



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

*Happily
Ever After?*

**FALLING IN LOVE IS EASY,
STAYING IN LOVE ISN'T.**

Seek God

HAPPILY EVER AFTER – PART 1

Is a good marriage even possible anymore?

If I want to GET more, I must DO more.
If I want to DO nothing, I will GET nothing.

FALLING IN LOVE IS EASY; STAYING IN LOVE ISN'T.

5 Commitments for a Successful Marriage

1. SEEK GOD
2. FIGHT FAIR
3. HAVE FUN
4. STAY PURE
5. NEVER QUIT

God is your ONE. Spouse is your TWO.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:3

1) Hoping to Marry?

I will seek the One WHILE PREPARING FOR my two.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

YOU ATTRACT WHAT YOU ARE.

2) *Already married?*

I will always seek the One WITH my two.

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” Mark 12:30

PRAY TOGETHER DAILY.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

ACCORDING TO A FAMILYLIFE SURVEY

- Fewer than 8% of Christian couples pray together
- Of those that do, fewer than 1% divorce

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

-Jeremiah 33:3

Fight Fair

HAPPILY EVER AFTER – PART 2

Falling in love is easy; staying in love isn't.

5 Commitments for a Successful Marriage

- 1. SEEK GOD**
- 2. FIGHT FAIR**
- 3. HAVE FUN**
- 4. STAY PURE**
- 5. NEVER QUIT**

**Healthy couples fight for RESOLUTION.
Unhealthy couples fight for VICTORY.**

“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

Four Signs You Are Not Fighting Fair:

- 1. Criticism**
- 2. Contempt**
- 3. Defensiveness**
- 4. Checking out**

Rules for Fighting Fair:

“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” James 1:19-20

1. SWIFT TO HEAR: Listen Intently

“A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.” Proverbs 18:2

2. SLOW TO SPEAK: Speak Carefully

“Whoever guards his mouth and tongue, keeps his soul from troubles.” Proverbs 21:23

3. SLOW TO WRATH: Handle Anger Righteously

“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:26-27

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

Luke 18:27



HOMEWORK QUESTIONS:

1. How would you evaluate the way you typically fight?
2. Which of the 3 rules of James 1:19 do you need to work on?
3. Ask your spouse/close friend what you can do to improve?

Have Fun

HAPPILY EVER AFTER – PART 3

The best DEFENSE is a good OFFENSE.

**“Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.”
Ecclesiastes 9:9**

“How fair is your love, my sister, my spouse! How much better than wine is your love, and the scent of your perfumes than all spices!” Songs 4:10

1.FACE TO FACE FUN

“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them [wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel.” 1 Peter 3:7

Focus on DETAILS.

2.SHOULDER TO SHOULDER FUN

“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Genesis 2:18

“If you’re spending your most enjoyable time apart from each other, you’re in trouble.”

Focus on NOTHING.

3. BELLY TO BELLY FUN

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” Hebrews 13:4

Make TIME for sex – especially early on.

“May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer — may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.” Proverbs 5:18-19

GODLY sex is UNSELFISH sex.

“Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.” 1 Corinthians 7:3

“I’m here not because I am supposed to be here, or because I’m trapped here, but because I’d rather be with you than anywhere else in the world.” Richard Bach



HOMEWORK QUESTIONS:

- 1) On a scale of 1 to 10 how fun is your relationship?
- 2) What are 1-2 fun experiences that you’ve enjoyed with your spouse?
- 3) What’s something fun you could plan to do this week that your spouse would enjoy?

Stay Pure

HAPPILY EVER AFTER – PART 4

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.” 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people, neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.” Ephesians 5:3-7

(DEFENSE) NOT EVEN A HINT OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Any sexual gratification outside of marriage

“I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.” Matthew 5:28-30

(OFFENSE) WALK IN LIGHT

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.” Ephesians 5:8-10

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:9-11

“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.” 1 Corinthians 6:18

You'll never receive God's promises apart from obeying His commands.



HOMEWORK QUESTION:

How might you be putting your purity at risk? Is it worth it?

Never Quit

HAPPILY EVER AFTER – PART 5

“Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one’s garment with violence.” Malachi 2:15-16

Marriage is...

1. NOT A CONTRACT; IT’S A COVENANT.

A contract is based on mutual DISTRUST.

A covenant is based on mutual COMMITMENT.

“Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.” 1 Corinthians 7:10-11

2. NOT A MANMADE INSTITUTION; IT’S A GOD-ORDAINED MYSTERY.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” Ephesians 5:31-32

3. NOT UNDO-ABLE; IT'S ALREADY DONE.

“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matthew 19:3-6

*Not “you SHOULD not”
but “you CAN not”*

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Galatians 6:7-9

1. You reap WHAT you sow

2. You reap WHERE you sow

3. You reap AFTER you sow



HOMEWORK QUESTIONS:

1. What and where are you sowing right now? Are you pleased with what you're reaping?
2. What type of harvest do you ultimately want your marriage to reap? What changes do you need to make to get there?
3. What are some specific things you've learned from this series that will help ensure you never give up in your marriage?

Welcome

Whether you're just visiting or looking to stay, it's great to have you with us!

COFFEE'S ON US

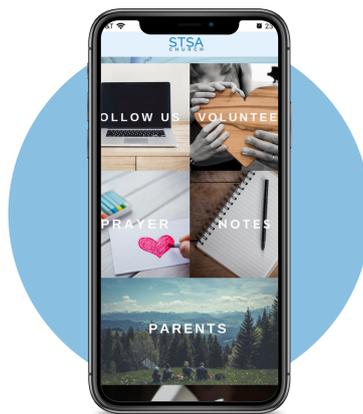
Enjoy a hot cup of coffee and snacks.

WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU

Stop by the Connection Table so we can get to know each other and pick up your welcome gift.

FILL YOUR BUCKET

The Well and Sunday school runs for one hour with an inspiring message.



EVERYTHING IN ONE SPOT

CHECK OUT OUR STSA CHURCH APP



- Sign up for Groups and Events
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