

Introduction

Pastor John begins the series *What Happy Couples Know* by examining how they know themselves. Happy couples know themselves as they master the art of *alone* as a child of Christ and *together* united on Christ's mission. They have done the hard work of looking honestly at where they are from, realizing a lot of their perceptions about marriage were caught and taught from their parents. Happy couples also know they are flawed and forgiven and can set aside *me* for *us*.

Discussion

1. Discuss with your group what was caught and taught to you about marriage as you were growing up. How does that compare to your relationship with your spouse? If you are not married, what have you learned about marriage you hope to bring into a marriage or see in a friend's marriage?

Read Romans 5:1-8. What would it look like to live these verses out in a marriage?

2. All of us are broken by sin and need to be aware of our own brokenness and how it impacts those around us. For that reason, we need to have people who can "look in the mirror" with us and help us understand who we are in Christ. How has your spouse or accountability partner helped you with this process? How has it affected your faith life?

3. Accepting forgiveness from Jesus is just one step we can consistently take in coming to terms with our sin. Read Colossians 3:12-14. How can these verses be used in a marriage? In ministry with your spouse?

Do something

1. God created us to be in community with one another and serve together. Bring your spouse, family, friend, neighbor or coworker with you and serve together at one of our local partners.

2. Take time to reflect on what your identity is and ask God to reveal more about your identity in Christ. Sit down with your spouse, significant other or close friend and discuss what ways you view your identity as working or not working.

3. Read Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 19:4-5, Ephesians 5:31-32, and pray through what this looks like in a modern marriage. Journal what God reveals to you and share it with your spouse or significant other.

Resources

1. *Visionary Marriage* is a 5-part video series by Rob Rienow available on RightNow Media, is designed to equip married and engaged couples with a compelling Christian mission for their life together. <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Search?q=visionary%20marriage>

2. *Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. The book suggests a direct connection between the emotional needs of men and women and a verse of scripture found in the Bible, that when adhered to, can strengthen and transform relationships

https://www.amazon.com/Love-Respect-Desires-Desperately-Needs/dp/1591451876/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1549656799&sr=1-2&keywords=love+and+respect+book

3. Growing in your personal relationship with God will strengthen your marriage. In *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*, Francis Chan discusses how God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love.

https://www.amazon.com/Crazy-Love-Overwhelmed-Relentless-God/dp/0781414024/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1GV41BPYDT009&keywords=crazy+love+francis+chan&qid=1549656491&s=Books&prefix=crazy+love%2Cstripbooks%2C