

# Transforming Your Marriage for a Lifetime

## Introduction:

1. The five stages of a married cold!
  
2. Vital keys to relationships (*especially marriage*) begin to diminish and erode quickly.
  
3. Two BIG questions:
  - a. How much effort are you willing to put into your marriage?
  - b. How long do you plan on being married?
  
4. Four categories for evaluating your marriage:
  - \_\_\_ 1. Our marriage is fantastic, it's great, and we intend to keep it that way.
  - \_\_\_ 2. Our marriage is good, it's stable, but there's just no spark in it.
  - \_\_\_ 3. Our marriage is hurting. There are issues that need to be resolved right now.
  - \_\_\_ 4. Our marriage is barely hanging on. It may not last a couple of months. If we don't get a miracle from God it won't stick together.

So, how can your marriage be transformed for a lifetime?

## A. Embrace a Life-long Commitment.

- a. Love is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - What kind of vows did you make?
  - Be willing to put up with hardship and even be unhappy until troubles can be worked out.
  
- b. Understanding a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship.
  - Convenience
  - Contract
  - Covenant

## B. Embrace God's Design for Marriage.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 1:27,28 & 2:23, 24
  - The total possession of each other.
  - "Becoming" one flesh.
  
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 2:18-22
  - What is a helper? Assisting, encouraging and \_\_\_\_\_ for what is lacking.
  - Satan always attempts to \_\_\_\_\_ partnership.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - Ephesians 5:21-33

**Loving your wife includes:**

- Seeing her as a fellow \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 Peter 3:7
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ of her.
- Helping her grow \_\_\_\_\_.

**Respecting your husband includes:**

- Acknowledging God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ to his leadership.
- Encouraging him \_\_\_\_\_.

## *Marriage Encounter Weekend*

Mennonite and Brethren Marriage Encounter is designed to help you give your marriage the attention it needs to fully develop into a beautiful union God intended it to be. Expand your knowledge of how to communicate effectively with your spouse. Rediscover the romantic feelings from years gone by. The weekend provides a unique way for a husband and wife to deepen their relationship with each other and with God. Experience a Marriage Encounter at Spruce Lake Retreat on March 7-9, 2008. For more information contact Tracy at 717-569-5676 or [love@marriageencounter.org](mailto:love@marriageencounter.org).