



Sermon: Front Porch Families | Series: The Honeymoon Isn't Over | By Pastor Tracy | September 25, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Marrriages are exciting on the wedding day and honeymoon. However, after those exciting days, trouble seems to come. How can we ensure that the honeymoon doesn't end? How can we strengthen our marriages to ensure division does not set in? Consider the details of your relationship as we discuss the following questions.

Opening Prayer: Jesus, help me to see where I can do better in my relationship with my spouse. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *The focus: what steps lead to a healthy marriage.*

1. Pastor Tracy said one way for us to ensure the honeymoon isn't over is by taking responsibility for our own emotional and spiritual health. Explain what he meant by this. How can we be responsible with our emotional and spiritual health?
2. Step 2 was to invest our best time and energy into our marriage. He explained to do this we should make memories with our spouse. What are some ideas for couples to do to ensure they make more memories together?
3. Another suggestion Pastor Tracy made was to ask our spouse scary questions. This will enable us to have more meaningful conversations. What is one open ended question to help you and your spouse have meaningful conversation and better communication?
4. Pastor Tracy explained the third step was getting in the habit of asking for help. Why do you think couples are reluctant to ask for help from professional counselors?
5. The last step Pastor Tracy gave was to protect your marriage with healthy boundaries. Are there boundaries you and your spouse have to ensure the integrity of your relationship that could help another couple? (ex. How you speak to or about one another, conversations with others, etc.)
6. Step 5 is to become an expert forgiver. Why is it important that **you** forgive?
7. The last step Pastor Tracy shared pertained to the spiritual wellbeing of us and our spouse. How can we share and create God moments with our spouse?

THINKING FORWARD

The relationship you share with your spouse is the most important relationship we have on earth. Protecting the vitality of that relationship takes effort, time and communication. The key to doing so, is keeping God in the center of it. Ensure that you and your spouse take time together with God, reading and illustrating His Word with one another.

VERSE TO GO

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. 'So they are no longer two, but one flesh. (Mark 10:6-8)

PRAYER: Jesus, help us to recognize where we are getting it wrong in our marriage/dating relationship. Help us to show love to one another, to not allow division, and to keep You at the center. Amen.