

OKC Navigator Conference

Jim and Jeri White - Marriage Seminar

September 28, 2012

I. PURPOSES FOR MARRIAGE

1. COMPANIONSHIP . . . to fill our loneliness
The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18)
2. CO-LABORING . . . to multiply our efforts
"I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18)
3. PROCREATION . . . to fill the earth with people to praise and glorify God
God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth . . ." (Genesis 1:28)
4. PLEASURE . . . to enjoy each other fervently and with delight
For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were naked and they felt no shame. (Genesis 2:24-25)

Let your manhood be a blessing; rejoice in the wife of your youth. Let her charms and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight. (Proverbs 5:18-19 Living Bible)
5. TRANSFORMATION . . . to change our character (after sin entered the human race)
"Your desire will be for (controlling) your husband, and he will rule over you." (Genesis 3:16)
". . . each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." (Ephesians 5:33)

II. PITFALLS ENDANGERING MARRIAGE

1. GOD not invited to be the *center* of the marriage relationship
(Joshua said) As for me and my family, we will worship GOD. (Joshua 24:15 The Message)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)
2. Putting SELF *first* in the marriage relationship
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)
3. Inadequate COMMUNICATION with your mate
Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)
4. Blurred "ROLES" of husband and wife
Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. . . Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . (Ephesians 5:22-33)
5. CONFLICTS not resolved between you and your spouse
So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. (Genesis 13:8)

6. The “god” of MONEY has become an “idol”

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. (Matthew 6:24)

Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams. (Malachi 3:10 The Message)

7. The preoccupation with CAREER to the neglect of family responsibilities

He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) (1 Timothy 3:4-5)

If anyone does not provide for . . . his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)

8. The potentially harmful influence of TV and INTERNET

I will set before my eyes no vile thing. (Psalm 101:3)

Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. (Psalm 119:37)

9. Excessive ACTIVITIES creating pressure, weariness and chaos

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

10. IN-LAWS exerting divisive and/or controlling influence

"Haven't you read," (Jesus) replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matthew 19:4-6)

11. Polarization created over the excessive attention to the CHILDREN

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. (Genesis 25:27-28)

12. The destructive effects of ALCOHOL and DRUG abuse

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)