

1 **A HOUSE THAT GRACE BUILT**

Chapter 7: The Sacred Rooms of Family Intimacy

2 **MARRIAGE & INTIMACY**

- There is no space deeper in our Inner Court than that reserved for a marriage spouse.
- In fact, all other relationships in our lifetime are meant to support this one relationship.
- The Bible commands that we “leave and cleave” as we move from parental dependence into the marriage relationship.
- This essentially supports the notion that we detach from parental authority and attach to a deep, lifelong commitment to our marriage partner.

3 **MARRIAGE & INTIMACY**

- For those of us that get married, whatever we bring with us at the point of entering into a marriage relationship will determine it’s end result.
- Healthy dating versus soul tie
- It’s possible to enter into marriage with no form of healthy bond in place
- This doesn’t mean God can’t restore, but we need to understand the foundation that is in place initially will affect the interactions and intimacy style in marriage.
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4 **MENTAL INTIMACY**

- Sharing, communicating and honestly speaking to each other is an important aspect of marriage
- The moment we become dishonest, or use our words to harm each other, intimacy is breached
- Mental manipulation occurs when speak indirectly and “around things”
- Healthy mental intimacy occurs when we state our need plainly and share goals and plans openly.

5 **INTIMACY IN OUR WILL**

- Giving up our personal preferences and desires to love our spouse is an act of intimacy of the will.
- If we give up our ability to make choices to please, control, fix or accommodate our spouse, that is no longer submission but enmeshment and codependency.
- When abuse occurs, the will gets shattered, and sometimes hindered from any sense of personal rights, thus the relationship can take on “slavery” form
- God’s love is always based on honor and respect, thus the marriage was designed to operate the same way.

6 **SEXUAL INTIMACY**

- Sex is a gift to the marriage relationship – a beautiful portrayal of spiritual intimacy
- But even more amazing, physical intimacy produces human life. God is actually the giver of life, so this displays the reality of the life of Jesus Christ more than any other functions of our humanity.
- God desires and honors sexual relationships and created them to be pleasurable.

7 **SEXUAL INTIMACY**

- Sexuality is where we get most broken. If we brought sexual issues into our marriage, it will deeply affect our marriage
- We bring sexual soul ties into our marriage – essentially housing another person in a union that requires singleness of heart
- If partners have sexual issues, it will deeply damage the relationship – including outside affairs, pornography, and abstaining the marriage relationship
- Sexually void relationship is the pathway of unfaithfulness – although it’s never excusable.
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8 **INFIDELITY**

- Infidelity is a horrifying and obstructive act to the sacred marital relationship
- We bring a third party into our marriage – thus break the very purpose of marriage
- Sexual relations are of the most painful degree, but we can have emotional affairs that can be just as damaging

- Most all infidelity has other roots attached – the relationship contained intimacy problems prior to the straying.
- Healing is possible – we will address this in Chapter 12
- Remember, that God describes His spiritual relationship as that of adultery – therefore we can relate His pure desire for our hearts in the same context as marital unfaithfulness – and even more so because God is holy.

9 **EMOTIONAL INTIMACY**

- The marriage was created for an emotional connection.
- Emotions are meant to be experienced and shared, not forced, controlled or repressed. If emotions aren't handled properly, other coping mechanisms will transpire
- Emotionally void marriages create an environment of separation, emptiness and the vulnerability of outside intrusion
- Just as sexual unfaithfulness can occur, emotional affairs can also happen in the marriage relationships. This occurs when we get our emotional needs met through an outside person at the level that the marriage relationship was meant to function.

10 **BEING SINGLE**

- Singleness is a gift
- Some people God created to remain or be single, others He is preparing for marriage
- The benefit of singlehood is a complete intimacy and affection for God with nothing in this earth interfering.
- The disadvantage is the experience of loneliness. We need to pray and ask God for wisdom in His plan for us – to give us grace to be single or to prepare our heart for healthy marriage
- Being single in recovery has tremendous value and opportunity – we should embrace it.

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