



One + One=1

The blessing of agreement in marriage
(Weekend Marriage Conference)

June 22 – 23
Restoration House Family Worship Center
Hopkinsville, KY

PRESENTED BY:

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Summary

In the beginning, God performed the first marriage and he pronounced that they shall be one flesh (Matthew 19 4-6). We know that mankind was tempted and fell from fellowship with God and the man and his wife were taken from the Garden. They were destined to have Satan as an enemy, to toil for their food and to return to the dust from which he was made. God did not, however, separate the husband and wife. He instead sacrificed animals for their protection and banished them from the garden and the tree of life.

The purpose of this study is to help married couples learn to walk in agreement as one-flesh. From the beginning God has seen a married couple as one-flesh and continues to do so today. He wants us to learn and benefit from our covenant walk with him (Amos 3:3). He calls us to apply that to our marriage (Genesis 2:24-25) and he will bless us in that walk of agreement (Psalm 133).

This study is not meant to teach couples how to work out agreements with one another. Agreements require that two have come to terms with one another. Agreements are always performance-based, often are for a term and usually have an exit clause. Agreement is unconditional, permanent and is meant to withstand any destructive force.

Our teaching style is to present a lesson and reinforce the lesson with a tool to be taken away and used. The lessons will be directly from the Bible and scripture will be cited. The tools will be ones we have used successfully in our marriage coaching practice. At the end of this conference, each couple will have heard Biblical encouragement for a successful marriage and have a toolset to help them integrate the lessons into their marriage.

The entire study is meant for a weekend retreat (Usually a Friday Night and a Saturday). We know that a personal relationship with Christ is key to a happy marriage so the Friday evening service will be evangelistic in nature. The Gospel will be presented, and we will allow an opportunity for all in attendance respond personally or as a couple. The next day a series of tools and lessons will be presented. A box lunch can be provided, or couples can be sent out to have lunch on their own. Couples will be encouraged to not use the lunch break for activities not related to the study or that will require they redirect their attention from their marriage and the tools they are learning.

Sessions Outline

Friday night:

After 20 plus years of serving married couples, we know that couples have a lasting, peaceful and happy marriage when they first have a personal relationship with Christ. This first night will include a time of worship at the beginning, teachings to introduce the weekend and an invitation to pray at the end.

Proposed Friday Night Outline:

1. Introduction to Genesis 2:24 Ministries
2. Introduction to the conference materials and the speakers
3. Lesson presentation
 - a. The Bible is true cover to cover – TOOL: Fact, Faith, Feelings
 - b. Marriage is a model of the relationship of Christ to his church and Satan hates it – TOOL: Your Spouse is not your enemy tool
 - c. Presentation of the Gospel – TOOL: 100% Happily Ever After

Saturday:

Introduction session 30-45 minutes:

Last night we settled a fundamental truth in our hearts and in our lives. We learned about Christ's unconditional love for us. We had an opportunity to pray for one another in our relationships with Christ.

Note: *We will allow some time for those that want to witness about last night to do so.*

Open with the scriptural basis for the day:

- 1) Matthew 19:4-6
- 2) Amos 3:3
- 3) Genesis 2:18 – 25
- 4) Psalm 133

This session can open with some music and some preaching but should be seen more as a teaching day so the worship cannot take away from the time needed for teaching.

Teaching Sessions: There will be four teaching session to round out the day. The sessions will each contain one or more of the "Marriage Fundamentals to be taught" listed below. Each session will be:

- 1) A 30-45 minute teaching
- 2) 10-15 minute Q&A
- 3) Assignment (5-10 minutes explanation)
- 4) Break time for couples to individually discuss what they have learned

Marriage fundamentals to be taught:

- 1) Covenant – there are no conditions in a marriage. There are no times when that Bible says it is OK to divorce or to stop loving your spouse. If you have there is forgiveness for that rebellion (Nehemiah 9:17) against God’s Word. Be sure that and your spouse clear that up in your lives.
- 2) Sex – Adultery – fornication
These are 3 words that are often confused in our language. We use the word sex to talk about all three. Well let me change you thinking. Sex is a gift from God in the marriage covenant. Sex outside of marriage is one of the other two. Let me encourage you as married couples to take a stand in your homes against the confusion the world has put in us. For example:
 - A. An affair is a party with your friends in the back yard. If someone tells you they are having an affair – ask them to be clear. Are they asking you over to put a couple of Shrimps on the Barbie or are they telling you they are committing adultery?
 - B. Sex before marriage is fornication. Make sure that when you have the “Sex Talk” with your children it includes the real definition of sex and fornication and the ramification of each.
 - C. Sex is a gift to married couples on their wedding day. In Genesis it is quite clear that God told them to have sex with one another AFTER the wedding.
- 3) Book of Agreement and Remembrance.
 - a. Agreements vs. Agreement
 - b. TOOL: Core Agreements
 - c. TOOL: Your spouse is not your enemy
 - d. TOOL: Strife Break
 - e. TOOL: Budget
- 4) Praying together
 - a. Read Scripture out loud in your home
 - b. TOOL: Prayer Journal
 - c.
- 5) TOOL: Faith Vision and Trust
- 6) Ministry together – we believe God has a call for all believers. Because God has miraculously caused a husband and wife to be one-flesh, they will be called to ministry as a couple. This will manifest in any number of ways but needs to be considered as a couple learn to agree to serve as one-flesh.

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Resources Needed:

The following list is meant to be used more as a planning tool than as a list of requirements to host a successful event. Also please understand that Genesis 2:24 ministries is coming to provide support to your ministry, not to start our own. It is possible that you have a different way of accomplishing a task so a resource may look different than we have listed. During the planning process, we will work with your team to be sure we present an event that will bless marriages in your community.

Music

- The Friday night service should include a short worship set and music for an invitation time at the end of the service. The music during the invitation can be recorded if needed.
- During the day on Saturday, we can have a worship team lead or recorded music.
- Music can also be recorded music if a worship band or leader is not available for this event

AV Support

- We will use slides created on PowerPoint and scripture references. We are happy to control these from an iPad connected to the projector or have someone run these for us. This is up to the preference of the local church.
- There will be at least two speakers for all sessions. If "hands-free" mics are available for both speakers, it would be helpful. If not handheld will work fine.
- There will be opportunities for questions and sharing from the couples attending. A handheld mic would be helpful for this function.

Prayer support

- Friday Night service will include an invitation to receive prayer for salvation or for other needs. We are expecting Holy Spirit to move, we will need help at the altar. If there are persons on the ministry staff or on a prayer team, we would appreciate permission to use them to help with this need.
- If possible and a prayer team can be identified ahead of the conference, we would enjoy an opportunity to meet with them to discuss prayer focus. This can be a brief meeting before Friday night service.

Greeters and Ushers

- Please plan to use the same process as is used for your regular services. We expect visitors to your church just like we would any Sunday morning.
- There will be handouts much like a bulletin on Friday Night and some conference materials on Saturday.
- If possible we would like to use people that are normally used for these functions but would like to avoid using people that would like to attend the conference.
- We will have Q&A at the end of each session. We can put the handheld mic on a stand in a central place for that or if preferred a volunteer can manage the mic.

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Registration

- We can set up an online registration site for the conference for preregister or we happy to let you do that through a resource of your own.
- We may have people want to register on Friday Night or Saturday morning. This will require two volunteers available to man the registration table at the beginning of both days of the event.

Cost

- Genesis 2:24 Ministries never charges for services we provide
- We do appreciate your help with travel expenses and will determine how that is best handled during our planning process.
- Registration fees are at the discretion of the host church.

Book Sales

- We would like to offer two books for sale during the conference.
 - o 21 Days to Happily Ever After
 - o The Book of Agreement and Remembrance
- We would appreciate two volunteers that can help man this function for us