

UNITY

GOAL: Happiness is not the ultimate goal of marriage, but rather unity is. Unity requires the daily decision to love. Unity is part of the “working” at our marriage. It is the constant striving to achieve oneness.

INTRODUCTION:

The title of this podcast is “Unity.” In this episode, we discuss how happiness is dependent on circumstances, subject to moods and outside influences. Marriage gives the opportunity to create a special unity because marriage is not based on circumstances.

1st John 4:7-21, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent His Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.” God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because He first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars’ for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from Him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (NRSV)

1. THE REAL GOAL OF MARRIAGE
2. WHAT UNITY IS NOT
3. WHAT UNITY IS
4. RESULTS OF UNITY

MAKE THIS A SPECIAL TIME IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

1. Choose the most appropriate/difficult question below to begin writing. (Select just one question.)
2. Write for the full suggested time of 15 minutes.
3. Discuss for the full suggested time of 15 minutes.

QUESTION OPTIONS:

- 1) When have I felt close to you, sharing concerns as well as joys?
- 2) When have I felt the greatest need to be close to you?
- 3) How have I withheld myself from you because of my lack of confidence in our love? Explain.
- 4) What is my concept of unity in marriage? Explain.
- 5) Do I believe that unity and not happiness is the real goal of marriage?
- 6) What might we do differently to increase unity in our relationship?

