

Christ Like Family Marriage Panel Discussion Believers Statesboro 05-26-24

Pastor Scott Moore, Believers Church of Statesboro, www.believersstatesboro.com

- James and BriAnne Newton – Believers Church Couples Ministry Leaders.
- Tyler and Shelby VanBlarcom – SYMBIS Facilitators (Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts).
- Richy and Lindsay Ackerman – Significance Marriage Ministry.

Video only:

- Emily and James Tanner – Current Marriage Life Group Leaders.

A) If you could give one piece of advice to married couples, what would it be and why?

James and Emily Tanner (Video 1:31): **Never go to bed angry.** Resolve conflicts quickly. Then you can begin each day fresh and free of anger, resentment, and grudges.

Richy and Lindsay Ackerman: **Pray every day and pray without fail.** “It’s hard to pray when you’re upset, but it also hard to stay upset when you pray”
Also when you pray before bed every night you are giving it all to God, the good, the bad, the highs and the lows. You’re bringing God on the scene, of your marriage, your present circumstance, and your future.

James and BriAnne Newton- **Forgiveness** should always be given but not expected. What we mean is that we should all have a heart of forgiveness especially in our marriages. We are all sinful people and we don’t always get it right. However, we should always seek to have a heart that truly forgives each other and allows growth from the situation. Yet, with that it also means that we shouldn’t use the willingness to forgive each other as a means to get our way or what we want from our spouse. If we sin within our marriages we need to ask for forgiveness, from God and our spouse, and repent and turn from that action. We can’t keep doing the same action over and over. We have to learn to change and be better.

Tyler and Shelby VanBlarcom: Have an **intentional conversation** with your spouse. Set time aside to sit down and be able to talk uninterrupted. Your spouse cannot read your mind (that we are aware of) and they won’t know what you’re thinking or feeling until you communicate it. Not “in the moment” heated discussions or arguing, but calm collected talk about what you’re thinking or feeling. Share with each other your mind and your heart.

B) What do you believe is one of the main pitfalls in marriages today and how should our couples avoid those pitfalls?

James and Emily Tanner (Video 1:26): **Doing marriage alone or in private**. Then realizing that we needed a community of other marriage couples for support and to help us grow in our marriage. We all learn from each other and it helps us keep minor problems from becoming major problems later.

Richy and Lindsay Ackerman: DECISIONS:

How many people “want a better marriage”and have for some time, and are still sitting there, “wanting.” Wanting creates opportunity for Decision Making, and it’s Decisions that bring actions.

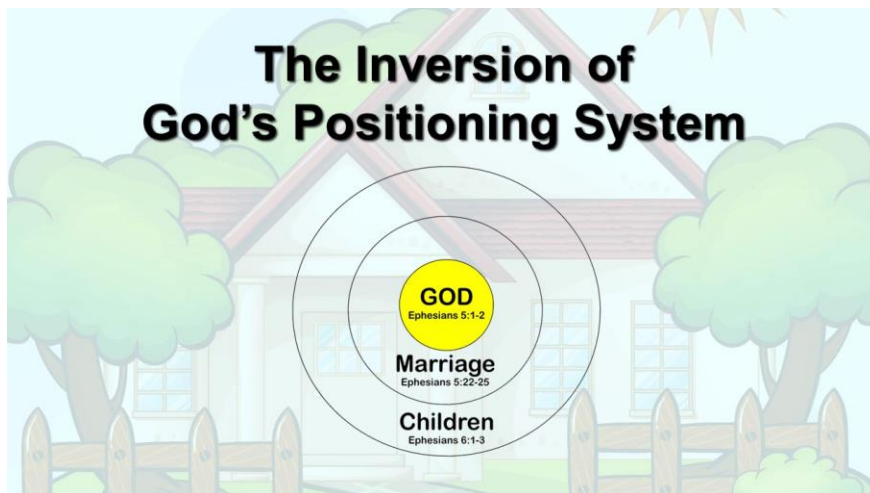
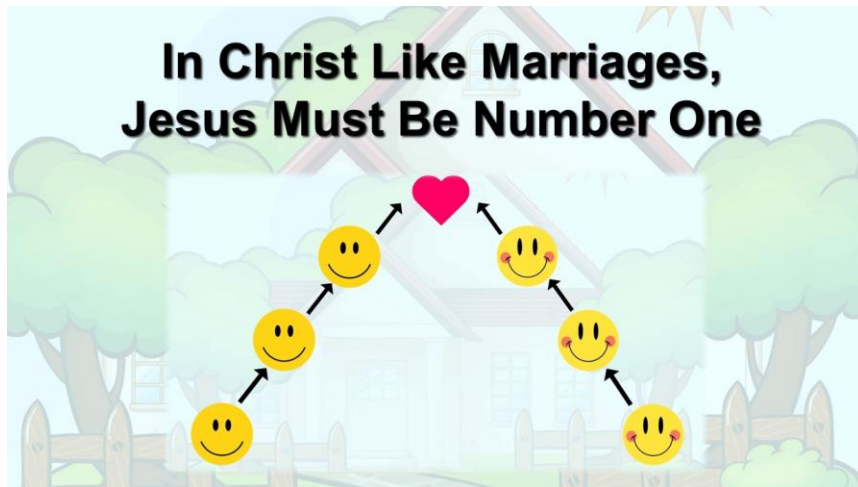
Our Lives are controlled by one force: “DECISIONS.” Lack of fulfillment is ultimately based on decisions.

The decisions we make control us much more than the conditions we meet. It’s not the Life conditions (LC’s) that lead you to unfulfillment, it’s your decisions.

From wanting, the next step is deciding and “Becoming.”

James and BriAnne Newton: We live in a world that is so **inwardly focused**. The desire to fulfill personal wants and needs can often leave spouses from not truly hearing the hearts of their other half. As Christ centered people God has asked us to **serve others and that first starts in your marriage**. This takes time. It takes intentional time to know the other’s heart. It takes being still and listening to know what language they are communicating in. In this self-centered world it is easy to get caught up with our wants and then to move quickly forward to obtain it. Marriage isn’t about fast. Our marriage vows are “until death do us part” which means things won’t happen at a drop of a hat. Instead it’s a ministry that has been given for a life time which means it’s a lifetime of investing in your spouse.

Tyler and Shelby VanBlarcom: Having a Selfish Marriage “I only have to put in 50% if they put in 50% to have a 100% marriage” you putting in 50% and someone else putting in 50% totals 50% of the possible outcome. Or, “what can I get out of this marriage, how does it benefit me?” Don’t look to your spouse for your full fulfillment and happiness. Marriage is about two becoming one. Avoid it by Keeping God first in your marriage and your spouse second. When situations arise bring it before God, “what are you trying to show me or change in me?” Work on fixing the conflict, not fixing your spouse.



You can have a great marriage if you choose to do so. You know what to do and you know what not to do. Let's do it! Let's have a Christ Like Marriage!

NEXT LIFE STEP: This week I will take the Christ Like Family Test and begin to work on areas that need improvement.

NEXT STEP:

I will also check out the great Marriage and Family Resources on Believers web site, Family Resources page.