

Biblical Soul Care Sunday School 11-09-2025
Marriage: Part 1

Introduction: Why a series on marriage?

Song of Solomon 2:15 **“Catch all the foxes, those little foxes, before they ruin the vineyard of love, for the grapevines are blossoming!”**

Every marriage has little “Foxes” lurking inside it! We all have idols and selfish appetites—and, like the foxes in Solomon’s vineyard, they can cause untold destruction and heartache. In fact, how seriously a couple takes their own foxes will influence whether their marriage blooms and glorifies God, or is a shallow and pale imitation of the real thing. From “Catching Foxes” John Henderson

What are some foxes that typically invade marriages?

Series objective: Remove the foxes that are destroying the vineyard (the marriage relationship) and replace with Scriptural and practical principles that will bring about a blossoming marriage that glorifies God!

Counseling case wisdom: Jack and Jill

Foxes to be identified, removed and replaced

1. Relational distance.

Marriage was designed by God (among several things) to deal with the issue of being alone. **“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him’”** (Genesis 2:18; see also vv. 19-24).

God made most of us so that we would be lonely without an intimate companion with whom to live. God provided Eve not only (or even primarily) as Adam’s helper (though help is also one dimension of companionship), but as his companion. “Complete Husband” Lou Priolo

Marriage is described in terms of companionship: See Proverbs 2:17 and Malachi 2:14

In Proverbs 2:17 the word translated companion has the idea of “one that has a close, intimate relationship to another.”

In Malachi 2:14 the word translated companion has as its kernel idea that of union or association. A companion is one whom enters into a close union or relationship with another.

A companion, therefore, is one with whom you are intimately united in thoughts, goals, plans, efforts and in the case of marriage, in bodies.

In order to develop, maintain and nurture companionship in marriage, something of great significance is required.

Revelation is a prerequisite for having a relationship.

To the same degree that two people reveal themselves to each other, they will be able to have an intimate relationship with each other. To the extent that two people refuse or neglect to reveal themselves to each other, their ability to have an intimate relationship with other will be hindered. **Be a revealer not a concealer!**

On every level, physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, etc. a husband and wife should be “naked and unashamed” (see Genesis 2:25).

Hindrances to Revelation (intimacy)

Fear

Selfishness

Pride

Laziness

Ignorance

Guilt

Shame

Others:

References:

Complete Husband Lou Priolo
What did you expect Paul Tripp
Catching Foxes John Henderson

Hopework: Handouts for husbands to build relational intimacy, trust and companionship