

## Building Christ centered Homes

### 3.4.07

#### Introduction

- Concern for the # of families under attack
- Vision of the church & key objective this year of healing & restoring the body of Christ.
- Level the playing field – if you're married and/or have children you will have problems...move from crises to crises...issue to issue...remove this false idea of perfection...it's hard & messy

#### Fault lines

Intro – Faultlines are often not exposed until there is an earthquake...major disruption exposes...appl – let's find the fault lines beforehand...there are normally signs that indicate a major problem is just below the surface...many times a spouse will say, "now that I look back I can see the signs that our marriage was in trouble."...applies to both marriages & families...major fault lines – finances, infidelity, addictions, etc...not so recognizable faultlines:

1. Drifting apart – schedules, interest, needs of children; work; extenuating circumstances – taking care of parent or sick child – you become more roommates than friends
2. Hostile or apathetic attitude – you don't look forward to spending time together; silence & avoidance; you blow up at small things;
3. Turning to other things for comfort or enjoyment – in marriage it could be the kids; alcohol; shopping; activity; prescription medications; you don't want to be left alone with just you & the spouse or you & the family
4. Strange behavior – gone all the time b/c of work; weird explanations to missing time or money; doesn't follow through; making excuses; secrecy
5. Entrenched positions – certain subjects you don't broach;
6. Surface communication
7. You just feel it – even if you question it you know there is something there.

## Core Convictions

1. God is for us – Romans 8.31–39.
  - a. He wants the best for your marriage & family. He is working for you & not against you. He will give you the wisdom, endurance & patience to weather any storm.
  - b. God is for me & not against me. Don't attribute to God what Satan or your flesh did.
2. Marriage is permanent – Matt.19.5–9.
  - a. God has brought you together & let no man separate you. I realize your marriage may stink, but it doesn't have to be that way! If both of you will step toward God, you'll get closer to one another.
  - b. Marriage is about commitment & dedication...even if you think you married the wrong person
  - c. Divorce doesn't need to be an option...God hates divorce...it's a killer for the family
  - d. What about – infidelity, abandonment & abuse?
3. The enemy is Satan – Gen.3.1–16; 1 Pet.5.8–9.
  - a. He wants you to turn on each other...John 10.10
  - b. You have a common enemy...it's not each other or the child...it's the devil...the accuser
  - c. The spouse/child may be used by the devil or in the clutches of the devil, BUT they aren't the devil.
4. You must take responsibility – Eph.5.22–29, 33, 6.1–4.
  - a. For your sin...no blame game
  - b. For the necessary actions for a healthy marriage & family. God could have stopped Satan from tempting Adam & Eve, but He gave them authority to deal with him. God didn't intervene, b/c that was their responsibility.
  - c. There are resources a plenty to get you started
  - d. Being neutral never wins. Your enemy isn't neutral...one of his goals is to neutralize you...men get aggressive!...your family is being ravaged by a lion and you need to attack him with a club...just waiting around to “see how it goes” will

never be effective...you will always get what you've always got when you always do what you've always done.

- e. God won't do your part! Pray all you want, but when you can do something & don't, don't expect an answer from Heaven. Some of you have made the hard decision to tell a child he can't live in your house b/c of his addiction(s). Like the alcoholic praying for deliverance, but doesn't go to AA or rehab & keeps buying beer...there are steps that you can take even if your spouse is an unbeliever or apathetic towards the things of God

#### Hinderances & Catalyst to a great marriage & family

1. Unforgiveness & forgiveness – Matt.18.21–35; Luke 6.37; Col.3.13.
  - a. This is fundamental.
  - b. If you can't release the past you will never move into the future...I'm not suggesting you enable a spouse with a sinful behavior, but you must release the sin they've committed against you. It becomes like an acid that eats away at your soul.
2. Life in the flesh & life in the Spirit – Gal.5.16–26
  - a. Experience a few days ago when I was annoyed & angry due to things not going my way...it was an example of life in the flesh...days earlier of experiencing God's grace & blessings ...example of life in the Spirit.
3. Selfishness & servitude – Matt.20.26–27
  - a. Servitude out of heart that really wants to honor God.
  - b. Selfishness is at the root of so many problems – I need this...I deserve this...I don't want do the family thing...I need my time...my freedom...
4. Pride & Humility – James 4.7–10 (similar to #3)
  - a. Taking ownership of your responses, attitudes & actions
  - b. Pride always deflects & projects

Appl – You are giving the Devil legal right into your family when you allow this junk to continue. Example I used with the kids of opening the doors. What comes in? snakes, bugs, trash & robbers; wind, light, freshness...It's true when I sin & true when I'm walking with the Lord...my decision about these matters affects the spiritual climate of my home...

### The Road Ahead

1. Call to prayer & fasting from March 18 – April 8.
  - a. We're in a war & we're going to get aggressive
  - b. The disciples couldn't cast out a demon & the disciples ask Jesus how he could do it. He responded, "These come out with prayer & fasting."
  - c. Pray for the restoration of your marriage & the families of the church
  - d. Fast from stuff that hinders your relationships – media & internet
2. Regular maintenance is needed
  - a. What did you enjoy about our relationship this week?
  - b. Where does our relationship need to be strengthened?
  - c. Conflict resolution sheet – available on the Information Table
3. Resources
  - a. Literature
    - i. Torn Asunder
    - ii. Choosing Wisely
  - b. Retreat
    - i. Weekend to Remember
    - ii. Area wide conference
  - c. Websites
    - i. Familylife.com
    - ii. Daveramsey.com
    - iii. Cbd.com
  - d. Counseling
  - e. Small groups
4. Sabbath rest team