

September 2009

From the Pastor



Three "T's" for Marriage
(Part Four: Touch)

Remember, **the goal of marriage is to become one**. There are three ways couples can work toward oneness in their marriage; time, talk and touch. Last month we looked at talk. This month I'm writing about the "touch" of marriage.

Touch

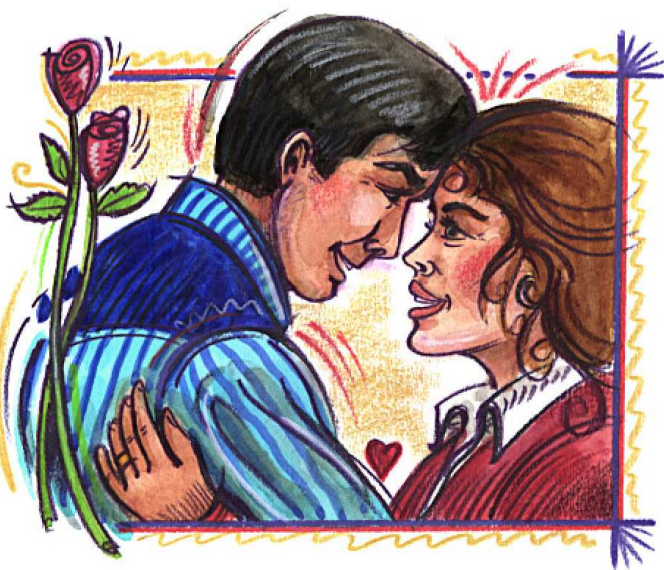
With God

The final "T" in oneness is touch. Another word for "touch" is intimacy. Again, you need to start with your relationship with God. Is your relationship with God an intimate one? To grow in your marriage you need to have the help of God. You will not hear God if your relationship with Him is a shallow one. Dig deep in your relationship with God. Talk with Him about serious matters. Talk to Him about the struggles you are having in your marriage. If your relationship with Him is strained because of sin, repent and return to Him. Keep in touch with God to help your marriage.

As a couple you also need to be intimate with God. As you pray together, talk to God about the hard issues in your marriage. Talk to Him about those matters that you struggle with together. Get intimate with God together.

With Your Spouse

Marriage thrives on intimacy. Let me first talk about physical intimacy. There needs to be physical intimacy in marriage.



³ *The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.* ⁴ *The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.* ⁵ *Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.* (1 Corinthians 7:3-5 NIV)

Do not deprive your spouse. There is a need for physical intimacy in marriage. It is grease that keeps the friction down in marriage.

Intimacy is more than just physical in a marriage. Intimacy is the tenderness in marriage. It is the romance. Here is a list of kids' definitions on love.

Love from a Kid's Point of View

What is love, from a kid's point of view?

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."

"Love is when someone hurts you, and you get so mad, but you don't yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings."

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay."

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford."

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."

That's intimacy! When was the last time you said your spouse's name in a way that to them it meant their name was safe with you? Intimacy is the romance in your marriage! Men, when was the last time you brought flowers home or wrote your wife a love note? Women, when was the last time your husband was greeted with a tender hug? When was the last time the two of you walked in the park together holding hands? For a couple to become one in marriage, there needs to be touch!

Time, talk and touch; all three of these are necessary in a marriage for it to reach its goal of oneness. Make sure that you are taking time for all three in your marriage. Remember, **"The goal of marriage is to become one!"**

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.