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Pastor Dennis Rouse  
December 5 & 6, 2008

## **WE** **“What It Takes to Make a Marriage Work”**

**Genesis 2:18 & 21-25 NKJ**

*18 And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”*

*21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

### **Qualities of a Healthy Marriage**

1. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ more than you \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the key features of marriage is to teach us to move from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 20:35 b NKJ**

*And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

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2. You can't take \_\_\_\_\_ too \_\_\_\_\_.

**Proverbs 17:22 NKJ**

*22 A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.*

**Proverbs 17:22 Message**

*22 A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.*

3. Learn to \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ levels.

**5 Levels of Communication**

1. Cliché – “How are you doing?”
2. Factual – “It’s going to be cold today.”
3. Opinions – “Are you really going to wear that?”
4. Emotions – How we feel about something.
5. Transparent – openness-honesty-vulnerability

**Ephesians 4:29 & 31-32 NKJ**

*29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

*31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Work on staying \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is at the core of every failed relationship.

**Proverbs 16:18 Message**

*18 First pride, then the crash—  
the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.*

**1 Peter 5:5 b NKJ**

*“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

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5. Make a \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is not an \_\_\_\_\_!

**Matthew 19:3-6 NKJ**

*3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?”*

*4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’*

*5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one*

*flesh’ 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

**Malachi 2:16 Message**

*16 “I hate divorce,” says the God of Israel. God-of-the-Angel-Armies says, “I hate the violent dismembering of the ‘one flesh’ of marriage.” So watch yourselves. Don’t let your guard down. Don’t cheat.*