

iMarriage

Keeping My “I” On You

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Tension: What do I do with my expectations? How do I get focused on my spouse’s desires instead of my expectations?

Introduction

Women think, “Yeah! He’s going to talk about marriage and relationships.” Ladies, let me give you a word picture that explains why most guys hate this kind of stuff. Men think of marriage the way you think about a car.

Women don’t want to maintain their cars. They just want them to work with little or no effort. You just want to get in and drive. When you say, “Let’s talk out our relationship,” that’s like him saying, “Do you hear that rattle?” You are thinking, “Yeah, so what? Turn up the radio.” And he’s climbing around in the backseat trying to find the rattle. You are thinking, “Good grief . . . or let’s look under the hood and read the manual.” Why?

Men are the same way with marriage. **We don’t want to work on it; we just want it to work.** As long as it’s not broken down on the side of the road, keep driving. Do we have to talk about it?

For the next three weeks, I want to talk about one thin slice of marriage.

- I. We all approach marriage with a box full of desires— dreams, wishes—of how we want marriage to be.

Even if you are single and imagining it . . .

- A. How we desire **decisions** to be made
- B. How **money** will be spent
- C. Our picture includes how **conflicts** are resolved.
 - 1. We just get everything out on the table and deal with it and then get over it—right?
 - 2. We just hold it inside because we need to be sensitive . . .
 - 3. It is healthy to raise our voices every once in a while . . .
 - 4. We don’t raise our voices in this house . . .
- D. The way a marriage is scheduled
 - 1. You will be home at 5:30 for dinner.
 - 2. I will be home at 7:00ish.
 - 3. We will spend our discretionary time together.