

Introduction:

God's original design:

Marriage was created as a sacred stewardship to reflect the unity and love of the Trinity.

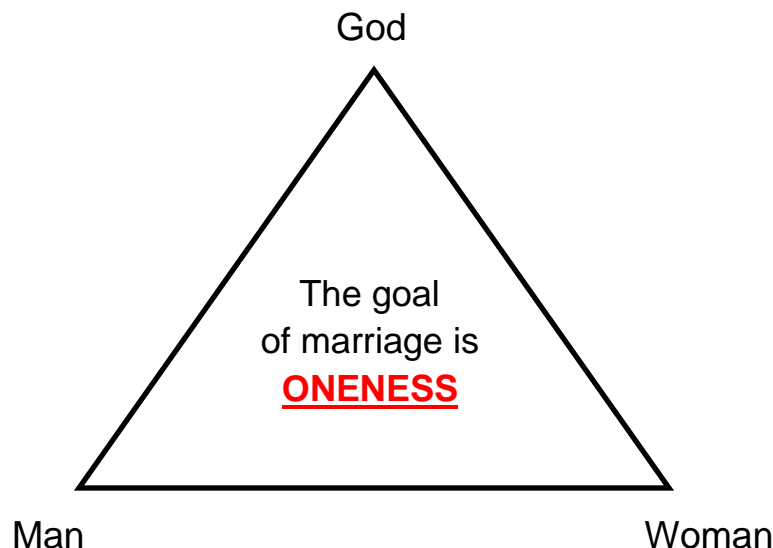
Satan's agenda:

To destroy or pervert marriage by telling lies that make it self-centered

Foundational Marriage Truths

Foundational truth #1:

In my own strength, I am _____ of being the husband of wife God calls me to be. Therefore, my first priority for a successful marriage is my own vibrant _____ walk with God. By His Word and His Spirit in community with fellow believers God will give me _____. I need to become a loving and godly husband or wife.



Key verses:

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:3-4

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

The BIO Acronym:

- B – Before God Daily
- I – In community
- O – On mission

Foundational truth #2:

I will _____ to love my mate by God's power and grace in all circumstances. Love is giving another person what they _____ the most, when they _____ it the least, at great _____.

Key verse:

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you seen the lies that marriage is about "our needs, our happiness, our fulfillment" play out in our culture or even in your own thinking?
2. Chip uses a triangle to illustrate how drawing near to God brings spouses closer together. Brainstorm some practical ways that you can deepen your relationship with God, which in turn will strengthen your marriage.
3. Of the three practices in the BIO acronym (Before God Daily, In Community, On Mission), which one presents the biggest challenge for you right now, and what is one small step you could take to grow in that area?
4. Chip defines love as "giving another person what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at great personal cost." When is it most difficult for you to live out this idea?
5. How does viewing your marriage not just as a private relationship but as a public testimony to your children and others – change how you work through challenges?