

Marriage and Family

Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

A. Keyword: intimacy.

B. We measure our growth in Christ through our intimacy with him. (Romans 7:4)

C. There is a purpose for marriage and family to bear witness to the truth, to seek and save the lost and to destroy the works of the devil.

II. Acceptance.

A. This means to receive favorably, to be pleased with one another and to receive one another despite imperfections.

B. Biblical acceptance is unconditional. (Romans 15:7)

III. Gratitude.

A. Gratitude should be expressed verbally.

B. Ingratitude. (Deuteronomy 28:47-48, Romans 1, 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

C. Thankfulness puts God in control.

D. Gratitude is the antidote for bitterness.

IV. Affirmation.

A. This is praise and encouragement that focuses on the positive.

B. John 1:42 ought to become part of our lives. We should not make fun of people in public.

V. Consideration.

A. Affirmation is verbal; consideration is active. (Mark 10:45)

B. Our human nature is to be served, but Jesus models a servant life. (John 13, Hebrews 10:24, Titus 2:4-5)

C. Consideration is the antidote for selfishness.

Application questions:

1. Which of the four words did you find most helpful for relating to your spouse? Why?

2. Why is it important to keep your struggles with your spouse out of the public eye?

3. How can you be more intentional about verbally encouraging your spouse? Explain.
