

### Overview:

Faithfulness is an area of our character in which we are called to be reliable or dependable with the resources, relationships and commitments which God has given us. When we've been entrusted with something, we will be called to give an account of how faithful we were with it. When we prove faithful, we will be entrusted with more. Whatever we are faithful to is a reflection of who and what is truly important to us. We should be faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted us with.

### Outline:

#### I. What is faithfulness?

- A. Strict or thorough in performance of duty; reliable; trusted; believed (2 Tim. 2:13)
- B. True to one's word, promises, vows, etc.; steady in allegiance or affection; loyal; constant (Deut. 7:9; Psalm 132:11)

#### II. The importance of faithfulness

- A. God is faithful (Psalm 33:4, Hebrews 3:6)
- B. "What you have heard from me... entrust to faithful men." (2 Tim. 2:2)
  - 1. Look for faithful men & women
  - 2. Faithfulness is rare (Proverbs 20:6)
- C. Leaders must be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2)
  - 1. Entrusted with much and will be called to give an account (Hebrews 13:17)
  - 2. Much will be required (Luke 12:48)

#### III. Be faithful with what God has given you

- A. Use what you have been given well
  - 1. Be faithful when given little and when given much (Luke 16:10)
- B. What you've been given should be used for God's glory and Kingdom work
  - 1. God has provided all that you need to do His work (2 Cor. 9:8)
  - 2. Those who use gifts well, more will be given. Those who do nothing, it will be taken away. (Matthew 25:14-30)

#### IV. What has God called you to be faithful with?

- A. Finances

- 1. Provide for your family (1 Tim. 5:8)
- 2. Tithe (Deut. 26:10; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)
- 3. Be generous; use money to have influence for the Gospel (Luke 16:9)
- B. Time
  - 1. Invest in people (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
  - 2. Teach us to number our days... get a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12)
- C. Resources / Possessions
  - 1. Home, car, tools, toys, etc....
- D. Work / School (Col. 3:23-24)
  - 1. Work for the Lord (Eph. 6:5-8)
  - 2. Don't be lazy (Proverbs 13:4)
- E. Spiritual Gifts / Talents
  - 1. Serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10-11)
  - 2. We have different gifts (Romans 12:4-8)
    - a. Use what God has given you
- F. Family / Friendship
  - 1. Satisfied only in spouse (Prov. 5:15)
  - 2. Faithfully correct children (Prov. 13:24)
  - 3. Loyal in friendship (Prov. 18:24 & 27:6)
- G. Responsibilities
  - 1. Do what you say you will
  - 2. Be on time
- H. Time with God
  - 1. Prayer (Psalm 86:3; 1 Thess. 5:17)
  - 2. Delight in the Word (Psalm 1:2)

#### V. How can you grow in faithfulness?

- A. Ask a trusted person if you are faithful
- B. Get accountability

### Supporting Material:

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#### Verses:

**2 Timothy 2:13** “if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.”

**Psalms 33:4** “For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.”

**Hebrews 3:6** “but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son.”

**2 Timothy 2:2** “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

**Proverbs 20:6** “Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?”

**1 Cor. 4:2 NLT** “Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.”

**Luke 12:48b** “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”

**Luke 16:10** “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”

**2 Corinthians 9:8** “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”

**Matthew 25:29** “For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

**Deut. 26:10** “And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.”

**Luke 16:9** “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves,”

**1 Corinthians 3:10** “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds.”

**Psalms 90:12** “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

**Eph. 6:7-8** “rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord,”

**Proverbs 27:6a** “Faithful are the wounds of a friend;”

**Neh. 9:8** “You found [Abraham’s] heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant...”

**Numbers 12:7** “Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.”

**1 Kings 3:6** “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant

David... because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you.”

#### Quotes:

“Do daily and hourly your duty; do it patiently and thoroughly. Do it as it presents itself; do it at the moment, and let it be its own reward. Never mind whether it is known and acknowledged or not, but do not fail to do it.” -James H. Aughey

“Faithful people have always been in a marked minority.” -A.W. Pink

“My share of the work may be limited, but the fact that it is work makes it precious.” -Helen Keller

“Faithfulness in little things is a big thing.” -Saint John Chrysostom

“Where faithfulness is most difficult, it is most rewarding.” -Unknown

“Wisdom comes... not from trying to do great things for God... but more from being faithful to small, obscure tasks few people ever see.” -Charles Swindoll

#### Discussion Questions:

1. “In what area of your life do you need to be more faithful?”
2. What unique gift or opportunity have you been given that you’ve neglected to be faithful with?
3. How does God’s faithfulness encourage you to be more faithful?

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## DISCIPLESHIP – PART 7

### Have Clear Aims

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#### Overview:

Once you choose someone to disciple, you need to have clear aims for that discipleship relationship. The bigger goal is to help people follow Jesus! Specifically, how are we going to do that? It boils down to two major categories: What people understand (or know) and How people live (or obey). In other words, their doctrine and life.

#### Outline:

##### I. Aims of Discipleship

##### A. **Our Life AND Doctrine** (1 Timothy 4:16)

1. This is a letter written from the Apostle Paul to his son in the faith, Timothy. Timothy is a leader and Paul is stating the key priorities are what you teach people and how you live your life. This potent combination will help Timothy in leading his church.
2. Life affects doctrine and doctrine affects life. Bad beliefs lead to bad behavior. Bad behavior leads to bad beliefs.

##### B. **Our Doctrine** (Titus 1:16, Acts 2:42, 2 Timothy 2:15, Philippians 2:16)

1. We want the people we are discipling to be growing daily in their doctrine/knowledge of God. This happens through reading God's Word, listening to sermons, reading good Christian books and studying the Bible with other Christians in Small Groups.
2. It is an investment of time to grow in your Biblical knowledge (your doctrine). We pour much time into a variety of hobbies, social media, our phone, projects, etc. However, we can make deliberate decisions daily, weekly and monthly to grow in our knowledge of God and His Word (our doctrine).
3. People can't obey what they don't know. We must teach each other the Word of God. The Bible is clear about the importance of knowing God's Word.

##### C. **Our Life** (2 Thessalonians 3:9, 1 Timothy 4:15, 1 John 2:29)

1. We want the people we are discipling to be living godly lives as well. Helping them obey what they have learned about God and His Word. We don't want our disciples to just have a head full of good doctrine without obedience.

We want them to live godly lives as well. To obey what they have learned.

2. We must be transparent. Fakery defeats discipleship. Invite people to learn from your mistakes and sins.

3. How do we impact people? By spending time with them.

##### 2. **Conclusion** (Hebrews 13:7)

After we choose someone to disciple, we must have clear goals for our discipleship relationship. The two big goals are that they would honor Christ in their life and doctrine.

## Supporting Material:

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### Important Verses:

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1 Timothy 4:16 “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

Titus 1:16 “They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. 2:1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.”

Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

Philippians 2:16 “Holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”

2 Thessalonians 3:9 “It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.”

1 Timothy 4:15 “Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”

1 John 2:29 “If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.”

Hebrews 13:7 “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8 “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

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### Quotes:

“Discipling is not merely about accountability and behavior modification. Jesus tells us to make disciples by teaching people to obey, but they cannot obey what they haven’t been taught.”  
— Mark Dever

“So much of discipling is doing what you ordinarily do but bringing people along with you and having meaningful conversations, like Jesus did.”  
— Mark Dever

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### Resources:

*Believer’s Bible Commentary* – William MacDonald

*Systematic Theology*  
Wayne Grudem

*Praying with Paul* – D.A. Carson

*Feminine Appeal* – Carolyn Mahaney

*Loving God with All Your Mind* – Elizabeth George

*Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life* – Donald Whitney

*Equal Yet Different* – Alexander Strauch

*Discipling* - Mark Dever

*The Lost Art of Disciple Making* - Leroy Eims

*The Cost of Discipleship* - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Multiply* - Francis Chan

*True Discipleship* - William MacDonald

Rock Men’s Night Teaching on Discipleship (2/5/18)

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### Discussion Question:

1. “How is our Christian “continuing education” going? How can we make our life more imitable?”

## Overview:

Marriage counseling is often requested of various leaders in the church from those who are close to them. By having a good understanding of the Word of God, and by using some basic listening skills and practices, God can use you to help strengthen marriages in the church.

### I. Choose the best environment.

1. Decide whether to meet separately or together.

a. Separately:

- To hear specific issues independently.
- To encourage openness.
- To rebuke.

b. Together:

- To resolve discrepancies (keep both honest).
- To observe interactions.
- To begin working through specific issues together.

2. Note: When counseling people of the opposite sex, have your spouse present.

a. Your spouse does NOT need to be part of session.

### II. Lay out some basic “ground rules.”

1. Pray together. (Have them hold hands.)

2. Acknowledge: I am not a professional counselor.

a. But, I can share Biblical truths & principles that I believe will help your marriage.

3. Be clear on your expectations.

- a. Goal: reconciliation rather than just “Winning a fight.”  
 b. Never use the word “never” and always avoid “always.”  
 c. You reserve the right to interrupt and correct.

4. Let them know you may need to get additional input and counsel from others (get their permission).

- a. My pastors, counselor or professional.  
 b. My spouse will not know about these things unless you agree.

### III. Identify central issues.

1. Have each person rate his or her marriage from

1-10 (1=on verge of divorce, 10=on verge of bliss)

- a. Do this independently of each other (Lock into number before sharing).  
 b. Write this down (date it).

2. Listen and ask, “How would you like to raise that number by 2-3 points?”

- a. What would you be willing to give/change to make this happen? Is this what you want?  
 b. Are you willing to be humble, honest and open?

3. Ask each person, “What are the 1 or 2 most challenging issues/situations in your marriage?”

- a. Things that bug you the most or can’t forget.  
 b. Things that if your spouse changed, would make your marriage better... by 1-3 points?

4. Have them share these with spouse, one at a time.

### IV. Work to resolve one or two key issues.

1. Have each person repeat what the “heard” their spouse just say.

- a. If they get it wrong, ask them to repeat until satisfied.

2. If there was sin involved, walk them through steps of forgiveness.

- a. Have them OWN their sin first. Confess it was wrong.  
 b. Hold hands & say: “I was wrong, will you forgive me?”  
 c. Spouse responds: “Yes, I forgive you.”

3. Once forgiveness is granted, move on to restoration. Ask good questions (to both):

- a. “Is what your spouse is asking something you can do or remedy?”  
 b. “How will you specifically do it?”  
 c. [To other spouse] “Is this acceptable to you?”  
 i. Write these things down for future reference.

### V. Tips and considerations.

1. Make sure to pray with couple before and after.

2. Be open with you own life.

- a. When appropriate, share how you have struggled.

3. Use the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful...”

4. If you feel over your head, go “up line” for help.

- a. Pastors, professional counselors, etc.

5. Give them ideas and practical resources.

- a. Books, blogs, podcasts, memory verses, etc.

6. Set up a follow up time ... and follow up.

- a. Email a summary of the meeting to both.

7. Always leave them with HOPE!

### Conclusion:

By identifying the central issues and helping couples practically work through them in a Biblical fashion, you can make a huge difference in the marriages of those around you.

## Supporting Material:

### Important Verses:

#### Ephesians 5:21-33

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church - 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." F15 32 This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

#### 1 Corinthians 13:3

"Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."

#### Colossians 3:18-19

"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

#### Titus 2:2-5

"Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

#### 1 Peter 3:1-8

"Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves

beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."

#### Relational wisdom verses...

##### Proverbs 20:18

"Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance."

##### Proverbs 13:15

"Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard."

##### Proverbs 15:22

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."

##### Proverbs 18:13

"He who answers before listening - that is his folly and his shame."

##### Proverbs 12:16

"A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult."

##### 1 Peter 5:5-7

"Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

#### Quotes:

"Married life offers no panacea—if it is going to reach its potential, it will require an all-out investment by both husband and wife."  
- James C. Dobson

"A Good marriage is not where perfection reigns: It is a relationship where a healthy perspective overlooks a multitude of "unresolvables."  
- James C. Dobson

"A successful marriage demands a divorce; a divorce from your own self-love."  
- Paul Frost

"The Christian is supposed to love his neighbor, and since his wife is his nearest neighbor, she should be his deepest love."  
- Martin Luther

"A husband and wife may disagree on many things but they must absolutely agree on this: to never, ever give up."  
- Unknown

"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person."

- Mignon McLaughlin

"A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers."

- Ruth Bell Graham.

"There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage."

- Martin Luther

"A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' comes together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences."

- Dave Meurer

#### Resources:

EGGERICHS, Emerson & Sarah, *Love & Respect*, Publisher: Thomas Nelson; 1 edition (September 1, 2004), ISBN-10: 1591451876

SMALLEY, Gary, *Hidden Keys To Loving Relationships*, Publisher: Zondervan; Later Printing edition (June 7, 1993), ISBN-10: 0310402913

LAHAYE, Tim & Beverly, *The Act Of Marriage: The Beauty Of Sexual Love*, Publisher: Zondervan; Updated edition (March 1, 1998), ISBN-10: 0310212006

WHEAT, Ed, *Intended For Pleasure*, Publisher: Revell; 4 edition (May 1, 2010), ISBN-10: 0800719379

Center For Christian Therapy, <https://www.centerforchristiantherapy.com/therapists-en-html> (See "Helpful Resources" link). Location: 2469 E. Fort Union #206, SLC, UT 84121, Phone: 801-808-2410.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. "Describe a time when you received helpful marriage advice from a trusted friend or pastor. How did it help your marriage?"
2. "What is your biggest fear that would keep you from providing marriage counseling or advice to another couple? What would help you have more confidence?"