

# *The Heart of Marriage*

## **1. WHERE DOES LOVE COME FROM?**

- a. *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).*

## **2. WHAT IS THE REAL ISSUE?**

- a. In relationships, the real issue isn't "love," the issue is the state of our heart: Is it open or closed? In order for intimacy and deep connection to occur, hearts must be open to God and others (1 Peter 1:22).
- b. *What is the state of your heart?*

## **3. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEART**

- a. One of the central themes in the Bible.
- b. Our faith originates in our heart (Rom 10:9-10).
- c. The dwelling place of the Lord (Eph 3:17).
- d. Some of our deepest thinking occurs in our heart (Prov 23:7; NKJ).

## **4. WHY DOES A HEART CLOSE?**

- a. Lies written on our heart (Jer 17:1).
- b. Once a lie is written on our heart, we become afraid that the lie is true about us and FEAR develops. Once fear takes over, we react by closing our heart (Matt 13:15).

## **5. HOW DO WE HEAL OUR HEARTS?**

- a. Christ came not only to pardon us, but also to heal our heart.
  - i. *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (Isa 61:1)*
- b. Discover what lies have been written on your heart.
  - i. *Search me, O God, and know my heart (Ps 139:23).*
- c. Discover God's truth about your heart.
  - i. *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17).*
  - ii. *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32).*
- d. Decide that your heart matters. Guard and take care of your heart, for it's the wellspring of life!
  - i. *Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:23).*

***A change of heart changes everything!***

***"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)***