

Marriage

Talk #11

Scripture Ref: 1 Peter 3:1-9, Gen 2:24

Speaker & Length Adult Couple, 30 Minutes + 30 Minute Q&A

Progression We are all called to live a life of holiness as we go forth as God's people. This talk establishes marriage as one way to live a holy life as two people enter into a covenant relationship with each other.

Purpose Christian marriage is a covenant relationship between equals. This union is likened to that of Christ and the Church. Because Christ compares the relationship between the Church and Himself to the relationship between a husband and a wife, it is important that the same sacrificial love that exists between Christ and His Church is emphasized in the marriage relationship. Furthermore, that quality of love is only possible when both partners are committed to Christ and place Him in the center of their marriage. Difficulties as well as joys should be shared. That the love relationship is based on scripture should be clearly shown and this should be supported in the witness of the speakers.

Introduction

This is not an outline for your talk but should be used to stimulate your thoughts. The outline is meant to guide your thinking toward the major points of interest for the youth as they begin to consider marriage. The talk should be realistic, but with the hope that your honesty will aid them in making the decisions that they must make.

You should feel free to share differing points of view about the same experience, but also show a willingness to accept and live with the differences.

Explain that you are sharing your marriage to help them think through some of the issues and to see how you two have lived the covenant that you made at your marriage ceremony.

I. Marriage

Christian Marriage is a covenant relationship between equals, which combines the personal, the social, and the sacred. The union is likened to that of Christ with the Church. Because Christ compares the relationship between the Church and Himself to the relationship between a husband and a wife, it is important that the same sacrificial love that exists between Christ and His Church is emphasized in the marriage relationship.

A. Marriage may not be for everyone. A single life is just as valid (more about this in a

later talk).

1. Marriage is only one way of living a meaningful life. Point out that if they should get married, they are called to live their lives together as one. Gen 2:24
- B. Why get married?
 1. Sex drive, fear, desire to please. Social formality or a choice of will, an act of freedom.
 2. Because you really love someone and feel a commitment to them.
 3. The answer - marriage was established and ordained by God for the welfare and personal fulfillment of man and for the increase of the human race. Gen 1:28, 2:18

II. Share about the time before your marriage

This is where most of the youth on the weekend are now.

- A. Tell some about your dating (before you met your spouse). What were your thoughts? Did you think, "This is the one"?
- B. Share your dreams and expectations about a future mate. Were your expectations too high or too low at first?
- C. What part did your faith play in your decision? Were you guided by your faith?
- D. Share about your decision to marry and your plans for marriage.

III. Share from your experiences about the marriage day and the period just after your marriage.

- A. What were your feelings before, during, and after the marriage ceremony? Did you have doubts?
- B. What did you learn about each other? Were you surprised about things the other did or said? Did you have a difficult time adjusting to your new spouse?

IV. Share about what your marriage is really like

It is particularly important and helpful that you show how each of you responded differently to the same event. Share how your faith has enhanced your married life and how your fellowship has grown with one another and Christ through these experiences.

- A. How have you responded when the other was up or down? How has marriage strengthened you as a person?
- B. Share how you have worked to strengthen your relationship with your spouse. How have you nurtured one another? Share some of the times when you felt that the grace of God was evident in your marriage.
- C. Describe the impact of the following and the adjustments the two of you had to make:
 1. Having Children
 2. Moving
 3. Changes in husband's career
 4. Wife choosing a career outside the home
 5. Income or unemployment
 6. Illness or death in the family
 7. Divorce (if any in the family)

8. Any other topics you want to discuss
- V. Share your dreams and plans for the future in your marriage.**
Have your dreams, goals, plans changed from your early days of marriage?
- VI. Conclude your sharing time with a few remarks you would like to make about the attitudes one should have when preparing for marriage.**
- VII. Finally, open up a question and answer period.**
Remember, don't try to give expert answers to the questions, but just share according to what you have experienced in your marriage.