

## Commitment in Marriage

ICEBREAKER – If your wife was given the opportunity to go into Wal-Mart, and was told that she could bring out one thing—any one thing—for free, and she had 5 minutes to do it, what would she emerge with?

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

John 10:9-14 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Look at Eph 5:23. Now apply this scripture to John 10:9-14 which the husband being in the place of Christ. What do you see?

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- Like tearing down the church, satan can best win through destroying marriages within the church.

- The tools he uses: Stress, selfishness, addictions, In-law interference, Money Matters, Rolls Changing, Poor Communication, Sexual Frustration, and Careerism (or unemployment), Early Marriage (getting into the marriage plan without knowing how it works)

How can we counter these ungodly principles in our marriages? Discuss each one. Think of a Scripture that opposes them, or some godly principal or power that counters them.

Ps 127:1 ¶ Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.

- Staying committed (It's not automatic—if it were, then everyone would still be married)

-- It takes \_\_\_\_\_ WORK

-- It takes \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice

-- It takes \_\_\_\_\_ selflessness

- What is your marriage worth to you? How much are you willing to do and pay to make it better?

-- We invest out time and money into church

-- We invest into our retirement (temporal as it be)

-- We invest in our country (taxes)

-- We invest into other ministries (we want to do good)

-- We invest into our kids (we want to see them do good)

- Why not our marriages.

It takes knowledge (what does your wife—like) 10 things paper.

**Situational Question:** What is something that your wife loves to invest in? Can be time, money, relationship, effort—into people, hobbies, sports, stocks, activity, merchandise.

**Experience Question:** What is something that you know that your wife really loves and appreciates when you do it? Words said? Gifts given? Acts accomplished? Time Spent? Physical touch?

**Application Question:** What is something that you can improve on when it comes to building a healthy relationship with your wife?

Read the following Scriptures aloud in your group. Take FIVE MINUTES to discuss it and *then* answer the questions:

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ***Now apply this scripture to John 10:9-14 which the husband being in the place of Christ.***

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***What do you see?***

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Ps 127:1 ¶ Unless the LORD builds the house [marriage], its builders labor in vain.  
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

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- Staying committed (It's not automatic—if it were, then everyone would still be married)

-- It takes \_\_\_\_\_

-- It takes \_\_\_\_\_

-- It takes \_\_\_\_\_

**- What is your marriage worth to you? How much are you willing to do and pay to make it better?**