**Marriage Enrichment Session Two**

**Him Vs. HER (1)**

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He HIM; MALE and female created He them. (Genesis 1:27)

**Introduction:** *What happened to our first love**of the pre-marriage and*

*early marriage days?*

I. What are the secrets of an *on-going romantic relationship* of love in marriage?

 A. The first secret is ***education*** *(1 Peter 3:7)*

 *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving*

*honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

 1. this *knowledge* needs to be acquired (it isn’t natural)

 2. as husband you are the *main responsible party*

 3. the failure to obey *affects every area of marital life*

 4. Question: How come that *these* **‘romantic feeling’** cool-down so

quickly and even reverse into ‘**anger feeling flash-points’?**

 a. Mostly due to ignorance of Genesis 1:27:

 5. So what is the *first secret* of keeping the flames burning high?

 B. The second secret is *get rid of the* ***wrong education***

1. Wrong education is more harmful that lack of education

 2. Easier to fill up an *empty tool box* than to *change a tool box with*

 *the wrong tools we are used to*

 C. Yet the greatest secret of marriage happiness ***regeneration*** (John 3:8)

 1. The best *education* doesn’t remedy the *fallen heart*

 2. Nothing so destroys a marriage or douses romantic love then

*actions that flow out of the ‘toolbox of a* ***selfish – idolatrous******– thoughtless heart!***

 3. Seek therefore to follow from today the example of John 2:2

II. What is *similar* in the Him vs. Her?

 A. We all have an *inner need or hunger for love* and marriage was designed to give and to receive this love

 1. There is *romantic love* as wellas *caring love*

2. Both need to be present in marriage for it to be fulfilling

 B. Romantic love defined: *feeling of being in love with someone*

 1. This kind of love cannot be commanded but is fueled caring love

 C. Caring love defined: *love in which you decide to act in love despite a*

*lack of loving feelings*

1. This love can be commanded

2. This love is independent from feelings and can be contrary to them

 3. Question: I am showing *caring love actions* and yet they don’t

seem to kindle *any romantic feelings in my spouse?* *I meet with more resistance, rejection and even rebellion.*

 a. this situation is not *uncommon*

 b. it often is the result of *mis-reading* **Him vs. Her**

 c. therefore the secret is to *explore what caring acts will*

 *actually trigger romantic love feelings in my spouse?*

**III. The Love Bank Analogy**

 1. Each of us have a *Love Account* for each person we know

 2. Behavior are *making deposits* or *withdrawals* of your Love Bank Accounts

 a. giving attention – meeting the emotional needs etc. are *deposits*

 b. harsh words, breaking promises, second-rate status etc. are

 *withdrawals*

 3. What happens when the *Love Bank Accounts* are high toward a certain

 person?

 a. It fuels *romantic feelings and desires*

 4. What happens *when Love Bank Balances* drops and drops?

 a. It creates distance, repulsive feelings, anger etc.

**Final question:** *What needs to change so I will make many love-bank deposits?*

1. Habits need to change that become *deposits* instead of *withdrawals*

2. Understanding needs to dawn on *Him vs. Her* **primary and unique** emotional needs

 a. Knowing each other’s needs is not *through intuition* but

 a. understanding the differences

 b. communicating these differences

 c. becoming experts in meeting these *emotion – social – intellectual –*

 *sexual – spiritual needs* of your spouse

**Marriage Construction Assignment**

1. Before looking at the next assignment, take a piece of paper and write down

*what you think you could do for your spouse that would make him/her the happiest?* After you have written this, share it with each other to see how close you are.

2. We all have primary and secondary personal emotional needs. Often the

failure to continue the flames of love to burn brightly, is the failure to meet each other’s needs. This failure is usually not ill-will but simply ignorance. So, learning to understand how unique we are, it is certainly important for you to know how unique your spouse is. If you fail to meet his/her needs, you cause electric shock rather than the high voltage current that keeps the marriage aglow.

 Once we have identified the primary needs, your next step is to become

expert in meeting those unique needs of your spouse. Doing that will reward itself.

Rank your own **five** primary needs as well as your spouses. Then take time to discuss these rankings and see what you can discover about each other.

 \_\_\_ Affection

 \_\_\_ Sexual fulfilment

 \_\_\_ Conversation

 \_\_\_ Recreational companionship

 \_\_\_ Honesty and openness

 \_\_\_ Attractiveness of spouse

 \_\_\_ Financial support

 \_\_\_ Domestic support

 \_\_\_ Family commitment

 \_\_\_ Admiration

 \_\_\_ Love and Devotion

 \_\_\_ Respect and Admiration

 \_\_\_ Trust