

Love in Marriage 101

"Loving Your Spouse"

March 10th, 2014

Seth Ebel

Marriage has within it, several inherent powers that we must accept and use in order to experience the growth and fullness that God intends for us.

"Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." - Ephesians 4:15

1. The Power of TRUTH.

- "The merged life of marriage brings you into the closest, most inescapable contact with another person possible. And that means not only that you see each other close up, but that you are forced to deal with the flaws and sins of one another." - Timothy Keller, The Meaning of Marriage p. 151

- In marriage, we have to be committed to **TRUTH TELLING**.

"Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin." - Leviticus 19:17

2. The Power of LOVE.

- "An unmatched power to affirm you and heal you of the deepest wounds and hurts of your life." - Keller, p. 162

- The love we give needs to be clothed in the forms to which our spouse can relate. (Beware of love-language projection!)
 - Words of Affirmation
 - Acts of Service
 - Receiving Gifts
 - Quality Time
 - Physical Touch

3. The Power of GRACE.

- "Marriage has unique power to show us the truth of who we really are. Marriage has unique power to redeem our past and heal our self-image through love. And marriage has unique power to show us the grace of what God did for us in Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 5, Paul tells us that Jesus laid down his life for us, forgiving

us at great cost to make us something beautiful. And because he has done it for us, we can do the same for others.” – Keller, p. 186

- Grace makes possible the two most important skills any couple can develop in marriage:
 - **FORGIVENESS**: Releasing another person from punishment.
 - **REPENTANCE**: Changing your mind, and moving in a new direction.

“So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” – Ephesians 5:33