

3. Pursue God's common means of grace for your marriage.

- Church attendance
- Church membership
- Christian fellowship and relational support
- Devotional life
- Application of God's Word
- Accountability for our marriage

4. Love Your Spouse

"If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20).

Extra, Extra

A few really good books on marriage which you can get and read on your own...

- *Love that Lasts* by Gary & Betsy Riccuci
- *This Momentary Marriage* by John Piper
- *What Did You Expect?* by Paul Tripp
- *When Two Sinners Say I Do* by Dave Harvey

Questions? Email deepak@capbap.org or BTCotton@gmail.com

Core Seminars—Marriage (Week 1)

Is God at the Center of Your Marriage?

Introduction: John & Jill's Fight

Jill: "Do we need to think through what to do with our money? We've got a lot more than expected this year."

John: "That's a good question. We can contact a financial advisor at my job and see if he has any advice. But it costs money to see this guy."

Jill: "But the money has been sitting in our account for a while. We need to do something."

John: "I know...I know. We've got to do something about it, but I don't want to rush. Don't you trust me? We agreed that *I'll* handle the finances."

Jill: "Honey, I trust you, but you're not all that pro-active when it comes to investments."

John (in a sarcastic tone): "Well, I could name a few areas that you are not pro-active that is hurting us!"

Jill (offended by the last comment): "Stop it, John. That was mean."

John: "Well, it's true."

Jill starts to cry. John storms out of the room. End of discussion.

Three Reasons for Godless Marriages

1. Our Spiritual Immaturity.

“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men?” (2 Cor 3:1-3).

2. Our Unbelief and Our Selfishness

“¹²See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first” (Heb 3:12-14).

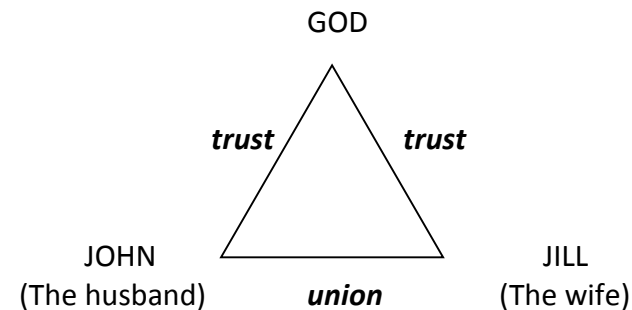
3. Trapped in the Horizontal and Forgetting God’s Glory

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor 10:31).

Looking Up: Bring God into the Center and Fighting for Faith

1. Start by asking a simple question: “What about God?”

2. Trusting God and Living a Gospel-Centered Life.



“How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Luke 6:42).