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"MARRIAGE: IT'S US, NOT ME"

John Greene, *Senior Pastor*

MARK 10:1-12 (ESV)

INSIGHT: God planned emotional, spiritual, and physical intimacy between a man and woman from the beginning.

TRUTH: It's hard to go from "me" to "we" when everything is about "me."

INSIGHT: The word "test" in Mark 10:2 is the word for provoke.

INSIGHT: Jesus says that at the heart of divorce is hardness of hearts.

Over months and years, without meaning to, couples can start building a wall in their marriages. Let's identify a few...

I. UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Expectation: Dating and honeymoon experiences will continue in marriage.

INSIGHT: Dating isn't real. You act on dates in a way you won't continue in marriage.

Expectation: I shouldn't have to work at my marriage.

Expectation: I should always feel in love.

Expectation: We shouldn't have problems we can't solve.

INSIGHT: You learn to take away fencing not by changing but by accepting.

Expectation: My spouse's job is to make me happy and meet my needs.

TRUTH: When we put pressure on our spouse, pressure crushes intimacy. Intimacy is a gift, not a response to a demand.

II. UNDERESTIMATED DIFFERENCES

INSIGHT: Marriage holds up this mirror, and if we won't accept what we see, we put another piece of fencing in a wall.

III. UNMET NEEDS

TRUTH: There are legitimate needs each spouse has in marriage that we should meet for each other.

QUESTION: Are we focusing mainly or primarily on our needs or theirs? (Philippians 2:4-5)

IV. UNRESOLVED ANGER (Hebrews 12:15)

TRUTH: It's impossible to have intimacy with an angry spouse.

V. UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT

REALITY: There are women everywhere who married who they thought would be their protector and they got a predator.

VI. UNREPENTANT SIN

TRUTH: Sir or lady, it is a lie of Satan to believe that what your spouse doesn't know won't affect the intimacy in your marriage.

INSIGHT: Some of the intimacy you're missing in your life isn't from your marriage, but from God.