

Before You Say I Do: Session 4

By Mark Lee

Speaker 1:

...tomorrow. But however, Dr. Lee has decided to go ahead and stay and speak tomorrow. So that's against the schedule here. There's a concert tomorrow in the gym with Trade Win. But if you would like to hear the rest of Dr. Lee's discussion on the 50 questions, you can come here in Sutherland Hall at the same time. So you have an option Chapel tomorrow. Doctor Lee's book on the 50 question he's been covering the last week is available in the bookstore. It's 7.95. It has the 50 questions and also has a section on whether you should consider being single or whether you should be married. It should be a really interesting book, and it's based on what he's doing this week. So if you'd like it in book form of what he is doing this week, go ahead and go by the bookstore. Also, the tapes of this series will be offered by the audio visual Department. I'm not very sure the cost of the tapes, but it should be six tapes, I believe six tapes somewhere like that. So let's welcome Dr. Lee this morning.

Mark Lee:

Those of you who may not have been in for earlier sessions, we have another set of the questions have been run off. If you don't have those questions, they're available to you here. Yeah. Just walk back the aisle and if you just raise your hand, get it set if you wish them. We've covered the first 22 questions and has just been announced. If we don't get through and I'm sure we won't, then tomorrow at the same hour, we will meet in this auditorium. For those of you who like to come, otherwise, you would go to the concert. I guess it's in the gym. If I'm not mistaken. The whole purpose is for those of you who would like to finish out the whole 50 questions, I'll be pleased to meet with those of you who wish to come in this room.

Now we're picking up with question number 23. We've been through the first 22. We could summarize those, but I'll leave it to you. Those of you who've not been in with us before simply get the questions. Perhaps the tapes, if you don't wish to get them, will be available in the library. And also the book will be in the library as well, I'm sure.

We'll begin with number 23. Do you feel there are matters which should be contractual between you? Now, we have a problem with that because a lot of people, being idealistic, feel that you ought to be able to do things without contracts. By the way, there is no reason to believe that a contract in any way jeopardizes your affection for each other. For example, the deeper the love, the more likely it is that you'll want to make a commitment to the other person. For example, if I gave you a sermon on covenants with God, most of us would respond favorably to that I suppose if we're devoted people and the Covenant with God is really a contract based on what God has done for us. Lord, this is what we want to do with relative to you.

If you know anything about Church history, you'll know that some of the most deeply spiritual people that we know in history have made Covenant with God. And you read those things. They're absolutely beautiful, magnificent.

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I'm sure. We'll begin with number 23. Do you feel there are matters which should be contractual between you? Now, we have a problem with that because a lot of people, being idealistic, feel that you ought to be able to do things without contracts. By the way, there is no reason to believe that a contract in any way jeopardizes your affection for each other. For example, the deeper the love, the more likely it is that you'll want to make a commitment to the other person.

For example, if I gave you a sermon on covenants with God, most of us would respond favorably to that. I suppose if we're devoted people and a Covenant with God is really a contract based on what God has done for us. Lord, this is what we want to do with relative to you. If you know anything about Church history, you'll know that some of the most deeply spiritual people that we know in history have made covenants with God. And you read those things. They're absolutely beautiful, magnificent. I have several contracts in my pocket. One of the contracts is a driver's license. In other words, I have fulfilled certain kinds of requirements on one side, and therefore the state gives me the privilege.

It's not a right, it's a privilege to drive. It's a contract. Someone says, oh, those are just pieces of paper. My response to you is simply this. So is the Bill of Rights just a piece of paper? But I wouldn't want to be without that quote, piece of paper. So some of you will find it worthwhile to set up some kind of contract. Sometimes the contracts are oral. Everyone that is married has a contract. You call it the marriage license. Now, whether or not you expand that contract is something else again.

My wife and I made certain oral agreements when we got married, which became contractual. For example, my life, my family has been so deeply affected by divorce, the whole story is sad and on some occasions, even sorted. My family's been so deeply affected by divorce. My mother married the man who became my father. He was a divorced man with three children. He died. Ultimately, she remarried a divorced man who had three children. You can't imagine what the combinations become when there are three before you, three that are part of your family, and then three that are introduced. So they had his, hers and ours kind of thing.

And by the way, that can become one of the ugliest perceptions that you'll ever have to face. Where, for example, my stepfather, his first wife, would come up with her second husband. They would park along the curb so that when my stepfather would walk home from work, they would simply step out of the car to meet him so that he would pay the alimony money before he went into the home and gave whatever the residue was to my mother, I mean, just things like that, which makes the whole thing so ugly. I haven't the slightest doubt that we did a good thing. We said to each other we got married, that we would never use divorce as a problem solving technique.

Murder, perhaps, but certainly not divorce. And by the way, that is just an excellent way to go when everything seems to be falling apart and there's a great deal of distress. And you say, hey, we decided to go through this through thick and thin. We've decided whether or not we're in sickness or in health or whatever it is, we're going to bear it. It was one of the greatest commitments that we made to each other because when things did go badly, we ultimately were determined that we were going to work those things out and we did.

Another kind of contract that I often encourage couples to make is a behavioral contract. For example, it's the little things that ultimately make the big holes in the fence. This woman worked, and so did her husband. She did all of the chores relative to cooking. She says, there's only one thing I don't like to do. I don't like to carry out the garbage. And he would agree to carry out the garbage, but he wouldn't do it. I don't understand this, but it happens, especially to men. They agree to do things, but they don't do what they agreed to. And this particular man agreed to carry out the garbage, but he wouldn't do it. And she ended up doing it and felt bitter about it.

Simply talk about a little bit and build a behavioral contract. There was one thing he never wanted to miss. If the weather permitted, and that is a Saturday golf game, he'd get up early on Saturday and go out for his golf game. So the result was to build a behavioral contract, which was partly carried out in humor, but nevertheless, it still worked. And that was this. If he didn't carry out the garbage, he didn't get his golf game and the golf game turned out to mean enough to him that he began to carry out the garbage.

Now, three to six months later, people will even forget that they made the agreement. They'll forget the agreement, but they will follow the new conduct. That's the important thing to remember is that you'll get a contract to get a change in conduct, then forget the contract once you get the change in conduct. A contract is also an excellent teaching method. For example, in teaching marriage and the family in College, one of the ways in which you teach negotiation and marriages need negotiation. One of the ways you teach negotiation is to use a contractual system. And some marriage and family courses actually use contract system as a means for teaching the individuals how to negotiate with each other.

I think my wife and I had one of our biggest problems in that she lived in a family that did not know how to communicate very well, that you're always communicating something, but they did not communicate very specifically. And I discovered we'd be married. We had been married for some time, and she had certain feelings and certain things she'd like to see happen, but they weren't communicated to me because she felt somehow shy enough or she had been put down enough.

I discovered later that's really what happened. She had been put down enough that she couldn't bring herself to say how she felt. And if you do not, one of the common things that you do is to think that the other person cares enough to read your mind, and that's not possible. It's amazing how many husbands and wives expect the other one to read the mind, and you can't do it. Your whole perception that everything that's a part of you is so very different that you cannot read the person's mind. So one thing that contractual system does is to teach you how to negotiate with each other, and you may want to do that.

I have read many of these contracts. They're very interesting to read. When this couple were married, I think it was 1948, they came up with a contract because she had had a marriage before and it failed. And so she said that she wouldn't marry again without some kind of understanding. And so they built a contract. Let's see that they would have a marriage as long as it was at least 75 25 that one of them was giving 75, and the other one is only giving 25 to the marriage that they would not permit the marriage to be broken up.

So many people think that marriage is 50 50. Well, good luck. It never is. It's 10 90 sometimes. And in the morning and in the afternoon, it's 90 times in the other direction. You can never count on your marriage being a 50 50 proposition because you don't have those kinds of resources all the time. The second thing in the contract had to do with children. They decided they'd have four children, which indeed they did. The next one in the contract was that they figured out that they would never try to change each other, that acceptance would be an important part of the contract.

And here a little time ago, someone asked the wife what happened as a result of this contract. Those are the items I remember in the contract. She says, without that contract, our marriage wouldn't have made it. That happens to be Jerry and Betty Ford. He's a former President of the United States. She had had a dismal first marriage, and she says, because we didn't know how to express ourselves to each other. So if you don't like the word contract, use the word marriage covenant. Set a marriage covenant with each other.

And if he loves you enough, he's willing to do that. If you love him enough, you're willing to do that not because you think that your family ought to be treated like United States steel, but because you want to be understood and you want to understand. It works both ways. So sometimes there ought to be a contractual agreement between you. Now, especially should that be true if it comes to matters that are very large, like having children. This one couple in Minnesota talked with me and she wanted children and she wanted children right away. He didn't want children right away. Actually, he didn't want children, but that's not the way he put it.

He said that he didn't want children right away. Well, they needed to have children pretty soon because both of them were older than would ordinarily be the case when they were married, especially the man. So we sat and talked, and finally we got a contractual agreement, and the agreement was, we'll not have children for the first two years, and then after that we will have two children. That was the agreement. I said, Fine. Now, is that all right with you?

I said to her. She said, yes, it's all right with you. I said to him. He said, yes. I said, now, that is the first element of the agreement right. Now, do you want to put that on paper? No, we don't. Well, I said, now, you understand that an oral agreement is as binding as a written one. All it has to do is to be proven by a witness. The only reason why an oral agreement is in any way less than a written agreement is that you need a witness to verify that the oral agreement was made. And I said, I'm the witness. Well, okay, yeah, that's good enough.

Well, two years passed, and then she sat in my office again, weepy, and she says, he doesn't want to have any children. And so I went through to find out whether or not having children was going to be tragic for the children. If he doesn't want children, do we want to go ahead with the agreement? Well, yes, she wanted to go ahead with the agreement. I said, Fine, let me talk to him alone. So I gave him a phone call, asked him to come in.

He came in and I said, do you remember before you were married and I performed the ceremony. Before you were married, we had these agreements. And I recited again the agreement. He said, yes, I remember that. I said, do you think that's fair? Because generally it ought to be the woman's decision whether or not she's going to bear children. She's the one that has to do it. And

he says, yes, I think that's fair. And I said, okay, go home. Get busy. Indeed he did. And they had a daughter. And then later they had another daughter. And then I got a phone call from her. She wanted to see me again on the matter of children.

I said, Fine, come on in. She came on in. She sat there weepy, and I said, what is it? He wants me to have more children. And I said, well, what do you mean? Well, he doesn't have a boy yet. He's a farmer. He was a farmer, and he so much wanted to turn the farm over to his son, assuming the son wants to farm, and so he wants a boy. And now, you see, in the beginning she wanted to invoke the agreement to make sure she had two children.

Now she wants to invoke the agreement to make sure she doesn't have more than two children. That wasn't the way the agreement started out, but that's fine. And now it's getting a little bit complicated. So I asked him to come in. He came in again wondering whether or not he's going to get control over his own affairs. And so they came in together and I talked about it. And finally we got another agreement. And the other agreement was we'll have one more child, and if it's not a boy, tough no more, we're going to have one more. And I said, now all we have to do is pray for a boy. We did. They did. And now everything's fine and dandy. They have two girls and the youngest one is a boy.

How old is he? 16 years old now. The father is in his 60s, so you can see how late it was. Is he in his 60s? Almost, yes. There's no question in my mind, but that couple was helped. By the way, there were other agreements, too, in that couple's life that by invoking them, both of them accepted. She went through a difficult time. He went through a difficult time, but the fact that

they had disagreement helped them enormously. We're meeting with a lot of couples today who have agreed in advance they will not have children.

That's probably going to be difficult later because the desire to have children three, four, five years after you're married sometimes becomes exceedingly strong, exceedingly strong, even though you've agreed not to have them to begin with. So you're going to have some things to work through. You see, in former generations to get married assumed children. And what has happened now is we've complicated the whole marriage relationship because we've taken assumptions out and say they now become matters of agreement.

By the way, if you don't agree on the children, I think marriage assumes children. You understand that. Marriage assumes children. Therefore, the person that wants a child has the better of the argument over the person that doesn't want the child, male or female. The assumption is children, unless you have an agreement in advance. By the way, I think God will honor anything within reason, if I can use that within sanctified reason that you agreed to. Many couples that I work with, they agree not to have children. They ask if that's right or wrong. I say it's not a matter of right or wrong in such instances. I just think you have to agree that you're going to serve God and you're going to serve God in this kind of way.

Now I'm going to go on unless you have questions, I think that's a big issue. Huge issue. By the way, some of you are going to benefit yourselves enormously spiritually. I have read contracts. In fact, I've repeated the Warmbier contract, and in the Warmbier contract, the concept is to have a contract about how you're going to go to Church, what you're going to do relative to spiritual

guidance of your children and all the rest of it. By the way, any decision you make for marriage before marriage is probably five to ten times stronger than agreement afterwards, after you're married, you feel compelled to do it. Before your marriage, you're doing it out of some sense of free will. Therefore, anything you can decide for marriage is going to help you very much better later on.

Yes, yes. I started out by that implication. The question is that when you become this specific about things like having children, it seems like you're leaving God on the sidelines. I think that's very possible. But I think what you have to do is to make sure that the Lord's perception is woven in and through and everything you're doing. That doesn't prevent you from making this kind of decision. For example, there's a person on my staff, she and her husband decided they would not have children because she is very likely a carrier of a blood disease, hemophiliac. In other words, she could have a child.

It is likely that the child, especially if it was a boy, would die a horrible death by the time he's 21 years of age, hemophilia. Therefore, she and her husband decided at the time of marriage, she told him, and he thought of it and responded to it, we will not have children because she saw her brother die a horrible death. So it was their contractual decision not to have children. By the way, I enormously I would give my benediction to that. Now, you would say, okay, that's a special case, perhaps, but if you can have a special case there, you might have a special case in something else as well. My first secretary came and talked to me and says, I don't know if I should get married.

I don't want to have children. Well, it turned out the reason why she didn't want to have children. She felt totally inadequate. As I found out later, it was because of breakup in her family, the attitudes of her mother, the way her father treated her and all the rest of it. She felt incompetent to care for children. Well, my answer and this answers directly to your point. My answer was if you decided not to have children because you want to avoid the Christian responsibility to serve others which is very powerful with your mate and children, then I think it's wrong.

But I said, do you care about children? She said, yes, I do. I said, well, what are you going to do to contribute to the lives of children? She says, Well, I'd like to teach. Well, indeed she has in all of these years in a city in Colorado, she and her husband, both of whom felt they should not have children, contracted at the beginning of their marriage not to have children. They've dedicated their whole lives to children. Their homes are open to the high schoolers and junior high schoolers in their area.

He's turned out to be so effective. I think he's a principal of a school and she's teaching English in one of the schools and I have no criticism of that, I really don't. But what you say is a risk, and the risk is that you're becoming so what I say so secular in your perception that you leave God out of it. You better be sure of your motivations when you do it. But I still think that given prayer, given the idea that you're not trying to escape responsibility, et cetera, you could decide whether or not you're going to have children.

Make sure that you know why you're doing it. By the way, Van Alkan addresses this very issue and a severe mercy relative to he and his wife when they first do it. I think it has a certain

element of selfishness in it, but it's something I think you ought to handle ahead of time. Number 24, how will you handle reverses? It is generally a given that everyone will have a huge reverse, at least one in the course of their lives. I had cancer in 1967, and I remember that after it was over, this doctor said to me after it was all over and I was declared cured, he said, you know, you ought to feel good about that.

And I said, Why? He said, It's interesting that medical science has discovered that 19 out of 20 people who go through a severe illness before their last one will probably not have another major problem. There is something about the general Grace of God that if you go through something very, very serious and survive, it is not likely that it will come back, that another one will come back. Now, by the way, I know people where that doesn't apply. I'm talking about statistics now. One man by his first name was Paul had just about everything that you could find in a doctor's book and I can still remember working with him, but that is very unusual.

So the argument was whatever you've been through, it is likely that somehow in the general Grace of God, you're not going to be put through a lot of these things so that most of you in the room if you go through something enormously severe, it is not likely that, I didn't say you wouldn't, it's not likely that you'll go through it again. I think every marriage goes through a death and then it has to be reborn.

Virtually every marriage goes through a death and it either is reborn or breaks up. And I hope you have the maturity to make sure that it is reborn. So I sit there and go through with the couples who counsel with me some of the serious problems I've observed. I had a couple come

in, and I usually ask questions that are like this. I'll say to the fellow, what if your wife comes home from the doctor and the doctor has told her that because of this kind of problem, she can no longer have sexual intimacy with her husband? What would you do?

And there's always a period of silence right there. It's a good kind of thing to face. What would you do if you went through something like that? And almost always the individual begins to respond about what he would do. And then I say, hey, wait a moment. Let's think about what she's going through. And then all of a sudden he realizes that whatever he's going through can't be as bad as what she's going through if the decision is that way. Then I'll turn to her now she feels very good, like I'm on her side.

And I say to her, what would you do if your husband comes home and tells you he's out of a job and you don't know how you're going to pay the rent this month? Now, believe it or not, you're going to go through that kind of striking experience in your life. One couple came and I talked to them about it, and they got married. Within four months after they were married, the young woman was told that she has diabetes, the worst kind, the prognostications for the length of her life, for her will not exceed 20 years. Would she be 40 by then? About 40 years old.

And so they are living in the shadow of this beautiful young woman bride, not living beyond 40 years of age. Do you know what they've done? It's almost a gift to them. As a result, he refuses to eat anything that she can't eat. He has gone on a diet for diabetics. They decided this summer, since they may not be able to do some things as long she has to take more shots and have more attention than anyone I have ever known her age with the problem.

This summer they went to Europe because they're going to make sure that they live as much of their lives as they can in the short time that's prognosticated for her. I think it's beautiful. When I asked him, what about that? His answer was, don't you remember that question you asked? And I said, yes, did it mean that much to you? He says, I went back and read it again so that you're going to go through these kinds of things. I was speaking at Northwestern College in Minneapolis St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Dean of the couple's conference had each one introduced himself, gave the name of his wife, where he lived, how many children they had and what his job was.

And they went around the auditorium and finally came over to this couple, bought the last four or five couples, and the fellow got up and he ended up by saying, I'm a zero. That's awful to say about yourself. I'm a zero. And when he said, I'm a zero, he looked down at his wife and then he says, I've had a job for 17 years. I've forgotten some company in Minnesota. But they were going through the recessionary period of '74 '75 or '75 '76 in there, and he was thrown out of work.

He had been out of work for four or five months, and now his wife was beginning to pour it on him. What's wrong with him? Why isn't he able to take care of his family like other men are, et cetera? Now, he didn't want to move from the town. He could have moved elsewhere, perhaps gotten a job and so on. But here's where he had lived all of his life. So his wife, that's where their children wanted to be. They wanted to be in that high school. And he thought if he could just hold on, hold on, he'd get his job back.

Well, afterwards, in talking with him, we found out that it had introduced a problem into their marriage. The wife did not know how to handle reverses and they were in a reverse. By the way, he ultimately got his job back and things went fine. They kept her home. They didn't lose anything, but they went through a terrible time and that woman was unprepared to go through the reverses. Everyone is going to have to handle some reverses. Reverses in health, reverses in economics, reverses. Do you have the resources to do it?

I hope that you do. There's going to be loss of health, loss of job, burglary, fire, loss of a child. Beautiful whenever I heard the reference, you don't know about it, but what the Guernseys went through in the loss of a child. I have seen this happen over and over again. And sometimes the loss of a child, the wife will turn against the husband and they will never restore the relationship again. The child was killed or in some way lost his life. You want to make sure that you have those kinds of resources so that you can bear it.

Number 25, where do you wish to live? Some people want to live in an apartment. Other people want a house with turf all around it. Some people want to live in a big city. Others want to live in a small town. Find out. I think to a certain degree, my wife has suffered in our marriage because she would like to be in a kind of suburban place. And here we are right in San Francisco, the sirens going all the time, someone's in trouble or making trouble and all the rest of it, and I feel for that.

I was counseling a couple, and as far as he's concerned. He could live in a motel. Must be awful. But he could live in a motel all of his life. She wanted a house with grass all around it, even if it's

only wide enough for a lawnmower to go by once. By the way, that is understandable. That is totally understandable. But you ought to have that understanding in advance. And when I work with students, especially with students, I talk about, well, we have to live in an apartment until he gets through with his education, et cetera, et cetera.

But what do you want to do ultimately? I want to live in the country. Now I look at him. Do you want to live in the country? You see, there is someone there who can fit into that whole kind of pattern and adjust to that pattern until finally you can find a way for yourselves. But make sure you do it as early as possible. Where do you want to live? Number 26. Do you know the difference between sex and love? Apparently, we don't in the society because we call sex love when sex is not love. You need to understand that for every appetite, if we can do it, I'll do it this way.

See if this will help us at all. For every appetite, God gives a virtue. For every appetite, God gives a virtue. If the appetite over here is hunger. Hunger as an appetite, hunger for food, there is a virtue that goes with that. What is the virtue? Quickly, can someone tell me? Pardon? Moderation. No. Food fulfills the hunger. I understand what you're saying, but the virtue is moderation. In other words, the individual's hungry for food. He needs food. He ought to have food, but he eats in moderation. Okay.

The appetite is sex. Don't forget, sex is an appetite. It can exist for anybody under any circumstances. There doesn't have to be any love. If there has to be love, you could never have prostitution. That would be ultimate. That would be impossible. You see, sex is not love. Sex is

an appetite. And you shouldn't feel guilty for the appetite, by the way. But you should feel guilty unless the appetite is sanctified by the virtue. In other words, unless the virtue is present, then the appetite is out of order. God does not criticize sex. He criticizes sex if it is not done in virtue.

He doesn't criticize hunger for food. He criticizes hunger. If you become a glutton gluttony, you see, is your concern in relationship to food. Sex without appropriate love and love always has an exclusiveness in it. See, our God is a jealous God. You can't love God and love another God, too, because our God will simply make an exit. So what happens, you see, is that you have an appetite which is exceedingly strong until it's met. And then it has to reassert itself later on but without love. That's the reason why we approach the whole matter as we do in Christian context, because whatever the appetite is, this is met by a virtue.

The appetite for knowledge is approached by a virtue that relates to faith and so on. You simply go through all of the appetites and you have a virtue that guides that appetite. Now the problem in the American society is oftentimes sex is equated with love. That's not the case. In other words, we even talk when you have sexual intercourse, they're making love, which is simply misnomer. And we need to understand that. Sex should be guided by love. And one of the best things you can discover in your relationship is to make sure that whatever the appetite is, that the appetite is controlled by a virtue.

And this is the whole impact of Scripture. But for us, we seem not to know the difference between sex and love. It takes a little while for people to understand that. Not very many people, when I ask them, understand the difference between sex and love because it's equated in our

society, at least in the media so often. I'm going on unless you raise questions, I know there's so many possible ones, and if you raise them, I'll be glad to respond to them.

27 what will you do when you discover one partner is more highly sex than the other? It's almost invariable. It is very likely. And by the way, studies show that nine out of ten marriages, it is presumed that the sexual drive of the male exceeds the sexual drive of the female. Now this may change as more and more women perceive that they also are sexual creatures in the appropriate sense, and it very likely is going to change. Those of us who work with couples see it changing. But the best studies we have as of now show that nine out of ten males will appear to be driven more by sexual desire.

And by the way, I think it's true, implied in the Scripture, the drive of the male to the female, that he is attracted to her in the sense of that kind of fulfillment. So it's going to happen. Most people don't know how to deal with it. Most married couples don't know how to deal with it. They think up all kinds of excuses, the traditional headache, so that we don't come together, et cetera, et cetera.

What really has to happen is that the husband is going to have to be more understanding, and so is the wife going to have to be more understanding. If you have decided that you're only going to have fulfillment between you when everybody just feels gym dandy, you're going to deny ourselves as human beings a great deal more than is necessary. I don't know how many people come and ask what is right in sex. The answer is, I would never violate the taste of my beloved. This whole business of everybody reading the wrong literature. You come along, you read the

literature first of all, it probably can't happen that way. There's no sexual athlete that can do all those things.

The human body has to refurbish itself. The human male cannot produce semen as fast as that literature implies. Some of them are trying very hard to see if they can't live up to the stories, but they can't do it. And by the way, when they can't do it, then they feel that something is falling in the performance. So they become very much more active. And then, of course, the harder they try, the worse it gets. Until now, I'm dealing with people, men who are 45 years of age, 45, 50 years of age, and almost half of them are psychologically impotent.

They are not physically so, but they're psychologically so. Now, of those that are, I would say that nearly half of them have been made impotent because of the attitude of their wives toward the whole experience. And a male, of course, doesn't understand how she's functioning. The fear and concern for pregnancy is exceedingly strong in her once she's had the children she wants, and he doesn't quite perceive that. There has to be the kind of understanding where you can talk the matter out. But you can be sure of this, that the sexual desire of one is very likely going to be stronger than the sexual desire of the other.

And if you don't have the kind of love, virtue, that will help you work that out, you're going to be hurting each other. There's no question about it at all. But what amazes me is that even Christians are trying to find out what others are doing and to replicate what they're doing. I hope you don't get caught in that terrible syndrome of repetition of what someone else does, much of what they

say they do oftentimes they don't do. And those who can do some of those exotic things, it's not going to add anything to you, because that is something that belongs to you and you alone.

And the more you seek to find out what someone else is doing, the more I think you're going to introduce unhappiness in your relationship. What I have to learn, I have to learn with my wife what she has to learn she has to learn with me, and we get on with it. One of the saddest things in the world is that great many men and women, especially men, bring to their marriage former experiences. And the wife can never match the fantasy that this man is going through.

You see anybody where you have a casual liaison, they can just bring some exciting fun and games into the relationship. But when you're living with someone day after day, and that person has to do all of the chores that are related to married life, and then all of a sudden supposed to become the most exotic kind of partner, it won't always happen. And if you're so immature that that's what you require, then marriage doesn't belong to you, not yet. And you need to understand that. There will always be someone in the marriage who has a greater drive than the other one.

And one of the worst things that will happen is that the one with a greater drive will presume that the other person doesn't love him enough. And unfortunately, the other person will feel if he loved me enough, he wouldn't press me to respond that much. After a while, with love, with enough flexibility, you'll be surprised how beautiful the relationship ultimately becomes. But most of them are having trouble because they're imposing on them the experiences of other people. One of the worst things in the world that you can do is to have the psyche of Hugh Hefner.

If you want to destroy yourself, get that kind of perception, which I think is, what is it? 57 years old going on 14, and I think he's one of the greatest curses that has ever occurred in the American society. And I would very much be pleased if he'd walk into the room sometime whenever I say that, so I could say it directly to his face because of all of the tragedies that those of us who are engaged in marriage counseling have faced as a result of all of these exotic proposals that have gone on like this.

By the way, I have been able to talk to some of these people. I was in Washington, DC, when, oh, who is it that has Hustler magazine Larry Flynn, who's claimed to be born again? I said, Whatever born again experience is yours, sir, has come from someplace else than this biblical perception that I understand. And I just think his answer is I want to make illicit sex so ugly that the American people rebel. I said, oh, sure. In the meantime, however, he's making millions of dollars out of it. Very upsetting, in my opinion, and you can't really blame me whenever I'm working with scores and scores of couples who are now going through the curse of the expectations that have been visited upon them by the exotic thoughts of other people who sell them on the newsstand for wealth.

And I think someone's going to have to speak to this issue. Number 28. What will you do when you discover that he she is romantically interested in another person? Now studies show that at least 50% of all individuals. Notice I didn't say couples of all individuals. That means that if you're married and you follow statistics, one of you is going to be romantically distracted somewhere in the course of the marriage. Now that's going to happen. And if you don't

understand that it's going to happen, it doesn't mean that you no longer love your mate unless you toy with it. It doesn't mean that you ought to break up your marriage.

It doesn't mean that you ought to do all kinds of crazy things. Meet this person on the side and so on. It simply means that you're human and you have emotions and you see someone and someone kind of responds. You work in the same office, you begin to talk about things, and you find out that you have some of the same interests. And before you know it, you're going to turn that around and make that into a romance. I had a couple come.

I think it was in August. No, it was during the school year, because they were in College. They were married in August. The following January, I think it was. He came in and he said, you remember that question you asked about the fact that one of us be romantically distracted? I said, yes. He says, It's happened already. I said, what do you mean? Married in August? And here it is. What? January, February, March. I said, Usually you give a couple of years before it happens. And he says, well, it happened. I said, what did you do? He says, I followed the Council.

Now, the Council is that when you feel a romantic distraction, you ought to run to your beloved and tell her. Tell him. That something's happened. Hey, boy, this is the way I feel. And if you do it right away, you've got enough resources. You don't get too deep into that. It doesn't get so far that you no longer can extricate yourself. But when you put yourself on the line with the person that you care about, she's going to help you. He's going to help you. You're going to get away from that person.

If possible, you'll resign from that place if necessary, anything to save your relationship. You can try, but if you see the thing happening. So I said, what did you do? He says, I told my wife, well, how does she take it? Well, she is going through a little bit of a difficult time, but I'm pleased the way she's taking it. I said, well, what did she say to you? She said, she wants to talk to you about it. But in the meantime, she wanted me to talk to you first and tell you what it was. I said, Fine, have her come. So she came and I said, how do you feel? She says, Why? I feel badly that in our first year he already feels a kind of distraction.

But she said, I'm grateful that he cares enough for me to tell me. And I said, Now, here's what you need to do. And so I recited several things. They have a beautiful marriage. In fact, he's now in the Ministry. He wasn't then, but he is now. And they have an absolutely magnificent marriage. But they came over that rough, rocky spot by being willing to admit.

By the way, even whenever I'm counseling with couples, I sometimes say to them, because I can guess by their non verbals, which I read very carefully, but I can guess that even during the period in which there's an engagement, there's already come a distraction, and they'll admit it. We are that vulnerable and we ought to be aware of it. One of the things to do is run like a deer. You just run away from it because it's going to happen. And by the way, if it doesn't happen, there must be nothing inside of you that's still alive.

Take a look at that. I don't know how many women have come and said that they feel in love with their doctor. By the way, when you subject you're going to have a baby and you're subjecting yourself to the intimacy of all of the inspections that a doctor was going through,

you've got to kind of like the guy. Unless you have a female doctor, those women. And if you're not careful, that doctor is going to distract you. This is one of the reasons why among professionals, the ones who are least professional in their relationship to women are one doctors, two.

What do you suppose? Ministers? If you're going to be a Minister, you're going to make sure, I hope that God gives you the resources, because women are going to sit in your study and tell you straight out that they love you and you can do anything to them that you want to do. They'll say that straight out. Now if a woman is living with a rough man and if she's living with somebody that doesn't seem to care, and here she's sitting in the presence of a man who is a caring person, she's going to feel like, hey, I got to love somebody. Might as well be this person.

She doesn't know she's saying all that. But that happens, dear friends, and you don't have to be young and handsome to accomplish that, not at all, because ultimately people recognize that that's not where the virtue is. Therefore, if you're going to be a true professional, especially in the people helping business, such as Ministry or medicine or those that are like those are the number one medicine, number two ministers who get into most difficulty relative to extraneous experiences with members of the opposite sex.

And I think it's because they don't perceive what's involved. We're not even going to finish tomorrow. Number 29, do you plan on having children? We've already talked a little bit about that. Number 30, what you're feeling about birth control? We're living in times where birth control is a standard kind of experience. I think there's no way that I'd want anyone that I love

and care for to take anything extraneous into her body without careful monitoring. The automatic use of the pill, I think is a curse on women. I wouldn't want my wife, I wouldn't want my daughters. I wouldn't want my daughters in law to do that without a very careful monitoring process.

And by the way, I think young women have awakened to the dangers of this. Make sure that whatever your feeling is that if you go with birth control, as more than 90% of the people do, that you make sure that you do what is best for you. Talk to an older woman who has had a practical approach to life. Find out what she's done and how it's affected her after you've listened to her, she's now gone through the change of life, so there's nothing really that makes a great deal of difference to her relative to it. After you talk to her and you're having difficulty talk to somebody else.

It may or may not be your mother depends on I hope it would be. But it depends on how the mother is embarrassed or not. So that I am quite distressed that birth control is used this way in many public colleges. The birth control pill dispersed to the women's students in those universities. I've been there. I think it's virtually criminal. And lo and behold, it's done free of charge in many of the universities. Unbelievable. Just to save the University from any ill reputation when it's reported their girls are pregnant.

Number 31, are you flexible? One of the biggest problems in marriage is the inflexibility of one or the other member. Are you inflexible? For example, if the word comes that your husband is going to work Friday night, lo and behold, you've planned all week long. He's going to take you

out to dinner. It's a big day. Maybe it's a birthday, maybe it's an anniversary. And then the word comes at 04:00 in the afternoon. I have to stay over. He has no choice in the matter. He has to stay over.

I have seen marriages virtually destroyed under such circumstances. And as they sit there in front of me talking, I say, the woman says, what do you think about that? I can't think about that right now. Why not? I said, I want to know how many times he's called you and canceled. She may say, well, it hasn't happened very often before. I said, Then I think there's something wrong with you. You're inflexible. But if this is the 15th time he's done it this year, then he's probably in the wrong job or he doesn't really care about you or he doesn't want to keep his.

And then I have to talk to him to find out what the difficulty is. If you're an inflexible person, you can be sure of this. You're going to have an unhappy time in your marriage. And you better go to work on finding out how it is that you can roll a little bit with the punches, a little bit with the waves. But if that is coming back over and over and over again, then there must be an insensitivity on the part of the person who's pressing that on you.

Let's stop there and I guarantee you in the morning we're going to go through 18 fast, from 32 to 50. And those of you who would like to be here. You show up. Try to be on time because we're going to start right at 10:00 and rip all the way through. And since I speak at 11:00, we can't run over, so we'll try to do it. Bring your sheets back. We're almost out. We're not going to run anymore. We ran about 1400 and they're all gone. Except for maybe a half dozen. So bring them with you in the morning. 10:00. Thank you very much.