

FOUNDATIONS

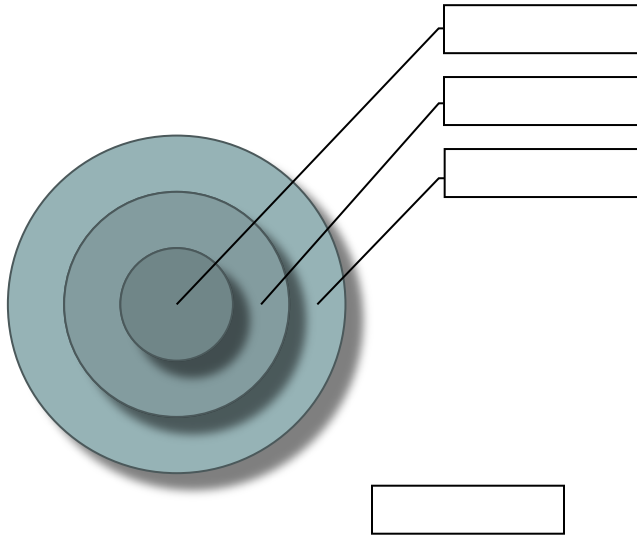
Read **Romans 8:28-29** – Marriage is to help us be like Him, not just for happiness!

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Where are you aiming?

Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts by Parrotts

What's *YOUR* marital target?
(your goal...)



What makes 2 people Soul-Mates?

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." 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. — Ephesians 5:31-33

There are 4 Dimensions to a human being:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Your spiritual dimension is _____ for a GREAT marriage!

You **cannot** be _____ if you are **not** both committed _____!

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. — 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. — Psalm 127:1

Is your _____ based on God's Words & Jesus Christ?

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
— 1 Corinthians 3:11

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." — Matthew 7:24-27

#1 Question: WHAT IS YOUR _____?

Is Jesus Christ the savior & Lord of your life?

I write these things to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.
— 1 John 5:13

9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. — Romans 10:9-10

(If you're not sure about your relationship with God & Jesus Christ – please ask for a DIAGRAM DVD from your pastor or instructor!!!)

You CANNOT be SOUL-MATES and enjoy a great marriage that will go the distance if you do NOT both have the same rock-solid foundation as CHRISTIANS!

Please read the letter from our pastors in the *Rock Solid* manual's front cover....

HOMEWORK:

Complete and turn in the following assignments:

- Couple's Project: Part A (do together as a couple)
- Couple's Project: Part B (do together as a couple)

COUPLE'S PROJECT

Part A: Read, discuss and answer each question together as a couple

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR MARRIAGE

"In an effort to draw on the experiences of those who have lived together successfully as husbands and wives, we asked married couples to participate in an informal study. More than six hundred people agreed to speak candidly to the younger generation about the concepts and methods that have worked in their homes... The panel first suggested that newlyweds should establish and maintain a Christ-centered home. Everything rests on that foundation. If a young husband and wife are deeply committed to Jesus Christ, they enjoy enormous advantages over the family with no spiritual dimension. — James Dobson, "Love For a Lifetime"

Do you agree or disagree with the need to have a Christ-centered marriage?

GETTING TO KNOW GOD:

1. If you were to die tonight and stand before God and he were to ask you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you tell Him?

2. How sure are you that if you died tonight, you would spend eternity with God the Father in Heaven? (on a scale from 0=*not sure* to 100=*positive*)

3. In what church do you want to worship once you are married and how frequently would you like to attend?

4. How do you feel about these things...
 - a. Reading the Bible together and having family devotions?

 - b. Having a personal quiet time?

 - c. Praying together?

 - d. Being involved in a small group within The Rock Church?

5. How are we going to continue to develop spiritual oneness in our marriage?

6. What are our goals in marriage in these areas:

a. Spiritual:

b. Physical:

c. Personal:

d. Career:

e. Financial:

f. Family:

COUPLE'S PROJECT

Part B: Read, discuss and answer each question together as a couple

TWO SOULS, ONE FLESH?

Fifteen questions to help you share your spiritual history

A strong marriage involves much more than just physical or emotional intimacy- it requires spiritual intimacy as well. Yet it's often difficult to see clearly who your mate is on a spiritual level. These questions can help you discover more about the development of your partner's faith.

1. What did your parents believe about God, Jesus, prayer, and the Bible?
2. What is your definition of being spiritually alive?
3. Which of your parents do you feel was more spiritually alive?
4. What did each of your parents teach you, both directly and indirectly, about spiritual matters?
5. Where did you first learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
6. What was your best church related experience as a child?
7. What was your worst experience in church as a child and as a teenager?
8. How would you describe your conversion experience?
9. How would you describe your baptism experience (If you were old enough to remember it)? What did it mean to you?

10. When you went through difficult times as a child or teenager, how did that affect your faith?

11. Which pastor or Sunday school teacher influenced you the most? In what ways?

12. As a child, what questions did you have about your faith? Who gave you the most helpful answers?

13. When you were growing up, did anyone disappoint you spiritually? If so, how has that affected you as an adult?

14. If you could ask God any question, what would it be?

15. What has been the greatest spiritual experience of your life?

Adapted from What Men Want — by H. Norman Wright (1996)