

Special Message – Valentine's Day

To Make Marriage Work...

You need tough minded realism – Genesis 3:1-21

Introduction: Marriages struggle for a lot of reasons, but one big one consists of expectations wildly out of line with reality. To make marriage work you need tough minded realism in three areas.

1. 1ST AREA – Marriage after the fall is designed to expose you to your sin. Genesis 3:1-11

- A. To understand how this works, we must go back to Eden. Gen. 3:1-11
- B. When sin is exposed, there's a wrong way to respond – blameshifting.
- C. When sin is exposed, there is a right way to respond.

2. 2ND AREA – Marriage after the fall will include predictable areas of personal pain. Gen. 3:14-19

- A. But this is true with many decisions. For instance...
- B. 1st source – There will be spiritual warfare in your marriage. 3:14-15
- C. 2nd source – Male-female differences will frequently be a source of deep frustration. 3:16a, 17-19
- D. 3rd source – Husbands and wives will deal with painful power struggles. 3:16b
- E. Question – What should you do with the pain?

3. 3RD AREA – Marriage after the fall requires a daily choice to place God at the center. Genesis 3:20-21

- A. We need to place God at the center in two ways.
- B. First way – Think about your spouse in light of God's word. 3:20
- C. Second way – Become an active conduit of grace. 3:21