Your home? Job? Social life? Etc...?
- How can differences be a "good" thing for you and your marriage?
- Explain the difference between "unity" and "uniformity" – and how that can play out in your marriage...

## Homework:

Take some time with your spouse this week and assess your marriage based on the idea of "teamwork." How are you doing? Which areas of your marriage are y'all struggling to unify on? What's keeping you from reaching your full potential? What's going to have to change (starting with YOU) in order for y'all to start functioning more as Allies instead of Axis'? Make it absolutely clear ("together" with your spouse) what y'all are committing to in order to improve your teamwork.

Finally, spend some time discussing with one-another all the ways in which you are better together WITH your spouse than you were WITHOUT them... Pray and thank God for these things- and ask for God's help to die to self and shore up the weaker areas of your marriage, so that you and your spouse might be more unified for the sake of the Gospel- as well as for the health of your marriage and family!