

Recap of 9/24/17:

1. "In every marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find, and continue to find, grounds for marriage." -Robert Anderson

-“When I talk with people who come to me in preparation for marriage I often say, ‘Weddings are easy; marriages are difficult.’ I can do a wedding in twenty minutes with my eyes shut; a marriage takes year after year of alert, wide-eyed attention.... Marriages are complex and difficult. In marriage we work out in every detail of life the promises and commitments spoken at the wedding. In marriage we develop the long and rich life of faithful love that the wedding announces.” - Eugene Peterson

-“We each come to marriage with a different personality and history. We bring emotional baggage into our marriage relationship. We come with different expectations, different ways of approaching things, and different opinions about what matters in life.... We need not agree on everything but we must find a way to handle our differences so that they do not become divisive.” –Gary Chapman

2. The first biblical principle of marriage is: build your marriage on the Word of God. Psalm 127:1 reads: “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain”. The theme of Psalm 127 can be stated this way: the vitality and security of our homes and of our nation, and of our work, will suffer if we leave God out of our lives. In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus exhorts His listeners to build their lives on His words (the stable house on the rock) versus on the world (the house built on sand). The foundation for a rock-solid marriage is the Word of God; not looks, money, security, opportunity, or status.

3. The second biblical principle is: recognize God’s design for marriage. God’s design for the marriage relationship is summarized in the word “oneness,” a monogamous, heterosexual, lifelong union (Genesis 2:24).

-“The first marriage and God’s intention for all subsequent marriages include: the man leaving his parents and committing himself to his wife, 2:24a; the man and woman taking responsibility for each other’s welfare, 2:24b; and the two being untied into one in the intimacy of sexual union that is reserved for marriage. God’s plan for husband and wife has always been monogamy, 2:24c.” (Genesis Made Easy)

-Stated another way, God’s desire is that man and the woman in marriage must be first in each other’s lives; must let nothing and no one come between them; and must build oneness in their lives, not separateness; complete physical, emotional, and spiritual oneness.