

July 2009

From the Pastor



Three "C's" for Marriage
(Part Two: Time)

Last month I showed that the Bible tells us that **the goal of marriage is to become one**. As I mentioned last month, I have three ways that couples can work toward oneness in their marriage; time, talk and touch. Let's begin by looking at how time is important for oneness in marriage.

Time

With God

First you need to spend time with God. And you need to spend time with God alone. God is the creator of marriage, and you need to be connected to Him. In order to hear from God you need to have time with Him. You need to carve out time in your day to be with God. When is there a time in your schedule when you are all alone; no spouse, no kids? Is it just when you get up or just before you go to bed? Do you drive to work alone? The time you are alone regularly is a good time to set aside time with God.

But there is also a need for you as a couple to spend time with God together. This might be something as little as prayer time at night together. When is a good time the two of you can get together with God?

With Your Spouse

This brings up the first thing that couples need to grow to be as one - time together. Many couples who I know have a "date night." Once a week, the two of them get together. Mindy and I have never had time for date nights, so early in our marriage we had play weekends. Once a month we would schedule once a month a time when we would be alone; most of the time we would leave the area, so no one could interrupt our time. Sometimes we had play weekends at home. Then we wouldn't answer the phone and play around the neighborhood. On these play weekends we wouldn't go to our church, because if we did, we would no longer have time alone together. Play weekends were just for me and Mindy. Currently we have Fridays. After Ryan



gets on the bus for school, we spend time together all day Friday. We usually leave town; otherwise, something will come up from church. We sometimes forward the phone to one of our cell phones in case of an emergency but not always. We know that people can leave messages on the phone at home.

One thing Mindy and I have learned about time together is that it doesn't happen if we don't schedule it. I used to feel guilty about not having date nights with Mindy, and it was hurting our marriage. However, date nights just didn't work for us, so we finally came up with the play weekend. We made sure that we had them planned out about three months in advance. If we didn't do it that way, other things would take our time. When we came here, play weekends weren't going to happen. It's a little hard for a pastor to take out one Sunday a month, so we reserve Fridays just for us. Mindy doesn't schedule anything on Fridays, and I have taken that day off. Let me challenge you to sit down with your spouse this week and plan out a schedule for time together.

You may need to be creative with your schedule. Consider these three options: Date night – what night every week will you two spend time together? Play weekend – sit down and plan out for a year, a weekend a month that you can spend time alone with each other. Mutual days off – maybe the best time for you will be a daytime each week. Whatever “time” it is, it won't happen if you don't plan for it; budget your time so your spouse has your priority. Take time for your marriage.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.