

Rules of Engagement III - The Man and Woman of PRACTICE

What is your PRINCIPAL?

- Are you a **consistent** and **stable** person, or are you a moving target? _____
- What is your **foundation**? Mt 7:24-29 _____
- What is your **CORE – Center – Basis** or foundation? _____ (see page 3)

Identifying these things is important for both self-knowledge and clear communication. If the two are to walk together they must have a common _____. 1 Cor 1:10

- We should be able to **identify our priority** here.
- The thing **you give yourself** to is your foundation, core, center of being.
- It will tell you what **your priority is**.
- You will want **its approval**.
- Your well-being is threatened if **it is taken away**. 2 Pet 2:19b

What might we say about the above core values?

- They are _____ in themselves until they become one's _____.

HERE IS THE CHALLENGE

1. I Can't Quite Identify My core.

- a. *Lack of self* _____. Prov 4:34
- b. *Refusal to be* _____. Gen 3: 12,13
- c. *Refusal to be* _____. Gen 3:9
- d. *Who is the responsible one?* _____ Gen 3:8/1 John 1:5,6/John 3:19

2. Her Core is different than His.

- a. *She is strongly inclined to this:* _____
- b. *He is strongly inclined to that:* _____
- c. *And their core/values are too far apart.* 2 Cor 6:14-18

3. His/Her Core Seems To Be Changing all the Time.

- a. *Lack of* _____
- b. *Un-able to* _____

What are they in Danger of?

The Four Horsemen (see point #5 on THE PLAN handout):

CONTEMPT / STONEWALLING / CRITICISM / DEFENSIVENESS

We will avoid *The Love Busters*, which **destroy respect, love, honor, and cooperation** in the institution of marriage opening the door for the **Four Horsemen** to devastate our home. All are marriage busters, not builders and lead to:

- **Selfishness**
- **Disrespect**
- **Judgement**
- **Angry Outburst**
- **Annoying Behavior**
- **Dishonesty**
- **Independent Behavior**

Why? A lack of _____ and _____. Gen 2:22/Amos 3:3

We will give ourselves to the **diligent reading and application of scripture**. A **bible based, cross centered, and Spirit- aided life** will give me the ready knowledge of God so that I can be **conformed to His image**.

- **The forgiveness of sins**, which is my inheritance in Christ, will remind me of God’s patience and kindness towards me so that I might show the same to my spouse.
- **The presence and the working of the Spirit of God** will assure in me the sensitivity necessary to making the right decisions, and the power to act on them. John 15:7, 8

Marriage is the relationship of Extra-Ordinary Care...

- **This Holy union**, in which we endeavor to enter (or have already entered), must not be taken lightly, for we are swearing testimony before men and God that we shall pour our lives into this person with whom we are now engaged with **Pledges, Vows, and an Oath to Love, Cherish, Adore, and give all for their happiness here, and their salvation in eternity**. Ephesians 5:22-33

Notes:

What is your CORE - Center - Basis or foundation?

| PRIORITY Mark 12:42 | PRINCIPLE Mt 6:19-21 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Family | Sacrifice/give to it |
| Spouse | Time/Talent/Treasure |
| Children | |
| Parent(s) | |
| Siblings | |
| Job | |
| Friends | |
| Church | |
| Things | |
| Money | |
| Image | |
| Sports | |
| Leisure | |
| Pleasure | |
| Self, etc. | |
| GOD | |

Review the Policy of Joint Agreement # 2