

# Rekindling the Fires of Love

## Learning To Love

Part 2; January 31, 2010

---

God designed marriage to make us holy, not happy; but by living holy we discover true happiness and fulfillment

### Marriage Is Designed To Call Us \_\_\_\_\_ and To Learn To Love Different

"**Love your neighbor as you love yourself.**" *Matthew 22:37-39 GNT*

"Most of all, **love each other as if your life depended on it.** Love makes up for practically anything." *1 Peter 4:8 MSG*

"**People cannot love God**, whom they have not seen, if they do not love their brothers and sisters, whom they have seen." *1 John 4:20 GNT*

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**" *Colossians 3:12 NIV*

### Marriage Creates a Climate Where \_\_\_\_\_

➤ We show love for God by \_\_\_\_\_

➤ When we love well, \_\_\_\_\_

"Be good wives to your husbands, **responsive to their needs**...Be good husbands to your wives. **Honor** them, **delight in** them...Treat your wives, then, **as equals** so your prayers don't run aground." *1 Peter 3:1, 7 MSG*

**Problem:** \_\_\_\_\_ **for Looking Out For Our Selves**

## Staying Open to Love: A. R. E.

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_ – Can I Reach You. Means staying open to you partner even when you have doubts and feel Insecure

- What closes us to our partner?
- How do I open myself up to my partner?
- How do I help my partner open up to me?

"**Now it's time to change your ways!** Turn to face God so he can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you," *Acts 3:19 MSG*

**R:** \_\_\_\_\_ – Can I rely on you to respond to me emotionally? I demonstrate that my partner's emotional needs (especially their fears) are important to me

- I place \_\_\_\_\_ on meeting my partners emotional needs
- I discover how my partner needs to be comforted during times of distress and I \_\_\_\_\_

**E:** \_\_\_\_\_ – Do I know you will value me and stay close? This is being emotionally engaged

- Problem #1: Men fear reaching their emotional threshold
- Solution:
  1. Women: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Men: I set aside \_\_\_\_\_
- Problem #2: Dried up emotions - emotional deadness/numbness
- Solution:
  1. Be a \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Build \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Lean toward \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Lean on \_\_\_\_\_