



VISIONARY MARRIAGE

Building a Marriage with a Mission

A three part DVD series
for engaged couples
with Dr. Rob Rienow

Welcome to Visionary Marriage! Most couples spend huge amounts of time getting read for their wedding day, but little time getting ready for their marriage. You, on the other hand, have chosen to invest into your marriage. My prayer is that God will use this journey to prepare you for a life of deep oneness and that you will catch a vision for how God wants to use your relationship to make a difference in the world for Christ – for generations to come!

God's Love,
Rob Rienow



**Building a Marriage with a Mission
Part 1 of 3**

I. What's your story?

II. Let's start building!

III. Questions...

1. On a scale of 1-10, how high of a _____ will your marriage be to you? ____

2. On a scale of 1-10 how important is the _____ of your marriage in the eyes of God? ____

3. On a scale of 1-10 how much time, effort, money, planning, and focus have you given to _____ for marriage? ____

The million dollar question: _____ are you getting married?

IV. Before you build – check the soil

V. Forgiveness matters to God

Hebrews 12:15, "See to it that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble, and to defile many."

The fastest growing tree

VI. Testing the soil for the poison of unforgiveness

Test #1: The overflowing cup

Test #2: The math of relationships

Test #3: Above the ground - Below the ground

VII. Action plan

A. Keep new poison from seeping in to our foundation

Using the Bible's language of apology:

I did X

I was _____

I am _____

Will you please _____?

Response: Yes, I _____ you.

B. We actively forgive those in our past who have hurt us

Colossians 3:13, "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Phase 1: Forgiveness with your will

Make the list

It hurt me when...

I choose to forgive...

Phase 2: Forgiveness with your heart

Pray for God to heal your heart

Stay active in prayer until God finishes the job

Phase 3: Reconciliation

The primary burden for reconciliation is on the offender

You can trust God whether reconciliation happens or not

Additional thoughts and notes:

Questions for group discussion:

1. Why do you think so many couples focus all their time on getting ready for the wedding, rather than getting ready for the marriage?
2. How do you think most engaged couples would answer the question, "why are you getting married?"
3. How have you already seen pain from your past to affect your relationship?
4. What was the most meaningful thing that you heard today?

Preparation for Next Session:

1. Pray and ask God if there is someone from your past you need to forgive. Complete the first phase of the forgiveness process, and begin phase 2.
2. Keep the new poison out! Work on biblical apologies.
3. Talk about the following questions together as a couple:
 - What are three things from your home growing up that you want to repeat in your future marriage and family?
 - What are three things from your home growing up that you don't want to repeat in your future marriage and family?
 - How have you dealt with hurt and apologies in your relationship up until this point? What needs to change?
 - Do you see "over-reactions" in each other? How could you help each other grow through and respond better to those situations in the future?



**Building a Marriage with a Mission
Part 2 of 3**

I. A quick review...

II. Laying the foundation of PURPOSE: Why are you getting married?

III. The role and purpose of a husband

Ephesians 5:24-25

Love and Serve – 1 Corinthians 13

The husband as protector

The husband as provider

Lead - To make her holy

The husband as prophet

The husband as priest

A man's wife is his most important ministry and calling before God.

IV. The role and purpose of a wife

Genesis 2:18

The wife as helper to her husband

Ephesians 5:22, 5:33

The wife submitting to her husband

Help with what? Submit to what?

Genesis 2:24, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

Biblical roles in marriage hinge on the husband's sense of purpose before God: What is your compelling vision for your life?

A powerful question for women to their husbands, "How can I help you be successful today?"

V. Are you personally right with God?

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. Sometimes people get uncomfortable talking about different roles for men and women in marriage. Why do you think this is?
2. If you had a father in your home growing up, what role did he play? Did you see the roles of provider, protector, prophet, and priest?
3. If you had a mother in your home growing up, what role did she play? Did you see the roles of helping and submitting?
4. What did you hear in this session that impacted you the most?
5. Have you made the decision in your life to trust Christ and build your marriage to the best of your ability on the Bible? If yes, what does that look like on a day to day basis? If not, what role does faith play in your life and relationship?

Preparation for Next Session:

1. Read the entire chapter of Ephesians 5 at least three times together this week.
2. Continue to talk together about the question “why are we getting married?” Look at the answers you wrote in our first session. Would you change anything or add anything to your original answer? Take the time to write down your new answer.
3. Talk about the following questions together:
 - Which of the four “husband roles” did your father (if he was present in your life) excel in? Which of the four roles did he most struggle with?
 - In what ways did your mother (if she was present in your life) help and submit to her husband? In what ways did she struggle?
 - What roles does the Bible currently play in your relationship?
 - Men, how would you currently express your “vision” for your life?
 - What is one thing from this past session that you want to remember and put into practice?



**Building a Marriage with a Mission
Part 3 of 3**

I. Quick review

II. Why are you getting married?

III. The first mission of marriage: _____ Transformation

God created marriage to transform your character and make you more like Christ

A. Only marriage is “hot” enough to bring out the _____ in your character.

B. Ephesians 5:25-26

C. The battle will be over spiritual leadership – not loving and serving

D. Start somewhere!

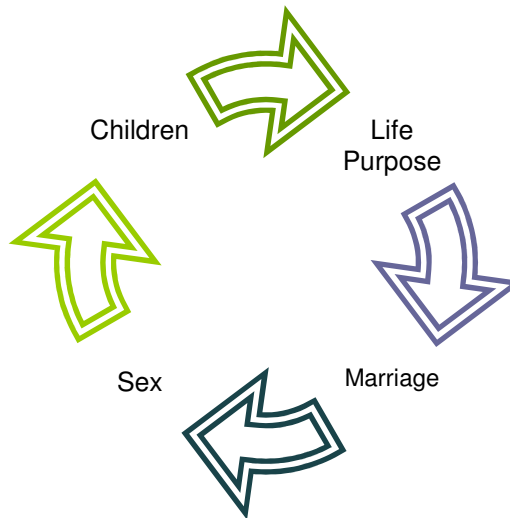
E. Many couples want deep oneness in their marriage, but they are not willing to practice the habits that create that oneness.

IV. The second mission of marriage: Having _____.

A. How many, how soon?

B. How does a Christian make big decisions?

C. The current battle



D. Two paradigms for organizing family life:

Option 1: Wrap career around the primary mission of family

Option 2: Wrap family around the primary mission of career

E. Psalm 127 and Genesis 1:28

What are the rewards for following God?

F. Malachi 2:13-16

What is it so essential that husband and wife be one in their spirits?

What is God looking for? _____

V. How big is your vision?

VI. Once again...why are you getting married?

Questions for Group Discussion:

1. Why do you think the worst parts of our character come out in our most important relationships?
2. What barriers do you find in your relationship to spending time in prayer and Bible reading together?
3. Which paradigm did you see growing up? Wrapping career around the primary mission of family, or wrapping family around primary mission of career? What impact did that have on you?
4. How do you think most couples make decisions about having children?
5. How do you see the four areas being separated in our culture today? (Life purpose, marriage, sex, children)
6. What was your reaction to the 200 year vision?
7. How could your group help each other continue to grow after the sessions together are over?

Next Steps for Couples:

1. Continue to talk about your mission and purpose for your marriage. As needed, discuss and re-write your answer to “why are we getting married?” Save what you write down. Consider using it as a mission statement for your life together.
2. Find a mentor couple. Ask your church leaders about how you can get connected with an older, mature Christian couple who can help guide you in the months and years ahead.
3. Make an all-out commitment to practicing the disciplines of prayer and Bible reading together. A marriage foundation apart from Christ and His Word cannot sustain you going forward.
4. Talk about the following questions together as a couple:
 - What parts of today’s lesson were the most thought provoking for you?
 - Why do you think God allows the worst (and the best) of your character to come out in your relationship?
 - What is one immediately action step you can take to increase your spiritual connection time with one another?
 - Up until now, what has been your view of having children? How have you gone about the making decision of “how many how soon?”
 - What was your reaction to the 200 year vision?