

Fireproofing Your Marriage – Part 2

Handout – with Answers

10/15/08

Fireproof doesn't mean that fire will never come, but when it comes that you will be able to withstand it. How do we fireproof our marriage withstand the heat?

We Fireproof our marriages in the following Ways...

Way 5 - By Breaking Free from Parasites.

1 Cor. 6:18-20

18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

2 Tim. 2:22

22 Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

A. Break Free by recognizing the Pattern of Temptation

James 1:13-15

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

B. Break Free to Avoid Consequences

Romans 7:21-25

21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

C. Break Free by Taking the Way Out

1 Cor. 10:13-14

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Way 6 – By Receiving and Giving Forgiveness

Col. 3:12-15

12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

A. We First Need Forgiveness from God.

Rom 5:10

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

1 John 1:8-9

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

B. We Then Must Forgive, as We have been Forgiven.

Matt. 6:12-15

12 `And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 `And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.]' 14 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Way 7 - By Loving Unconditionally

Rom 5:6-8

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man some one would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

A. Love Covers Sins

1 Pet. 4:8

Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

B. Love Goes First – Will you take the Love Dare?

John 13:34-35

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Closing – God’s not done with us yet...

Philippians 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Small Group Questions:

1. What stood out to you in tonight’s teaching?
2. How did Caleb “confess” to Catherine and speak the truth about his past treatment of her? If he had been less open and honest, how do you think it would have changed the impact of his apology?
3. In earlier scenes from Fireproof (not shown tonight), Caleb complained about Catherine and how she treated him. During his apology, he doesn’t bring up any of Catherine’s faults, nor does he blame her. Why and how is this significant?
4. In what ways can our love be conditional? What are some conditions that people apply to a loving a spouse? What are the consequences of this type of love?
5. Share one example of unconditional love that occurs from time to time in your home.
6. Take prayer requests, and pray for one another.