



**February 4, 2012**

**Marriage Clinic**

**Breakfast**

**Hot Topics**

## Hot Topic #1-Finances/Headship



Supporting Scripture:

Eph. 5:22-33, 1 Cor. 11:2-3, 1 Cor. 13:4-8, 1 Peter 3:1-6

**A husband who has been the primary breadwinner for his family has been unemployed for over 18 months. His wife is now the only one working and carrying the financial responsibility of the family. How does he maintain leadership and a sense of still being the leader of his marriage and home?**

**Key Messages from group discussions:**

- Recognize that the role of the husband is not changed by economic situation or employment status. God holds man accountable as the head of the household
- Both husband and wife must encourage and lift each other up as both are affected emotionally and financially
- Seek spiritual oneness through daily devotion and prayer (as a couple)
- Work as a team to determine what adjustments you will make to minimize the stress of the situation
- Avoid shutting each other out, try to create and maintain a safe environment for open communication

## Hot Topic #2-Sexual Intimacy



### Supporting Scripture

Prov. 5:15-20, Heb. 13:4, 1 Cor. 7:2-5  
Eph. 5:3, Col. 3:5,

**I am rather conservative and unwilling to explore creativity and spontaneity in the bedroom. My spouse possesses a much freer attitude and believes as long as it is between the two of us, ANYTHING GOES! Is this true, does anything go? How can we maintain a healthy and fulfilling sexual intimacy with such varying opinions?**

Key messages from group discussion:

- Within the confines of the Marriage Vows either spouse should have the freedom to express their desires. Respect is essential to maintaining that freedom**
- Remember that intimacy begins before you enter the bed room**
- Small things create positive emotional bonds (walks together, shopping, dates, compliments, being helpful and honoring commitments)**
- Understand the differences between you and your spouse. Women are like crock pots(warm up slowly), men are like frying pans (heat up fast)**
- Communicate key to every aspect of marriage**

## Hot Topic #3-Children and Discipline



Supporting Scripture:

Prov. 13:24, 20:30, 22:6, 29:17, Luke  
11:17

**My spouse frequently spares the rod and is interested in using alternative approaches to discipline. My spouse believes times have changed and children are not the way they were years ago. I am concerned about the way these views impact our children and their choices. The desire to wear clothes, watch shows and listen to music, I feel is inappropriate. How do we parent our children effectively although our views about discipline are different?**

**Key messages from group discussions:**

- Parents must be unified and consistent with their plan for raising children**
- Work as a team and be decisive on actions**
- Discipline out of love and not anger**
- Get to know what form of discipline is most effective for your child (each child could respond differently)**
- Pray for and with your children**

## Hot Topic #4 Roles and Responsibilities



Supporting Scripture:

1 Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:22-33, Col. 3:18-19

**My spouse was reared in a traditional two-parent home with a stay-home mother. My spouse believes in definite roles and responsibilities for husband and wife. According to my spouse, a wife cooks, cleans, and cares for the husband, children and home, the man works, pays the bills, upkeep the home and yard, takes out the trash, and keeps gas in the car. I do not agree with his standard of gender specific roles. How do we work towards a balance and understanding of roles and responsibilities?**

**Key messages from group discussion:**

- Marriage represents the relationship of Christ and the Church with Christ as the head. Man as the head of the wife is called to love as Christ loves.**
- Create a safe environment for communication**
- Openly share and be willing to hear**
- Pray together**
- Follow God's will when setting roles and goals**
- God is the head of all, man is the head of the wife**
- Share household responsibility**

## Hot Topic #5-Privacy



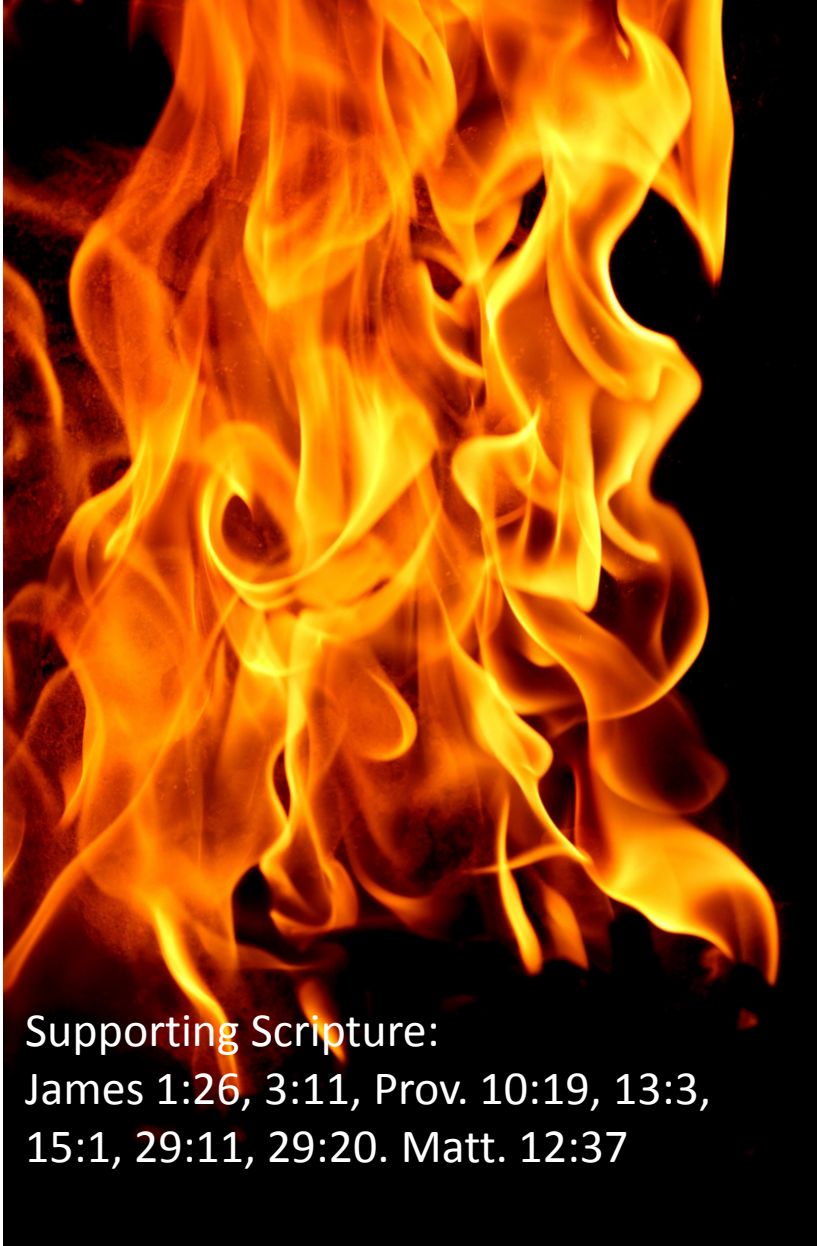
Supporting Scripture:  
Gen. 2:22-25

**My spouse wants me to share all passwords to my email accounts, cell phone, and social network sites, such as Facebook and Linked In. My spouse wants permission and total freedom to view this information on a regular basis. Is there a level or standard of privacy and respect one should get as an individual, regardless of being married or not.**

**Key messages from group discussions:**

- Husband and wife becomes one in Christ**
- Marriage is built on trust and communications**
- Transparency/Open book/Honesty**
- Mutual respect for each other**
- Don't invalidate spouses concerns or feelings**

## Hot Topic #6 Communications



### Supporting Scripture:

James 1:26, 3:11, Prov. 10:19, 13:3,  
15:1, 29:11, 29:20. Matt. 12:37

**My spouse loves to talk, is very blunt, free with voicing opinions, and must have the last word in absolutely every conversation! How can you effectively communicate with someone who refuses to BE QUIET and allow you to get a word in?**

### Key message from group discussions:

- Be prayerful about your response and attitude towards your spouse
- Make sure your spouse knows that you love her by deeds and conversation
- Share your feelings with your spouse
- Respect your spouses differences
- Practice listening to understand your spouses perspective