

Diligence!

Keys to Preserving and strengthening your marriage

Big ideas!

Big idea 1: The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- You must first know the love of Christ.
 - "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4.19
- The best thing you can do, is grow closer to Jesus - Work on You!
- Study God's word and meditate upon the greatness of Christ's love for you - Work on You!

Big idea 2: Christlike Love is founded upon **Grace** not **Performance**.

- How has God dealt with you?
 - *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* Paul - Ephesians 5.1-2
- Guess what? You married a fellow sinner and should not be shocked when he or she sins.

Big idea 3: Keep fighting for love

- Remember: Walk by the Spirit
- Remember: You are in a spiritual battle
 - Answer the bell...Get up off the stool...don't throw in the towel...keep fighting!
- Remember: Your spouse cannot make you fleshly
- Remember: Your spouse was not given to you as a curse, but as a blessing from God.

Action steps to Protect and Preserve Your Marriage?

- The Lord must come first - Make your personal walk with the Lord your highest priority. **Work on You!**
- Avoid Laziness this can cause your marriage to deteriorate. **Continue to Invest!**
- Avoid Lies they are like a deadly cancer to your relationship
- Avoid Lust this can destroy your marriage
- Lift one another up in order to strengthen your marriage

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- Ask each other these questions on a weekly basis:
 - What are your dreams?
 - What do you worry about?
 - How can I specifically pray for you?
 - What are you learning from God's Word?

Don't settle! Strive for a
marriage that thrives.

You can do it!

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