**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Seven Words That Can Build a Marriage |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Peter 3:1-7 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2407 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Love at first sight is not the miracle, but love after a long, long look.
      1. How can we keep the honey in the honeymoon?
      2. How can we keep that excitement and thrill there?
   2. 1 Peter 3:1-7
      1. “Conversation” literally means “behavior.”
      2. “Chaste” means “pure.”
      3. “Coupled” means “joined.”
   3. Abraham and Sarah had a lot of obstacles.
      1. They had family pressures.
         1. They lived in a tent, constantly moving.
      2. They had unfulfilled passions, desires and ambitions.
      3. An ugly episode was when Abraham had a child with Hagar, Sarah’s servant.
         1. The blended family caused many difficulties.
      4. Abraham failed to protect Sarah and lied to save himself.
         1. And yet, he is known as a man of faith.
   4. Even after all they went through, they still a deep love for each other.
      1. Through the passionate years of their youth, to the difficult years of middle age and then the sunset years of old age.
   5. Nobody has a perfect marriage.
      1. You are not perfect and your spouse is not perfect.
   6. Someone has said, “You may marry a man who is a knight in shining armor on a white horse, but somebody still has to clean up after the horse.”
      1. “Enjoy it.”
2. faith
   1. 1 Peter 3:5
   2. 1 Peter 3:7
      1. “Grace of life” means the power of God that comes into your life through faith.
      2. Despite all of their faults and peccadilloes, Abraham and Sarah had an abiding faith in God.
   3. Ecclesiastes 4:12
      1. A threefold cord is not easily broken.
         1. A single strand can be broken.
         2. Two strands are harder to break
         3. But three cords are most difficult to break.
            1. The three cords are: the man, the woman and God.
   4. You’ll never have a successful home apart from God, and you’ll never know God as you ought without faith.
   5. Your spouse should not be number one in your life.
      1. You should not be number one in your spouse’s life.
      2. God should be number one in our lives.
         1. By putting God first, we can love our spouse stronger, deeper and purer than if we put our spouse first.
   6. Build your home on prayer.
      1. You will never have a successful home apart from God.
   7. We cannot know God as we ought without faith.
   8. Abraham and Sarah are listed in Hebrews 11 as champions of faith.
3. ACCEPTANCE
   1. 1 Peter 3:1
      1. Husbands are not going to be perfect and living in accordance with God’s Word.
   2. “Be in subjection to your own husband” does not mean that the wife is inferior.
      1. The devil has tried to obliterate the differences between the sexes.
      2. Under the guise of making men and women equal, he’s tried to make them the same.
         1. Men and women are equal before God
            1. Galatians 3:28
         2. Equality of worth is not the sameness of function.
         3. God has put headship in the home.
         4. God has made the man the head of the home; not the boss.
            1. There is a difference between bossiness and headship.
   3. When the husband is the head of the home, that just means he has more responsibility.
      1. It does not mean that he has superiority.
   4. You are never more like the devil than when you have an un-submissive spirit.
      1. You are never more like the Lord Jesus than when you have a submissive spirit.
   5. Headship for the husband does not mean greater privilege, but greater responsibilities.
      1. We need to accept the roles that God has given us.
   6. If the husband does not accept his God-given role in the home, he is a slacker, a shirker and a failure as a husband.
      1. If the wife does not accept her God-given role in the home, she has a rebellious spirit.
   7. This does not mean that there are fewer blessings for the wife.
      1. It means that there are greater blessings when we find God’s plan for the home.
      2. We accept our roles and accept one another
         1. Neither spouse is perfect.
   8. Never marry someone with the intent to try to change them.
4. CONTENTMENT
   1. 1 Peter 3:3-4
      1. Peter is talking about the way women adorn themselves and dress.
      2. 1 Peter 3:7
   2. In spite of all their faults, God gave Abraham and Sarah a spirit of contentment.
   3. We need to learn the secret of contentment.
      1. That we can get along without almost anything, except God and one another, food and clothing.
         1. 1 Timothy 6:8
      2. Psalm 35:27
         1. God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.
         2. “To whom little is enough, nothing is enough.”
   4. This passage does not teach that women are not supposed to fix their hair, wear jewelry or clothes.
      1. “Whose adornment” means do not count on the outward adornment for your beauty.
      2. 1 Peter 3:4
         1. “The ornament of a quiet and meek spirit” refers to the inner beauty that does not fade, unlike the outward beauty.
         2. “Meek” does not mean weak.
            1. The Romans army was called meek.
            2. Meekness means “under control:” not out of control.
            3. Jesus Christ was referred to as meek and mild.
         3. “A quiet spirit” does not mean mousy or timid.
            1. It means serene, tranquil.
            2. It means a person has inner beauty, inner character, a person who has learned contentment.
   5. Both husband and wife need to learn contentment.
5. FORGIVENESS
   1. 1 Peter 3:8-10
      1. All married people must learn to forgive.
   2. Tornados are terrible and earthquakes are horrible, but termites destroy more homes.
      1. Tornadoes and hurricanes are the big storms that come and go.
      2. Termites are the bitterness and the unwillingness to forgive; the spirit that carries a grudge.
         1. Termites eat at the foundation of a marriage.
   3. 1 Peter 3:9
   4. The three levels of life:
      1. The hellish level
         1. Where we give evil for good.
         2. Some people do this.
      2. The human level
         1. Where we give good for good and evil for evil.
         2. Most people live here.
      3. The heavenly level
         1. Where we give good for evil.
         2. Either spouse may have to practice this at different times in a marriage.
   5. We must learn to forgive and to bless rather than carry around a grudge and a burden of bitterness.
      1. A splinter may not seem like much, but if left alone, it may begin to fester and become infected.
         1. Ephesians 4:26
            1. Never go to bed angry with your spouse.
   6. Find something that has meaning to you both that at any point-in-time can break the tension and bring healing and forgiveness.
6. COMMUNICATION
   1. 1 Peter 3:8-10
   2. Abraham and Sarah were very different and needed to learn to communicate.
      1. Proverbs 18:21
   3. People want intimacy in their marriage.
      1. “Intimacy” comes from the Latin word intermoos, which means inmost.
   4. Men need to learn to communicate.
      1. Poor communication in marriages tends to fall on the shoulders of the husband.
      2. Make time for communication.
   5. We all need to have four dates.
      1. Plan a date with God.
         1. We each need a quiet time with God every day.
      2. Plan a date with your kids or grandkids.
         1. As often as you can, spend time teaching them the things God has taught you.
      3. Plan a date for yourself.
         1. Spend time alone to sit, think, pray and get quiet; meditate on what you want to do.
      4. Plan a date with your spouse.
         1. Get out of the house.
         2. Avoid all emotional and sensitive subjects.
         3. Just show love toward one another.
7. ROMANCE
   1. 1 Peter 3:7
      1. “Dwell” literally means to live with.
      2. It is a sin against God and your future spouse to live together with someone without the benefit of marriage.
         1. The Bible calls this adultery.
      3. Married couples are to live together; to literally share the same bed.
      4. This Scripture is directly referencing the romance that is in marriage.
   2. Never let the physical part of your marriage grow cold.
      1. “Giving honor” comes from a root word that means “precious.”
      2. See your spouse as someone precious.
         1. Giving honor shows your spouse that you believe in them.
      3. Everyone needs someone to whom they are number one.
         1. This is in reference to all other human relationships.
   3. How do we give honor?
      1. Give sincere compliments.
      2. Your spouse wants to be admired.
      3. Honor your spouse both publicly and privately.
      4. Never make cheap jokes at the expense of your spouse.
      5. Everyone needs 10 hugs and 10 compliments a day.
   4. Find creative ways to keep the romance in your marriage.
      1. Keep the joy in your marriage.
      2. Keep the excitement in your marriage.
8. PRAYER
   1. 1 Peter 3:7
      1. Learn to pray together
      2. Pray through your problems and struggles.
         1. The family (couple) that prays together, stays together.
      3. Psalm 127:1
9. CONCLUSION
   1. Love was never mentioned.
      1. All of these are facets of love.
   2. Abraham and Sarah were not perfect and were it not for God they might not have made it.
   3. For those who do not have a family or have a broken family, you are not a second-class citizen.
      1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.
      2. God has a plan for the single life as well as the married life.
      3. God is a God of grace and forgiveness and mend a life if we give Him all the pieces.
      4. The church can be the family to those without a family.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16