

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

May you become more focused and enriched
in what God has called you to as a couple.



COUPLES IN THIS PRESENT WORLD

The following is from Stats SA

- Average age of couples who marry: Men 35 / Woman 30
- Average age of couples who divorce: Men 43 / Woman 40
- Age that most couples divorce: 35 and 50 years old
- Most couples divorce about: 5-9 years into marriage
- The average marriage lasts about: 17 years
- 49% of couples who happily marry will divorce
- Civil and customary marriage is on the decline
- Most couples that divorce have children under 18 years old
- Clerical and sales occupations account for highest divorces
- Farmers have the lowest divorce rate



COUPLES IN THIS PRESENT WORLD

- God designed marriage
- God created man and woman for marriage; Gen 2:18-24
- God is Love
- Family (everyone desires to be part of a loving secure family environment – even unbelievers)
- God's pattern



COUPLES NEED CHRIST

You cannot be a “**Couple for Christ**” if you are not “**in Christ**”

To be “*in Christ*”

- *Romans 6:3*
- *1 Corinthians 15:22*
- *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- *1 Corinthians 1:30*
- *Romans 8:1-2*
- *2 Corinthians 2:14*
- *Ephesians 1:3*

Being “*Religious vs Born Again*” – Does it really matter?

- *Romans 3:10*
- *Isaiah 64:6*
- *John 3:3*
- *Ephesians 2:8-10*



FACING OUR PAST

JUSTIFY / BLAME / HIDE

Dealing with issues from the past, we find to be very difficult.

Much of who we become is shaped in our early formative years, where we unconsciously seek to find the answers from our parents of our need for love, purpose and value.

When these needs are unmet then unhelpful, ungodly beliefs develop on real or even perceived hurts.

Hurts / Abuse / Rejection
Inferiority / Low Self Esteem
Addictions / Habits
Sexual orientation
Lusts / Finances
In-Laws / Friends
Parenting

We need to be ruthlessly honest about the things that have become a hindrance to us becoming a “Couple for Christ” and begin to deal with them.



FACING OUR PAST

LOVE / PURPOSE / WORTH

LOVE:

Knowing we are loved

- *Gen 1:27* *God created humans in His image*
- *Gen 2:7* *God breathed life into us*
- *1 John 4:8* *God is Love*

We are created in the **“IMAGE of LOVE”** because God is love

PURPOSE:

Knowing we have a purpose

- *Gen 2:15* *God placed us in a garden with a purpose to tend it*

We have significance in knowing we have **“PURPOSE”** in God

WORTH:

Knowing we have value

- *Gen 2:18* *God created us for relationship*

We find **“WORTH”** through knowing our value relationally



FACING OUR PAST

HONESTY

God's purpose was for mankind to have the confidence of being naked and feeling no shame

Shame is an emotion linked to our **identity**

In their relationship with God and each other there was complete exposure, nothing hidden, nothing covered up, nothing suppressed and nothing to be afraid of - **JUST A DEEP SENCE OF PEACE**

Sin resulted in the awareness of our nakedness, there is an instant feeling of exposure, the need to cover up, shame and the need to hide.

God calls to man "**WHERE ARE YOU**" - a positional question.
God is more interested in where we are than what we've done.

SO WHERE ARE YOU?



LIVING IN THE PRESENT

Facing the stuff

Where we are today is as a result of our past

The unmet need of **LOVE, PURPOSE AND WORTH**, will create within us a feeling of; **INSECURITY, INFERIORITY AND INSIGNIFICANCE**

The following emotions become our present behaviours;

Jealousy

Insecurity

Bitterness

Anger

Unforgiveness

Resentment

Self-Pity

Obsessiveness / Control

Trauma

Depression



LIVING IN THE PRESENT

Facing the stuff

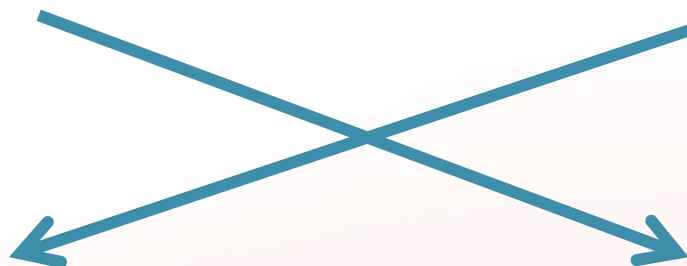
These issues could be so stressful that you are considering separation or divorce.

These create within us **“DEEP THIRST”**

- *Jeremiah 2:13* Drawing from the **CREATOR** or **CREATION**

Short Term Pleasure

Short Term Pain



Long Term Pleasure

Long Term Pain

ONLY JESUS SATISFIES OUR DEEP THIRSTS!!!



LIVING IN THE PRESENT

Facing the stuff

Dealing with issues is very sensitive and couples need the know how;

- Communication
- Understanding
- Forgiveness
- Marriage Bed
- Parenting
- Finances
- In-Laws
- Friendships

Forgiveness is the key to moving forward;

- Luke 23:34
- Mat 6: 9-13
- Mat 18:21-22



OUR FUTURE

Victory

As we learn to communicate as couples, we can find God's grace on a daily basis to seek Him for our future

We are no longer looking back but forward, being led of His Spirit into His plans and purposes for our lives

We become effective tools in His hands;

- Ministry Team
- Deliverance
- Vision
- Hope
- Purpose

The things we have suffered, God will use for good. We learn to have compassion, enabling us to effectively minister to and help others.



OUR FUTURE

Couples for Christ

Couples, who deal with the past, find each other in the present and move forward as a team in Christ seeking His purpose for them become an extremely effective tool in the hands of God

- Ensure a safe and secure home
- Raise secure and confident children
- Effective ministry team in Church
- Effective ministry team in the community
- Reach and disciple other couples
- Develop leaders
- Inspire people
- Offer hope to society



OUR FUTURE

Couples for Christ

How do these “**Couples for Christ**” practically work this out?

- Find a Bible based Church where other “Couples for Christ” are serving
- Let other “Couples for Christ” disciple you as a couple
- Work together with other “Couples for Christ” to achieve God’s purposes
- Reach other “Couples for Christ”
- Disciple the “Couples for Christ” you reach

