**Sustaining Your Marriage And Family**

Matthew 7:24-27

**Key Truth:** The hardest and most rewarding thing you can achieve is a great marriage.

**Destroying the marriage myth:**

Myth: You can have a perfect marriage.

Truth: No marriage is perfect because no one is perfect, therefore two imperfect human beings cannot have a perfect marriage. The best we can hope for is a great marriage.

1. Marriage is hard yet rewarding.

 A. Your marriage is only as good as the investment you

 make in it.

 B. Great marriages don’t happen overnight.

 C. Marriage exposes the immaturity in our lives while

 also helping fulfill the greatest needs in our lives.

**Key Ingredients for a Lasting Marriage:**

1. Grace and Mercy – The spouse must be willing to allow for

 imperfections and be able to give love/respect even though

 their spouse disappoints them at times.

2. Forgiveness – We must be willing to forgive quickly and often

 if we are going to sustain our marriage. Eph 4:26, Col 3:12-13

3. Love – Love is words in action.

 A. You cannot afford to put your marriage on autopilot.

 B. You must be intentional to apply the principles of

 Scripture daily to your marriage. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4. Trust – Confidence that my spouse has my best interest at

 heart.

5. Accountability partners – people that are invested in your

 marriage succeeding.

 A. Must be people of faith that have the same values as you.

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Pray for your spouse daily and look for ways to communicate and express your love daily.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How does destroying the marriage myth help strengthen your marriage?

Why should we make God a priority in marriage? What dangers face your marriage when you fail to put God first?

Read Ephesians 5:31-32: What did Paul say was the mystery of marriage?

How does marriage symbolize Christ and the church?

What do these two verses tell you about the ultimate purpose of marriage?

Read Titus 2:1-5: Why is having a mentors/accountability partner important in your life? Do you have accountability partners/mentors for your marriage?

Read Psalm 128: What is the key to a fruitful and blessed family?

What is something you and your spouse will commit to doing together this week to help keep God first?

What are some specific ways our group can encourage and help each other to keep God and His gospel at the center of our lives and marriages?