

**FROM THIS DAY FORWARD—1  
SEEK GOD**

**WE COMMIT TO**

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

- **GOD IS YOUR ONE AND YOUR SPOUSE IS YOUR TWO.**

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:37-39*

**HOPING TO MARRY**

**I will seek the One while preparing for my two!**

**ALREADY MARRIED**

**I will always seek the One with my two!**

**HOW DO WE SEEK GOD?**

- **PRAY TOGETHER EVERY DAY.**

*14 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 FAMILY LIFE SURVEY**

- **FEWER THAN 8% OF CHRISTIAN COUPLES PRAY TOGETHER REGULARLY.**

- **OF THOSE COUPLES THAT DO, FEWER THAN 1% DIVORCE.**

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33*

## **TALK IT OVER**

- How much of a priority is seeking God in your life and in your marriage?
- Share a time when you were praying and reading God's Word regularly. How did that affect you and your relationship with God?
- What steps do you need to take in order to seek Him more?

Find resources that will help you seek God more at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including printable small group discussion guides for both married couples and singles for this message.

## **FROM THIS DAY FORWARD—2**

### **FIGHT FAIR**

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

*... Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. James 1:19-20*

### **GOD'S RULES FOR FIGHTING FAIR**

- **STOP TO LISTEN CAREFULLY.**

*...Everyone should be quick to listen... James 1:19*

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

- **GUARD YOUR WORDS FAITHFULLY.**

*Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...* James 1:19

*Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.* Proverbs 21:23  
NLT

- Never call names.
- Never raise your voice.
- Never get historical.
- Never say never or always.
- Never threaten divorce.
- Never quote your pastor during a fight.

- **HANDLE YOUR ANGER RIGHTEOUSLY.**

*... Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...* James 1:19

*26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.* Ephesians 4:26-27

### **FOUR SIGNS YOU AREN'T FIGHTING FAIR**

- 1) **CRITICIZING**
- 2) **CONTEMPT**
- 3) **DEFENSIVENESS**
- 4) **STONEWALLING**

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* Romans 12:21

## TALK IT OVER

- How would you evaluate the way you fight? Do you typically fight fair or unfair?
- Which of the three rules to fighting fair found in James 1:19 do you practice and which do you not? Explain.
- What steps do you need to take in order to fight fair in all of your relationships?
- Find resources that will help you learn to fight fair at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including printable small group discussion guides for both married couples and singles for this message.

## FROM THIS DAY FORWARD—3

### HAVE FUN

*Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is your reward for all your earthly toil.*  
Ecclesiastes 9:9 NLT

*Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love... Ecclesiastes 9:9 NIV*

### THREE TYPES OF FUN

#### EVERY MARRIED COUPLE MUST ENJOY

- **FACE TO FACE**

*How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands. 2 Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheaten circled by lilies. 3 Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a*

*gazelle. 4 Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim... Song of Solomon 7:1-4*

- **SIDE TO SIDE**

*Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. Song of Solomon 7:11*

- **BELLY BUTTON TO BELLY BUTTON**

*Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. 12 Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom — there I will give you my love. Song of Solomon 7:11-12*

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

*Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first... Revelation 2:5*

## **TALK IT OVER**

- On a scale of 1 to 10 how fun is your relationship?
- Share a fun experience you've had with your spouse.
- What's something fun you could plan to do this week that your spouse would enjoy?

Find resources that will help you have fun in all of your relationships at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including printable small group discussion guides for both married couples and singles for this message.

## FROM THIS DAY FORWARD—4

### STAY PURE

*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*

Hebrews 13:4

### WHY IS IMPURITY IN MARRIAGE INCREASING?

- **MORE TEMPTATIONS TODAY THAN IN THE PAST.**
- **PEOPLE ARE GETTING MARRIED LATER.**
- **GROWING SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT.**

### INWARD AND OUTWARD PURITY

#### 1) OUTWARD PURITY: THE BEHAVIOR.

*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...*  
Ephesians 5:3

*Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house.* Proverbs 5:8

*Flee from sexual immorality...<sup>19</sup> You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

1 Corinthians 6:18, 19-20

#### 2) INWARD PURITY: THE HEART.

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:9-11*

*But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:28*

### **THREE RESPONSES TO IMPURITY**

- 1) **DEFENSIVENESS**
- 2) **REMORSE**
- 3) **REPENTANCE**

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10*

### **TALK IT OVER**

- How might you be compromising your purity and putting yourself at risk?
- Share a time when you dealt with impurity. How did you deal with it and what did you learn from your experience?
- What outward or inward changes do you need to make to ensure you live a life of purity? L  
SEP

Strive for a life of purity by using the many resources available at <http://resources.lifechurch.tv> including printable small group discussion guides for both married couples and singles for this message.

## FROM THIS DAY FORWARD—5

### NEVER GIVE UP

Married someone opposite?

Dating: Opposites attract \* Marriage: opposites attack

Punctual, Creative \* \$ Spending, Saving \* Flat pancakes, thick.

We're in love—we're in divorce court!

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Never Give Up—Abuse

If you have lost a marriage...From This Day Forward

*3 Some Pharisees came to (Jesus) to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." Matt 19:3-6*

Reason divorce feels horrible... follows you... ripping one thing apart.

Don't un-one what God made one.

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## MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT NOT A CONTRACT

- **A CONTRACT IS BASED ON MUTAL DISTRUST. A COVENANT IS BASED ON MUTUAL COMMITMENT.**

Contract limits my responsibilities and increases my rights.

Rent houses

Prenup—don't want to lose my Chevy, golf clubs & my fish tank.

Covenant permanent relationship—no end date—till death do us part.

Berithe—cutting... Cut hands!

To be wife, have and hold—From this day forward—long as both live.

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Ruth Graham... ever consider divorcing Billy  
I'm not happy. I don't trust him. I don't love her.

Get divorced because you ran out of love is like selling your car because it ran out of gas. Will run out of love—God never runs out of love!

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## SOWING AND REAPING IN MARRIAGE

*7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Gal 6:7-9

### 1) YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

If I smile at you \* Flip you off.

Grace, thoughtfulness—Criticism, Controlling, Complaining

Woman are multipliers. (6 kids)

Don't like what you are getting—what you are giving.

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## 2) YOU REAP WHERE YOU SOW.

Plant a seed over here—should I expect a tree over here?

Invest all my passion in hobby, kids, career, where will I get a harvest?

God is my one. My spouse is my two! Priority of marriage.

Our marriage is as good as we decide it's going to be.

Don't *feel* like being nice, *feel* like forgiving, *feel* like working.

How many other areas of life can you make that excuse?

Not going to feed my baby—don't feel like it.

Not work—don't feel like it.

Not pay taxes—don't feel like it.

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Not giving up—doesn't just mean we're not going to divorce.

Not going to stop Seeking God, Fighting Fair, Having Fun, Pure

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Reap a HARVEST—Intimacy, Story, Integrity

Harvest—if you do not give up!

What could the Harvest look like?

*9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Gal 6:9*