

BEING A MAN

2. BEING A FAITHFUL HUSBAND PART 1

<p>1. Welcome & Introduction</p> <p>2 MINUTES</p>	<p>We are continuing our series called 'Good Real Men'. We are learning how the most important parts of our lives can change so that we become a good man and a real man at the same time.</p> <p>Today we will look at how to be a Faithful Husband to your wife. If you are not yet married you will still find this helps you to make a good start to your marriage when it happens. Many men feel embarrassed to talk about such private things but when you are unsure or unhappy about something, it is good to get help and advice.</p> <p>After watching the DVD you may feel you want to talk to a wise person you can trust. You can ask the person leading this discussion if they, or someone they know, can help you. Good Real Men help each other and can be trusted to keep your secret.</p>
<p>2 What is Faithfulness?</p>	<p>Here is a dictionary definition of faithful:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. strict or thorough in the performance of duty: <i>a faithful worker</i>.2. true to one's word, promises and vows.3. steady in allegiance or affection; loyal; constant: <i>faithful friends</i>.4. adhering to a fact, a standard, or an original; accurate: <i>a faithful account; a faithful copy</i>. <p>The Bible teaches that in the beginning God intended man to be happy by having a wife as a companion.</p> <p>He would start a new family with her and be faithful as long as they both live. Gen. 2:18, 21-24</p> <p>The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him'...and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh... and he brought her to the man. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."</p> <p>Here we see the first wedding. We can see that marriage is God's idea. He wanted men and women to have one person that they so loved and trusted they could create a family in which children could grow up safely.</p> <p>When Christians get married we promise to stay with our wives and be faithful to them 100%. Jesus says in Matt 19 v 5</p> <p>..... a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.</p> <p>This means God created sex not only to create children but also to bring couples together. He intended it to make marriages stronger and happier therefore it is only for a man and wife</p> <p>It makes God unhappy if men divorce their wives or are unfaithful to them.</p> <p>Malachi 2:15-17</p> <p>Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth. "The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.</p>

<p>5 MINUTES</p>	<p>Jesus said in Matthew 19:8 , “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.</p> <p>The Lord is able to take out our stony, stubborn heart and give us His tender, loving heart. We can then love with the same love that Jesus has Ephesians 5:25 And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her... In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church.</p> <p>This may be different to how you see other men choosing to live. For example, you may know some men who will visit the brothel occasionally. If this man is married, then he is breaking the vow he made to his wife. Such men and maybe even their wives think that this is what marriage is like. No! God always intended marriage to be full of faithfulness and kindness.</p> <p>Some men think that this teaching is Christian and does not apply to them, but God created marriage in the beginning, before other religions appeared so His rules apply to all men. Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honoured by ALL, and the marriage bed kept pure, because God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.</p>
<p>3 Group Discussion</p> <p>12 MINUTES</p>	<p><i>Leaders – decide how best to break up the participants into groups to consider and discuss the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ why are men unfaithful? ○ why is faithfulness important? ○ can you think of practical examples of faithfulness in daily life, or people you know who show or don't show faithfulness? For example someone who went with other women and the problems it caused (no names please!) ○ how hard is faithfulness to achieve – and why is this so? <p><i>After about 8 minutes ask for feedback in a relaxed way – don't ask <u>every</u> group to feedback on <u>every</u> example unless you are sure you have time for this.</i></p>
<p>4. Testimony (Optional)</p> <p>6 MINUTES</p>	<p>If the group has a participant who can give a testimony of faithfulness and its benefits - ask them to describe what happened briefly and clearly <i>Leaders - Ask for 2 or 3 comments from any who are willing to comment – allow any resulting conversation or questions to continue for a few minutes if helpful.</i></p>
<p>5. Becoming Faithful</p>	<p>What do you think a man should do if they have done wrong in this area?</p> <p><i>Leaders – give the men a few minutes to think about this as individuals – not to discuss in groups as we don't know each man's situation and discussion could be embarrassing. Then go through the following recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He must confess his sin to God, repent of his actions and open his heart to God's Holy Spirit to change his heart and desires ○ It is usually very helpful to confess such sin to a trusted mature friend or pastor and seek advice on how to repair the relationship with his wife and get support until he is stronger

<p>6 MINUTES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If his wife already knew about the man's sin he should confess it to her as soon as possible and ask for forgiveness. He should never blame her for his sin ○ If his wife did not know about the man's sin he should consider whether damage will be done by telling her – he could seek advice from a mature Christian ○ If there was particular brothel that he visited he should not go near that street or to an area where there are many such places if at all possible. ○ He should end any close friendships with others who encouraged or joined in his sin. ○ If he looked at pornography he should repent of that and avoid the place and people from whom he obtained it.
<p>6. Practical Application</p> <p>2 MINUTES</p>	<p>Steps to Strengthen Faithfulness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It is good for a man to think of actions that develop a love for Jesus and his wife and family that will take the place of the previous sinful desires and actions. For example, acts of kindness towards his wife, buying a special gift or expressing appreciation for her hard work <input type="checkbox"/> He should daily thank God for his wife and for His grace and forgiveness and submit to the Lord praying "lead me not to temptation and deliver me from evil". <input type="checkbox"/> Men are often tempted when they have time on their hands. God wants to give men good things to do. Ask God and church leaders what good work there is to do <input type="checkbox"/> A man should make sure he is never alone with another woman who could tempt him - he could ask a mature friend or pastor to keep him accountable in this area. <input type="checkbox"/> A man should expect God to warn him in his heart if his faithfulness is being attacked and obey what He shows him. For example; an attractive woman may be over friendly – and God warns him to get away from her immediately
<p>7. Short Summary</p> <p>2 MINUTES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> God calls us to be faithful to our wives. He created marriage - He will help us if we obey Him <input type="checkbox"/> This means we should love our wives and have an exclusive relationship with them. <input type="checkbox"/> The Bible says in James 1:12 "Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get as his reward the crown of life that God has promised those who love him."
<p>8. Prayer</p> <p>1 MINUTE</p>	<p>Dear God, I want to honour you in every part of my life. This includes my relationship with my wife. Where I have been bad, please forgive my sin and restore me. Please help me to be faithful to my wife from this time onwards. I trust that you will help me. Amen</p>

