

Lesson #2 – Marriage & the Gift of Sanctification

Two categories of relational difficulties:

1. Our _____ Differences
2. Sinful _____ and _____

Theme: Internal sinful _____ inevitably lead to external sinful _____.

Principle 1: Remove the _____ Before the _____

We must be more concerned about our own _____ than the sins of our _____.

Principle 2: Understand the _____ of Conflict

Lesson 1: Personal _____ Produces Interpersonal _____ vs. 1

Lesson 2: Internal _____ Produces External _____ vs. 2

Principle 3: Kill _____ at Its _____

The real issue is not behavior—it is the _____.

Conclusion

1. Remove The _____ From Your _____
2. Confess _____ To God And _____
3. Make a _____ for Heart _____

Discussion Questions:

1. Think of a recent conflict—what did you want that you did not get?
2. In what ways do you tend to focus on your spouse's sin instead of your own?
3. In what ways do your preferences often become idols?
4. Are there any idols of the heart that you are harboring right now? If so, how are they impacting your marriage and your relationship with the Lord?
5. Why is it easier to address outward behavior instead of heart issues?
6. What is one "root sin" you need to begin addressing right away for the sake of your marriage?

Conflict Analysis
What was the conflict about on the surface?
When did the disagreement turn into an argument?
What did I want in that moment that I did not get?
What was the conflict truly about?
What is the heart sin(s) that I needed to confess and put off?
What was the righteous virtue(s) I needed to put on?

Root vs. Fruit Sins

Instructions: To help yourself identify the root heart sins currently producing external sinful fruit in your life, use this worksheet **from bottom to top**. Start with the list at the bottom and identify the outward sinful fruits in your life. Then move upward and identify which internal roots are producing each of these external fruits. Each outward fruit will ultimately reveal an unbiblical view of yourself and God.

Primary Root Sins Concerning My View of God: (Internal)

- Idolatry (I value ___ more than obedience)
- Unbelief (In God's Character and/or Ability)

Primary Root Sins Concerning My View of Self: (Internal)

- Selfishness
- Pride

Secondary Root Sins of the Heart: (Internal)

- Discontentment
- Bitterness
- Anger
- The Fear of Man
- Lust
- Impatience
- Coveting
- Anxiety/Worry
- Fear
- Unforgiveness
- Greed

Fruit Sins: (External)

- Lying
- Quick Temper
- Passive Aggressive Statements
- Harsh Speech (tone)
- Sinful Speech (content)
- Physical Violence
- Sexual Immorality
- Neglect of Intimacy in Marriage
- Stealing
- Depression
- Laziness
- False Humility (Woe is me)
- Drunkenness
- Self-Harm
- Gossip
- Boasting
- Gluttony
- Reckless Financial Spending
- Excessive Debt
- Etc.