

# Fireproofing Your Marriage

Handout - Answers

10/08/08

Fireproof doesn't mean that fire will never come, but when it comes that you will be able to withstand it. What makes a marriage withstand the fire? What makes a marriage more resistant to the challenges that life throws their way?

How do we Fireproof our marriages? We Fireproof our marriages in the following Ways...

## 1 - By Learning to Communicate Through our Differences

### A. Men and Women are different.

Gen 1:27

*And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

### B. There is a communication gap that must be crossed.

Eph 5:19

*Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.*

#### ? Men, can you speak the language of Love?

Pro 15:1

*A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

#### ? Women, can you speak the language of Respect?

Eph 4:29

*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

## 2 – By Focusing On Changing Ourselves.

Luk 6:41-42

*41 And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.*

### A. Resist the urge to point fingers at one another.

Jas 1:19

*This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;*

### B. Find and correct your own flaws, so you will become more like Christ.

1Pe 3:1-9

*1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.*

## 3 - By Learning to Love God first.

1Jn 4:7-19

*7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of*

God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us.

**A. God provides us with the help of the Holy Spirit.**

**Rom 5:5**

*And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

**B. God provides us with an example to follow and a secure future.**

**Joh 3:16**

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

**4 – By Understanding that our Marriage is a Covenant.**

**Mat 19:5-6**

*5 And said, `FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? 6 "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."*

**A. Your marriage covenant is worth the effort.**

**Ecc 4:9**

*Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.*

**B. Your marriage covenant is not just about you and your spouse.**

**Ecc 5:4-5**

*4 When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it, for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! 5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.*

**Small Group Questions:**

1. What stood out to you about tonight's teaching?
2. Are you and your husband more similar, or different?
3. How can you use words to "build up" or support your spouse? What does this look like in your home?
4. How does loving God help us to love our spouse?
5. Describe what a "covenant marriage" means? How does this differ from how the "world" sees marriage?
6. If someone is struggling, what does it take to create a renewed covenant marriage?
7. Take prayer requests, and pray for one another.