

1 **CHAPTER 12**

HEALING THE ROOM OF MARRIAGE

2 **Assessing the Room of Marriage**

- ⊙ Marriage holds the most significant connection and intimacy style, as well as the deepest expression of the heart of God
- ⊙ The covenant aspect of marriage is unique – the merging meant to take place is not designed for separation.
- ⊙ Severing a covenant is equivalent to severing to physical bodies – it will have devastating and deep consequence
- ⊙ While we may not have had positive marital experiences past or present, we need to learn to honor the purposes and design of marriage before we can seek redemptive resources. The healing will require forgiveness and grief at some point.

3 **Love**

- ⊙ The priority and purpose of marriage is established on authentic, unconditional. Love not based on outward appearance, status, performance, etc – but established by the love of God working it's way through
- ⊙ This presence of love, not lust will set the foundation for the connection of bonding and intimacy, or the eventual formation of an unhealthy soul tie
- ⊙ Assessing the standing of our own marriage is important as to understand later how to address the needs – past or current.

4 **Singleness of heart**

- ⊙ God has a holy jealousy for first place in our heart – this is a place reserved for Him that no-one, even our spouses are allowed to compete with. Jesus is our husband, when we don't honor that marriage, we betray and deeply hurt him.
- ⊙ Marriage is meant to mimic this singleness of heart in our earthly relationships and activities (not take God's place)
- ⊙ Anytime the marriage is assaulted by an outside priority or affection assuming that first place, devastating results occur. Intimacy will be lost, and distance will be established. Betrayal will be felt, and problems will emerge.

5 **Becoming holy**

- ⊙ God's goal in our lives is to separate us from sin, brokenness and strongholds, and align us with His power, grace and wholeness.
- ⊙ Holiness is the necessary ingredient in weaving and merging the hearts of two people together through marriage. In fact, if two hearts are brought together in any other context, it won't be true intimacy but the unhealthy enmeshment of codependence, need, control or lust.
- ⊙ All those ingredients will lead to bondage (soul ties) and eventually will cause separation. But if the flow of holiness connects two people together, it contains the resources of God.

6 **Reality of Unholiness**

- ⊙ Marriage is like a mirror to deal with impurities. When we face those impurities in our lives and in our spouses, we must learn that we can't combat dysfunction in our spouse with shame, but must use the spiritual tools He provides us – intercession, prayer, love, grace, forgiveness and healthy boundaries.
- ⊙ Our spouse's spiritual condition will determine how they reciprocate – but we'll have to develop a new system, and leave the old one behind ("new wine in new wineskin").
- ⊙ Change won't happen through any means other than God's intervention. We can bring Him

authoritatively in the room to overcome the negative, and assert His purposes and heart into the situation.

7 **Grace**

- ⊙ We can oftentimes marry a person with an ideal, and when they don't measure up to it, we orchestrate methods where they can return to the "approved status". This is a SHAME-BASED system and cannot produce the genuine fruit of love and intimacy.
- ⊙ Therefore, the focus of grace isn't on what we do or don't right, it's on the reality that we can't do everything right and therefore need a Savior to "fill in the gaps." So when our spouse fails, rather than point out and condemn them (in words or in our heart), we prepare our hearts to offer grace to cover that issue.
- ⊙ We don't have to allow bad behaviors, but we do need our main viewpoint and objective to be redemption – not punishment

8 **Grace**

- ⊙ In restoring marriages, God won't repair them religiously by giving us "to do" lists any more than He would repair our relationship with Him in that manner. Instead, He teaches us the most beautiful "dance" of intimacy we can experience – the constant exchange of our failure for His grace.
- ⊙ The dance of intimacy in marriage involves humble admission, repentance, offering forgiveness and receiving forgiveness by grace (we'll address this shortly). It furthermore request two people who choose to participate.
- ⊙ As a marriage becomes more and more dominated by grace, the marriage grows in its purpose. Two people who see each other through the eyes and perspective of Jesus Christ can create and live His love story.

9 **Trust**

- ⊙ The bedrock of our relationship with God lies in our ability to trust Him. Trusting God will determine whether or not we'll move towards Him and access His promises and principles, or we'll move away from Him and turn to self-survival mechanisms.
- ⊙ In marriage, trust is also the essential ingredient necessary to bring two partners together. By developing a bond of trust, we have the ability to believe that our spouse is who they say they are, and hold in their hearts a desire to honor and respect us.
- ⊙ Trust is so essential in forming intimacy that the moment something occurs in the marriage that causes trust to be lost, intimacy and connection is instantly broken.
- ⊙ While forgiveness and reconciliation can always offer trust another second chance, trust takes time and needs to be earned.