

## 1 A HOUSE THAT GRACE BUILT

### Chapter 12: Cleaning the Room of Marriage

## 2 PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

- Honor is a system that needs to initiate our viewpoint of marriage
- The merging of body, soul and spirit
- A representation of God's marriage to us – covenant
- The reason for the pain is the depths of its design
- Unique characteristics in marriage that stake out its design as separate.
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## 3 FEATURES OF MARRIAGE

- Love initiates actions- the redemptive nature of God
- Singleness of heart – purity of the exclusive nature of marriage and jealousy with any competition
- The quest for holiness, spiritual growth comes from an awareness of our sinful strongholds and character defects – this is marriage's primary purpose.
- The beautiful dance of grace – forgiveness, acceptance and honor is what crowns marriage
- When any of these break down – devastating consequences
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## 4 MARRIAGE

- Marriages of the past – require intense healing. There are wounds associated with any failed marriage – and they house messages and injuries.
- Marriage of the present – with spouse
- Marriage of the present – without spouse
- Single hood – God's design

## 5 CLEANING THE ROOM OF MARRIAGE

Applying Redemption:

- Our part – what we must between ourselves and the Lord
- “Us” part – how the relationship can be healed and brought to wholeness.
- What is redemption? Nothing broken, nothing missing. It is a state of

completion. We can be complete with or without the participation of the spouse. Why? Grace is what accomplishes wholeness.

## 6 **FACING TRUTH**

- The motion of truth finding is always the most important component.
- Finding what's broken allows God to begin the process of healing. The purpose of this is sift and sort and sort through the room, and find what condition truly existed now or in the past if applicable.
- Individual – asking the questions and getting honest with yourself to heal before the Lord.
- Together – the act of being vulnerable towards each other. Learning how to authentically share. This can occur only when both people have experienced healing, and grace and forgiveness is present.
- Example of truth-telling exercise is found in the workbook
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## 7 **VULNERABILITY**

- All intimacy is gained with the Lord through the pathway of vulnerability, thus that same principle will apply in marriage by default. Vulnerability is the pathway of intimacy (I see into you).
- Vulnerability isn't possible if a spouse will use that information to hurt us. We must know how to assert and understand that reality.
- However, self-protection is the biggest threat of marriage. There is a major difference between loving with boundaries and self protection.

## 8 **CONTROL**

- Control will be another major threat to the ability for a marriage to be healthy and whole.
- When marriage is imbalanced or broken, the biggest need is to stop controlling through personal strategies, and allow God's provision to fill the room.
- Learning God's gift of choice will teach us as a spouse to understand how to respect that same gift He's given to others.
- Submission will not simply occur by having to accept the others behaviors as okay, but to submit to God first.

## 9 **DETACH IN LOVE**

- Detaching may have different levels and different needs depending

on the nature of the situation

- Marriages that are toxic may require a full season of detachment that will come with some difficult and painful choices.
- Detaching allows us to cut ourselves out as separate people in our relationship to God and to our spouses.
- It is not meant to be permanent separation or departure of the relationship.
- If unhealthy soul tie exists, it's the dismantling of that and the system that it representing.
- Detachment can happen in both healthy and unhealthy marriages for separate purposes.

#### 10 **INTERCEDE**

- Praying for our spouse will house the loving and intentional decision to bring God's point of view into the situation
- Praying for our spouse will shape our own heart
- Intercession is sometimes where God performs the deep work that is necessary in a season of difficulty.

#### 11 **CLEAN**

- We must be willing to first own our faults, failures and sin before the Lord, utilizing His blood as the cleansing agent.
- We must be willing to see, perceive, understand, connect and eventually be willing to forgive our spouse – past or present.
- Judgment has power – the way we judged we are judged. The standard we use will be used against us. This can be positive when we learn to give grace.
- Bringing our spouse into your own Holiest of Holies is a spiritual act of trusting God more than your own efforts to fix or change him or her.
- Cleansing must take place with or without them. The principles of Chapter 9 must be applied in this area.
- Reconciliation in a marriage is a spiritual transaction. Some marriages will require cleansing without reconciliation, and thus living with deficiencies in that marriage room.
- If or when reconciliation takes place, it involves a brand new process, new skills and a new language. In most every way, that couple will start over again.

## 12 **GRIEVE**

- Grief is the continual method by which our brokenness gets healed, or unmet needs can be held by God, and we can successfully release.
- Grief validates pain, but it is meant to be an act of worship to bring healing, where in that pain we are willing to see God's redemptive purposes
- Grieving happens with the Lord, but can also be a shared experience in the marital relationship on the basis of different issues.
- Grief sharing in marriage is a special gift that brings sweet intimacy and closeness in the marriage relationship. Nothing brings intimacy like bearing witness of pain.

## 13 **PAINFUL DIVORCE**

- Relationships of the past must still be healed because they deposited all sort of messages and residue that can continue to affect and damage current relationships.
- Divorce must be seen as a loss, and grieved as a loss. Though the person may not be “precious” in our hearts, the institution of marriage was, thus the sabotage of it was very profound.
- Divorce require deep healing. It will require grieving in the same manner as death, but the hurt can be even worse because it contains a willful decision, where death does not.

## 14 **WORD TO SINGLES**

- You are His beloved
- You are His treasure
- You have no competition – your marriage to Jesus is exclusive
- Still, if marriage is in the future, the more you embrace the way Jesus loves, the more moved you will be to only allow someone who will treat you in the same manner.
- DON'T SETTLE!