

## **MARRIAGE MEDIATION MINISTRY**

### **CORE VALUES STATEMENT**

The following is a listing of core values, which are essential to fulfillment of the vision addressed previously. These core values are the foundation essential for a marriage mediation ministry to produce the spiritually intended results.

#### **Glorify God**

The purpose of marriage is to glorify God through obedience and spiritual growth. Marriage is not intended by God solely to make life easier for two individuals. Marriage is designed to actually glorify God by having both husband and wife follow God's Design for Marriage, being obedient to the principles of total submission to God; leaving the couples' parents, and establishing their own household so they can cleave and become one flesh; fulfilling the roles of spiritual leader and head of the household with a helper and companion; creating and maintaining the energizing cycle of love and respect; and resolve conflict and share intimacy through mutual submission. God through his Word guarantees a successful marriage if a couple is obedient to these principles. However, there is also the opportunity for miracles to occur as a couple grow together spiritually within a marriage. Obstacles heretofore which were seemingly impossible to scale become not only possible but easily overcome. The miracle provided by God's Design for Marriage is what a couple in the realm of spiritual growth realizes. Not only do they become closer to each other, but the husband and wife become closer to God. As a result, they exhibit good behavior modeled to others. The lesson provided to other couples is the beauty of their marriage came about only because of their faith and obedience to God.

## **The Inerrancy of the Word of God**

God's Design for Marriage is rooted in the Word of God and is a fool proof and simple model of behavior to enrich marriage, prevent disillusion, facilitate enrichment of Christian faith, and enrich a nation. I cannot tell you the number of times I have sat down with couples and seen the light bulbs go off in their heads when they understand the seven elements of God's Design for Marriage. Most couples' participation in marriage mediation immediately responds with the question why pastors never teach the flock about the complete design. They acknowledge that from time to time a pastor will touch on separate components, for example, the importance of a father and husband being the spiritual leader of the household, but most couples are surprised pastors never address from the pulpit or through bible studies the complete design. Once identified, the reaction of most couples is how simple the model is. Immediately they see the possibility of correcting all the problems in their marriage by simply following God's Design for Marriage. Immediately they have hope where no hope previously existed. Once they saw themselves heading toward divorce, but then can see the possibility, the light at the end of the tunnel, where they can have a beautiful marriage as God intended. Divorce becomes not only an impossibility, but the word they never use again in their communications. As one marriage is rebuilt and restored according to God's will, another can follow, and another and another in an endless stream of marriages turned around with a focus on God. Imagine the effect of this on the couples' children. Those children will now have a model of what mom and dad did when they run into difficulty. Instead of believing that divorce is permissible, they are left with a model of their parents who stood for the proposition that divorce was something they were never going to tolerate. The statistics related to generational divorce are thereby reversed. The frequency of divorce will decrease and unbelievers will be called to understand how such a reversal could become possible resulting in a greater likelihood of their eventual acceptance of Christ as their savior.

### **Purity & Biblical Courtship Ensures Wise Discernment**

Current cultural trends increasingly devalue the family and thereby increase the likelihood of a nation's failure and instability. Current cultural trends do not recognize the value of purity and a biblical courtship before marriage. The focus for most in the dating process is discovering how and when sexual intimacy can be achieved so that the selfish sexual desires can be fulfilled. Once conquered, the woman is typically left in a place of regret of having her most valuable treasure taken from her for all time and leaving the question, "What of value do I have left to give?". The man is left with a sense of having conquered and anticipates the likelihood of enjoying the spoils again and again. What is left to conquer? Over time the typical man and woman begin to wonder whether or not there is commitment. Usually there is a difference of opinion on that issue and eventually one makes a decision to either leave the relationship and move on or submit to their partner's desire for commitment. This is not a healthy method leading to a loving relationship. It is a formula for disaster. Yet this is the formula that most men and women follow even though the likelihood of failure is substantial. Why would any couple follow such a formula with the likelihood of failure? Unfortunately, the vast majority of Christian marriages came about using the same formula. However, there is a minority of believers who actually follow the Word of God, are obedient to God's directive to remain pure and follow a biblical courtship that waits for the treasure to be revealed after the vows are exchanged in a covenant marriage with God. Those individuals have taken the time to know each other, both strengths and weaknesses, discovered what weaknesses they can accept, and have the assurance that their spouse has the integrity and character God wishes for all of us. For this minority of Christians, forgiveness is an accepted practice of behavior. Also accepted naturally are the various means of displaying love for the other person such as words of affirmation, acts of service, gifts, physical touch and quality time. The focus becomes sharing a life together forever and usually bringing children into the world using scripture as their guide for

the problems they address on a day-to-day basis. There is no better way to glorify God than by being obedient to God in the creation of a Christian family and raising children who are able, through their parents modeling, to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

### **True Christian Marriage Guarantees Blessings**

Christian marriages following God's Design for Marriage enrich a culture and promote success and stability. There is no question that divorce is one of the most extreme methods of destroying a human being's psyche, ability to function in a healthy way, and to teach children a pathway to having unsuccessful relationships. For believers who have never gone through a divorce, the process and end result is indescribable. In every marriage, the "one flesh" attribute of marriage begins to germinate with the consummation of the marriage. Therefore, even for marriages that end abruptly, the husband and wife experience the tearing of one flesh. The emotional destruction is similar to the conscious amputation of a part of the body. Imagine what it would be like for you to be standing before a full-length mirror and have your arm ripped off while you watched. Would that be physically painful? Would it change your life forever? Would people look at you differently than they did before? Would your life be forever changed? Is it likely that you would have phantom pain thinking that you still have your marriage? Would the loss be felt throughout the balance of your life? Now, try to really focus on those questions as if it really happened to you. Only then could you hope to truly understand the degree of emotional trauma and loss associated with the process of separation and divorce. The statistics on divorce particularly those related to multiple marriages occur because most individuals going through separation and divorce do not take the time to heal from the loss sustained from separation and divorce. Most individuals simply jump into another relationship as soon as they can so they can feel good without really working on their own spiritual deficiencies, which contributed to their divorce, and so for most individuals going through separation and divorce, they

simply repeat the pattern because they have not allowed for an opportunity to heal. The likelihood of divorce for a Christian couple is statistically increased if they have not followed God's Word related to remaining pure and pursuing a biblical courtship prior to marriage. The likelihood of divorce for couples who have lived together out of wedlock before marriage is substantially higher than those who have followed principles of purity and utilized God's direction for a biblical courtship before marriage. The absolute best way to reverse current cultural trends and instead, follow God's Design for Marriage and enrich a culture and promote success and stability, is by defeating the temptations of Satan related to impurity and take the time to ascertain whether the person you are attracted to is the person God actually chose for you to be with for the rest of your life. Rather than be sidetracked by sexual temptation, the focus should be on the character of the person and whether the two of you are equally yoked in Christian faith.

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