"Building A House and Home"
“Religion & Integrity In A Marriage”
Session Three

Review: Religion Section

Discussion:

1. Describe your experience of the church to this point in your life.

2. What is the difference between religion and a relationship with God?
   
   • Religion is spelled "D-O." (What you do to earn salvation.)
   • Relationship is spelled "D-O-N-E" (What Christ has done to save you.)
   • Bridge Illustration

3. Do you currently spend any devotional time together? How often?

   “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

   **2 Peter 1:5-8 (NIV)**

**Illustration:** Mr. & Mrs. Mug (blue beads, pink beads) - what's inside you? We all have “stuff” that's “in us”. We have to learn to pay attention to what's going on within us.

Wisdom from the wisest man who ever lived … Guard your heart (seat of emotions)!

   “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”
   **Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)**

**What's your strategy for guarding your heart?**

   “A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. 44 A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs never grow on thornbushes, nor grapes on bramble bushes. 45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.”
   **Luke 6:43-45 (NLT)**

   “You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. 35 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. 36 And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. 37 The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.”
   **Matthew 12:34-37 (NLT)**
We naturally monitor our spouses behavior but we rarely monitor our own heart. Your ability to feel certain things is connected to the condition of your heart. Your ability to stay in love has as much to do with the condition of your as it does the behavior/actions of your spouse.

**Integrity**

*Question: What is integrity?*

Integrity as used in the Old Testament is related to the word “blameless” in the New Testament. Integrity is that quality developed in a spirit-filled life which causes one to act, in ALL areas of life, according to God’s ethic.

A person with integrity doesn’t live one way under scrutiny, supervision, or observation, and another way when all backs are turned. When you’re watched, when you’re all alone, without the possibility of being discovered, you must live according to the commands of God, who sees all.

The word “integrity” derives from integer which is a mathematical term. Integer is a whole number as opposed to a fraction. When we walk in integrity we tell the whole truth and not just a fraction or one part of it.

“People with integrity have firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.”

Proverbs 10:9 (NLT)

“The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them.”

Proverbs 20:7 (NLT)

“Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.”

Ephes. 1:4 (NLT)

“Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”

Titus 2:6-8 (NIV)

**Three Areas Of Integrity**

1. **Public** Integrity – who you are in the midst of people that know you on a casual basis and develop an opinion of you from a very limited perspective (e.g. work relationships, church relationships, community events).
2. **Personal** Integrity – who you are in the presence of people who know you on a close basis. These are people that you really feel comfortable with in expressing both positive and negative emotions (family, close friends, roommates).
3. **Private** Integrity – who you are when you are all alone.
Questions To Guide Integrity

1. How have you valued volunteers this week?
2. How have you developed leaders this week?
3. Have you been a good steward of God’s stuff?
4. Have you assisted in furthering your kid's education in some way?
5. What have you intentionally done to further build relationships with your neighbors?
6. How have you been battling temptations in your thoughts & actions? (lust, greed, pride, jealously, lies, etc.)
7. Have you been maintaining a balanced diet?
8. How have you been exercising? How many times? How long?
9. Have you been getting enough rest?

Activity: Respect Sheet (RESPECT; Otis Redding 2 years before A.F. sang it)

Resources: "Moments Together For Couples" (Dennis & Barbara Rainey)
"Quiet Times For Couples" (H. Norman Wright)
"The Power Of Integrity" (John MacArthur)
"Honest To God" (Bill Hybels)
"Integrity: How I Lost It And The Road Back" (Richard Dortch)

Wedding Plans: Ceremony

________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Next Appointment: ____________________________
**Why Husbands Lose Respect For Their Wives:**

1. Wife who is careless in appearance.
2. Wife who won't leave the past alone.
3. The lack of verbal affirmation by the wife.
4. Failure to accommodate the husband sexually.
5. Public and/or private belittling of the husband.
6. Failure to respect the husband's role as father.
7. Lack of appreciation for provision.
8. Nagging in areas where both are aware of the problem.
9. Wife who lacks interest in her husband's career.
10. Failure to respect the husband's role as the head of the house.
11. Wife who has lost the ability to have fun.
12. Silence or "cold war" tactics.

**Why Wives Lose Respect For Their Husbands:**

1. Husband who does not take the role as provider.
2. Husband who fails to consider the opinions and feelings of the wife seriously.
3. Husband who is unwilling to change.
4. Negligence in the role of spiritual leadership.
5. Husband who is careless in appearance.
6. Husband who is negligent in daily responsibilities.
7. Husband who has a lack of self control.
8. Failure to communicate on major decisions.
10. Husband who fails to respect the role of women.
11. Husband who compliments everyone else except the wife.
12. Failure to express appreciation for the "little" things.

**Symptoms Of The Loss Of Respect For Husband/Wife:**

1. Lack of love for partner.
2. Inability to express love.
3. Loss of sexual interest.
4. Irritable, quick tempered.
5. Lack of interest in doing things together.
6. Critical of things that were once accepted.
7. Verbal "put downs."
8. Public criticism.
9. Indifference toward partner.
10. "Digging up" negative past experiences.
11. Attraction for another person.
12. Spiritual Coldness.