

FAMILY PORTRAITS: Marriage (Building a Foundation of Trust)

Andy Deane · 4/14/2024 · Selected Scriptures

Let's discuss principles that make our day to day marriage even better than a once a year portrait. The following can also be applied towards building and repairing strong friendships as well.

A better marriage is built on a solid foundation of trust.

- Jesus warns us about having a bad foundation spiritually, and it's also true in marriage.
- Matthew 7:24-27, *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*
- Thankfully, marriage foundations are not encased in concrete and can change even today.

A solid marriage foundation starts with Jesus, not our spouse.

- A foundation of trust begins vertically with Jesus before horizontally with our spouse.
- Ephesians 2:19-21, *...you are...members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.*
 - The Word of God: is a foundation of truth we look to (*the apostles and prophets*)
 - The Person of God: is the cornerstone of our foundation we relate to (*Jesus himself*)
 - The Church of God: is the community built upon this foundation we hold to (*whole building is joined together*)

Some cracks in a marriage foundation can be prevented by daily maintenance.

1. Communication: Honest and straightforward words, taken at face value, with no hidden agenda, are crucial.
 - Ephesians 4:29, *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful...*
 - Practically: Is there anything worth "clearing up" in your marriage so there can be greater transparency?
2. Commitment: We must keep our promises both big and small to earn trust.
 - Matthew 5:37, *All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.*
 - Practically: What small actions can you take this week to start building trust that you'll do what you say?
3. Care: Sincere, self-initiated, and consistent nurturing of the other shows our concern and love for them.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:7, *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*
 - Practically: Can you do a better job of checking in this week to let your spouse know their on your radar.
4. Confession: All growth in marriage really starts with confession because that shows a humility to change.
 - 1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us...*
 - The ability to confess is a gift from God. It means:
 - We measure ourselves by God's standard, not our own perspective: Psalm 19:7
 - We're aware that a big problem in our marriage is "me": Romans 3:23
 - Our conscience is still working: 1 Timothy 4:2
 - We are mature enough to consider criticism: Proverbs 12:1
 - We know we face our mistakes w/out shame: Romans 8:1
 - Practically, when we need an apology from another:
 - We will lead with confessing our own faults: Matthew 7:5
 - We will speak the truth in love against sin, not spouse: Ephesians 4:15
 - Practically, when we apologize (or when we are called out):
 - We will not make excuses, but honestly own our mistake: Proverbs 28:13
 - We will not delay confessing: Ephesians 4:26
 - We will be motivated by Jesus to confess: 1 John 1:9
 - Practically, when we hear an apology:
 - We will respond with grace, not judgment: James 4:12
 - We will not bring up past: Psalm 103:12

A broken marriage foundation is repaired with both grace and forgiveness.

- Jesus died on the cross not just so we could be forgiven of our great debt, but so that we would forgive others.
- Matthew 18:21-35, *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'" "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*
- Trust can be rebuilt with: (1) our repentance, (2) assistance from others, (3) God's grace, and (4) time

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- Marriage is difficult (even for pastors). Would you reach out to us this week so we can pray or meet with you?
 - Text COFFEE to (951)425-4425 to schedule a meeting (with our without coffee) with one of our pastors.
 - Text MARRIAGE to (951)425-4425 to discover resources to build your marriage foundation at Cornerstone.