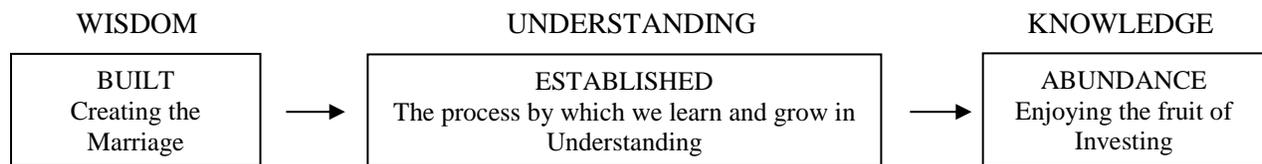
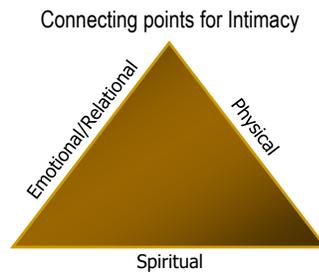


Proverbs 24:3-4 - *Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

Marriage Building Principles



Connecting Points



Income Sources

An Income Source is something that requires effort and adds to your relationship.

Common Income Sources

- Good Communication (includes:)
- Mutual Respect -
- Realistic Expectations (Ps. 62:5; Ps. 118:8; Jn. 2:24-25)
- Practicing Forgiveness (Matt. 6:14; Mk. 11:25; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12-13; Eccl. 7:21-22)
- Life-Long Commitment (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6; Gal. 6:9; Heb. 10:36)
- Being Friends (Gen. 26:8; Pr. 5:18; 17:17; 18:24)
- Having Fun Together (shared activities - Pr. 5:18; Mal. 2:14)
- Enjoying Friends Together (Social income sources-
- Romantic Enjoyment (Pr. 5:15-18; Song of Sol. 3:4-5; 8:3-4)
- Spiritual Intimacy
- Maintaining Teamwork (Rom. 12:18; 14:18; Phil. 2:13)

Necessary Expenses

A Necessary Expense is something that costs you, but is necessary for your relationship.

Common Necessary Expenses in Marriage:

- Learn Good Communication Skills
- Aging Parents

- Financial Issues
 - Parenting Issues (unity) - During Pregnancy - New baby, Teenage years,
- Praying together
- Regular Dates
- Resolving Conflict
- Unexpected Challenges
 - Emotional Struggles: May be due to: - Illness - Infertility - Dealing with Loss (job, loved one,) - Illness or emotional issues may require - Personal Sacrifice (sexual, schedule, etc.)
- Decision Making

Unnecessary Expenses:

An unnecessary expense is something your marriage cannot afford.

Catch all the foxes, those little foxes, before they ruin the vineyard of love, for the grapevines are blossoming! (Song 2:15)

Common Unnecessary Expenses:

- Busy Schedules (overly-committed)
- Unnecessary Arguments
- Unwillingness to Communicate (Avoiding each other)
- Selfishness and selfish Demands
- Disrespectful Judgments (being critical (name calling, belittling, sarcasm,)
- Angry Outbursts (lacking self-control, quick tempered)
- Dishonesty (Keeping Secrets)
- Annoying Habits (especially if they've been brought to your attention)
- Conflict over Parenting Issues (raising kids)
- Flirting with others (confiding in another, emotional bonding,)
- Spending too much time away from home (friends, hobbies, unnecessary work)
- Personal weakness (Jealousy, pride, fear, lust, -- any personal sin that affects the marriage)
- Too Controlling of Spouse (overbearing, smothering, manipulating)
- In-Laws Interference (allowing others to come between you and your spouse)
- Financial Irresponsibility (debt, impulsive spending, poor management)
- Unrealistic Expectations

Marital Debt

Marital debt is any issue in your marriage that has not been resolved but is still costing you and requiring resources.

Individual debt (unresolved personal issues) affects the marriage relationship (abortion, abuse, neglect, emotionally inexperienced, bitterness, etc.)

Unnecessary Expenses that go addressed can become marital debt.

Common Debts in Marriage (Things that INJURE within the marriage relationship)

- Broken Trust, Lying
- Infidelity (affairs: physical and emotional)
- Sexual Offenses (Pornography, selfish demands)
- Financial Irresponsibility
- Abuse (physical, verbal, emotional)
- Indifference (Apathy)
- Chronic Bad Habits
- Others

Investments

Marriage Investments are contributions you and your spouse make into others that are intended to propel them toward growth and a lasting marriage. .

The Secret to fulfillment is adding value to others.

Common Investments:

- Personal Growth (just as personal debt affect your marriage, personal growth is an investment)
- Get Involved in marriage ministry (prepare, enrich, restore)

Ideas of how you can invest in other couples:

- Invite a couple to your home for a meal and games.
- Host a small group study on marriage, inviting a few younger couples.
- Offer to get involved in pre-marriage education at your church or in your community
- If your church has a marriage ministry, get involved. If it does not, pray about starting one.
- Sponsor (pay for) a couple to attend a marriage seminar. Give the registration to them as a gift (maybe their anniversary).
- Offer to provide child care for a younger couple so they can have a date night.

Marriage Budget on page 4

Marriage Budget

Income Sources:

Current

Necessary Expenses:

Current

Unnecessary Expenses:

Debts (Agreed upon):

Investments and Giving:

Current

Income Sources:

Addition (New)

Necessary Expenses:

Additional (New)

Unnecessary Expenses: (List in order of priority)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Debts (Address smallest to largest):

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Investments and Giving:

Additional (New)
