



MARRIAGE

Equip Classes

Term 1, 2020

TE AWAMUTU

BIBLE CHAPEL

Love God  Love the Church  Love the Lost 

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Kingdom Battles

Unrealistic Expectations

We Need to Use the Bible Biblically

Living Between the Already and the Not Yet

Prepared Spontaneity

Expect the Expected

You are Conducting Your Marriage in a Fallen World

You are a Sinner Married to a Sinner

God is Faithful, Powerful, and Willing

All Marriages Become Something They were not Intended to Be

Marriage is Rooted in Worship

A marriage of love, unity, and understanding will flow out of a daily worship of God as creator

A marriage of love, unity, and understanding will flow out of a daily worship of God as sovereign

A marriage of love, unity, and understanding will flow out of a daily worship of God as Saviour

A Kingdom Battle

Attraction or Love?

Did God get it Wrong?

Day by Day, Brick by Brick

Reconciliation as a Lifestyle

You must live in your marriage with a harvest mentality

You must live in your marriage with an investment mentality

You must live in your marriage with a grace mentality

Daily Commitments of a Reconciliation Lifestyle

We will give ourselves to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness. We will come clean and deal honestly with our sin, weakness and failure

We will make growth and change our agenda

We will work together to build a sturdy bond of trust

We will commit to building a relationship of love

We will deal with our differences with appreciation and grace

We will work to protect our marriage

Commitment 1: We will give ourselves to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness.

The Grace of Confession

It is a grace to know right from wrong

It is a grace to understand the concept of indwelling sin

It is a grace to have a properly functioning conscience

It is only grace that protects us from self-righteousness

It is a grace to see ourselves with accuracy

It is a grace to be willing to listen and consider criticism and rebuke

It is a grace not to be paralysed by regret

It is a grace to know that we can face our wrongs because Christ has carried our guilt and shame

Daily Habits of a Confession Lifestyle

We will be lovingly honest

We will be humble when exposed

We will not excuse

We will be quick to admit wrong

We will listen and examine

We will greet confession with encouragement

We will be patient, persevering and gentle in the face of wrong

We will not return to the past

We will put our hope in Christ

Commitment 2: We will make growth and change our daily agenda.

Cancelling Debts

The Harvest of Unforgiveness

Immaturity and Failure

Falling into Comfortable Patterns

Establishing Defences

Nurturing Dislike

Becoming Overwhelmed

Envy of Other Couples

Fantasies of Escape

Why Don't we Just Forgive?

Debt is Power

Debt is Identity

Debt is Entitlement

Debt is Weaponry

Debt puts us in God's Position

What is Forgiveness?

When is Forgiveness Needed?

What Forgiveness Requires

Forgiveness requires Humility

Forgiveness requires Compassion

Forgiveness requires Trust

Forgiveness requires Self-Control

Forgiveness requires Sacrifice

Forgiveness requires Remembering

A Better Harvest

Forgiveness stimulates appreciation and affection

Forgiveness produces patience

Forgiveness is the fertile soil in which unity in marriage grows

Pulling Weeds

Marriage Requires Destruction and Construction

Selfishness

Busyness

Inattention

Self-righteousness

Fear

Laziness

Planting Seeds

Help is Needed to Plant Seeds

The Fruit of the Spirit – Seeds Planted

Battles in marriage are fought in the Heart

Commitment 3: We will work together to build a sturdy bond of trust.

A Trust Questionnaire

1. Is there more unity, understanding, and love in your marriage now than there has ever been?
2. Do you both do what you promise in the time that you have promised?
3. Are you attentive to what you spouse sees as important?
4. Do you make excuses for failures to do what you have promised, or are you ready to confess?
5. Do you listen well to your spouse and act on what you have heard?
6. Do you follow through with mutually agreed-upon plans?
7. Do you work together on planning and scheduling priorities, or do you demand that the other do it your way?
8. Do you share with your spouse your thoughts, desires, hopes, dreams, and concerns, or is it easier for you to be quiet or to share with someone else?
9. Is there any evidence that you have withdrawn from the other in protective distance?
10. Would your spouse say that you are good for your word and faithful to your promises?
11. Do you carry wrongs around with you, or do you trust one another to confront and confess?
12. Do you ever wonder with the other is doing when not with you?
13. Are you conscious of editing your words and withholding your feelings because you can't trust your spouse to deal with them properly?
14. Is your marriage partner the best friend in your life or has your dream of this kind of companionship evaporated?
15. Is your sexual relationship mutually satisfying, or is it hard for you to give yourself physically to your spouse?
16. Do you say things to other people about your spouse that you have not communicated to him or her?
17. Do you look forward to sharing times together, and when you have these times are they peaceful and enjoyable?
18. Are there problems between you that remain unsolved because you don't have the bond of trust necessary to work together on a solution?
19. Are you comfortable with the vulnerability that a good marriage involved?
20. Do you ever wonder if you made a mistake in marrying the person who is your spouse?
21. Do you ever fear that you are being manipulated or taken advantage of in any way?
22. Do you ever wonder if your spouse cares for him- or herself more than for you?

Trust: Marriage's Construction Project

Play it Straight

Be Good for Your Word

Face Up to Your Wrongs

Watch Out for the Other Person

Keep Short Accounts

Remember that Trust is War

Trust: Restoring What's Broken

Admit Your Need

Get Help

Don't Give Up

Stick Your Neck Out

Get Back Up Again

Remember Jesus

Commitment 4: We will commit to building a relationship of love.

All You Need is Love

We Lack a Clear Definition of Love

Disunity

Misunderstanding

Separation

Physical Dysfunction

Conflict

Watch Out for False Love

So What in the World is Love Then?

Love is Willing

Love is Willing Self-Sacrifice

Love is Willing Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another

Love is Willing Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another that Does Not Require Reciprocation

Love is Willing Self-Sacrifice for the Good of Another that Does Not Require Reciprocation or that the Person Being Loved is Deserving

Marital Love in Action

Love is being willing to have your life complicated by the needs and struggles of your husband or wife without impatience or anger

Love is actively fighting the temptation to be critical and judgemental toward your spouse, while looking for ways to encourage and praise

Love is the daily commitment to resist the needless moments of conflict that come from pointing out and responding to minor offenses

Love is being lovingly honest and humbly approachable in times of misunderstanding, and being more committed to unity and love than you are to winning, accusing, or being right

Love is daily commitment to admit your sin, weakness, and failure and to resist the temptation to offer an excuse or shift the blame

Love means being willing, when confronted by your spouse, to examine your heart rather than rising to your defence or shifting the focus

Love is a daily commitment to grow in love so that the love you offer to your husband or wife is increasingly selfless, mature, and patient.

Love is being unwilling to do what is wrong when you have been wronged, but to look for concrete and specific ways to overcome evil with good

Love is being a good student of your spouse, looking for his physical emotional, and spiritual needs so that in some way you can remove the burden, support him as he carries it, or encourage him along the way.

Love means being willing to invest the time necessary to discuss, examine, and understand the problems that you face as a couple, staying on task until the problem is removed or you have agreed upon a strategy of response.

Love is always being willing to ask for forgiveness and always being committed to grant forgiveness when it is requested

Love is recognising the high value of trust in a marriage and being faithful to your promises and true to your word

Love is speaking kindly and gently, even in moments of disagreement, refusing to attack your spouse's character or assault his or her intelligence

Love is being unwilling to flatter, lie, manipulate, or deceive in any way in order to co-opt your spouse into giving you what you want or doing something your way.

Love is being unwilling to ask your spouse to be the source of your identity, meaning and purpose, or inner sense of well-being, while refusing to be the source of his or hers

Love is the willingness to have less free time, less sleep, and a busier schedule in order to be faithful to what God has called you to be and to do as a husband or a wife.

Love is a commitment to say no to selfish instincts and to do everything that is within your ability to promote real unity, functional understanding, and active love in your marriage

Love is staying faithful to your commitment to treat your spouse with appreciation, respect, and grace, even in moments when he or she doesn't seem to deserve it or is unwilling to reciprocate

Love is the willingness to make regular and costly sacrifices for the sake of your marriage without asking anything in return or using your sacrifices to place your spouse in your debt

Love is being unwilling to make any personal decision or choice that would harm your marriage, hurt your husband or wife, or weaken the bond of trust between you

Love is refusing to be self-focused or demanding but instead looking for specific ways to serve, support, and encourage, even when you are busy or tired

Love is the daily admitting to yourself, your spouse, and God that you are not able to love this way without God's protecting, providing, forgiving, rescuing, and delivering grace

Commitment 5: We will deal with our differences with appreciation and grace.

Amazing Grace

The Artist of Your Marriage

Celebrate your Creator

Refuse to see the differences as right or wrong

Determine to respond to your differences with appreciation and respect

Learn where your differences create difficulty and call yourself to unification work

Admit where these differences challenge you to grow

Planned Struggle

God is in absolute control of the details of our lives

He has a purpose for the situations and locations in which he places us

Marriage is one of God's primary tools of personal change and growth

Three main tools of difference are used to reveal and change our hearts

Change begins when we see these differences as grace rather than obstructions of grace

God is with you in your struggle

Dealing with Reality

Face Reality

Deal honestly with your anger

Communicate in ways that are wholesome

Run to your resources

Resist the lies of the enemy

Create something new

Humbly admit your ongoing struggle

Commitment 6: We will work to protect our marriage.

Lifetime Warranty on Marriage

Where Things Often Go Wrong

What It Looks Like to Coast

Visual Lethargy

Habit Inconsistency

Laziness

Impatience

Responding in Discouragement

Dining with the Enemy

Restoring Grace

Winning the War on Our Knees

What Marriage is Meant to Do

The Transforming Power of Prayer

The Power and Protection of Marital Prayer

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Worship, Work, and Grace

Your Marriage and Worship

Worship and Work

Driven to Grace
