

Fireproof Your Relationships

Love for a Lifetime

Matthew 19:3-6

The majority of marriage vows include these statements: for better or worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health. At the end of every marriage ceremony the couple is introduced, they kiss, and then everybody claps as they walk off living happily ever after, right? The facts of life are this: there is going to be a lot of worse, poorer, and sickness than you hoped for. Yes, there will be better, richer, and health, but not all the time.

All marriages go through seasons, nobody gets a cake walk. This is how life works. Today I want to talk about the four-seasons of marriage.

I. The _____ Stage.

A. All is _____ with the world.

1. Women _____ weight.

a. She would rather think about him than eat.

2. Men lose _____.

a. He would rather spend money on her than pay the rent.

B. The romance stage lasts right up to somewhere between the "I now pronounce you husband and wife," and the first time he

_____ the

toilet seat up and she serves a TV dinner.

II. The _____ Stage.

A. This is like when a dog spends years chasing a car and finally _____ one.

1. Two people in love discover how to _____ love for a lifetime.

B. Signs of the Reality Stage:

1. He sees her without _____ and she hears bodily noises.

2. There becomes a _____ of family values.

C. Reality clarifies what romance _____.

III. The _____ Stage.

A. She went to bed with George Clooney, but _____ up with Osama Bin Laden.

1. He went to bed with Julia Roberts, but woke up with *The _____ Bride*.

a. _____ gets tested.

b. _____ boil.

c. We _____ blame.

B. All the blame belongs in the _____.

IV. The _____ Stage.

A. Three indications that you are rebuilding:

1. _____ that we are different and act accordingly.

2. _____ for forgiveness and understanding.

3. _____ to love and keep on loving. This is a **decision**, not a feeling.

Conclusion

To build love for a lifetime you must understand the four differences between men and women:

1. Men talk in generalities, women talk in _____.

2. Men are in touch with their thoughts first and then their

_____.
Women are in touch with their _____ and then their thoughts.

3. Men and women have different ideas on how their

_____ should be spent.

4. Men and women approach sex from different

_____.

What stage are you in? There can be love for a lifetime.

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