



iMarriage 3 – *It Takes Three* {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

As long as you continue to place expectations on your spouse you have a debt/debtor relationship that will crowd out love and intimacy. In order to experience marriage as God designed it you must transform your expectations back to desires. But then what? You're still left with all these unfulfilled hopes, dreams, and needs. We must learn to look to God as the ultimate satisfier of our desires, not our spouse. We must develop the habit of casting our cares on Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you have desires for your marriage that go unmet, what is your reaction?
 - a. Deny that those desires are valid (“I really don’t want ...”)
 - b. Distract yourself by staying busy
 - c. Demand that your desires be met
2. What are the downsides to each of these reactions?

“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7

3. Biblical humility is choosing to put the desires of others before your desires. How can you begin to “clothe yourself in humility” towards others?
4. God opposes the proud, those who put their own desires first, by withdrawing His help. Why does God do this? Have you ever felt that you were struggling without God’s help because of pride?
5. Grace in this passage refers to the power to do what you need in the moment for the moment. It is God’s strength in your situation. Have you ever felt this when you humbly asked for God’s help?
6. “In due time” doesn’t usually mean immediately. Why would God wait to “lift you up”?



7. Why do we tend to dump our desires on our spouse and not on God? Which of the two is best able to meet our desires?
8. What are ways that you can cast your cares upon God?
9. How does it make you feel that God is concerned about you and your desires? Do you approach God as if He intimately cares for you?
10. How should you communicate your desires to your spouse?

THINK ABOUT IT

What are the cares, desires, and anxieties that you need to cast on God? Take the time to make a list and begin to give these to God.

Which of these desires should you share with your spouse?

Which are unrealistic desires that you should not communicate to your spouse?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Have the “Box Talk” with your spouse:

1. Confess: Take responsibility for turning your desires into expectations.
2. Ask:
 - a. Where do you feel pressure to live up to my expectations?
 - b. What can I do to make our marriage richer?
3. Reward: Like you did when you were dating.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7