

FROM  
**ME TO WE**

KEYS FOR BUILDING **STRONG FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS**

## #3 MAKING MARRIAGE WORK - PART 2

### 1. Dismiss the myths.

*Some of the most common myths about marriage:*

- ▶ Marriages are made in heaven.
- ▶ Marriage will make me happy.
- ▶ Marriage will make me whole.
- ▶ People miraculously improve the moment they say, "I do."
- ▶ My primary job in marriage is to improve/ change my spouse.
- ▶ Great marriages never have problems or conflicts.
- ▶ Marriage will take care of my loneliness.
- ▶ My spouse should always know my needs and meet them.
- ▶ Having children will make our marriage better.
- ▶ Physical appearance doesn't matter after marriage.
- ▶ Love is all I need.
- ▶ Communication and intimacy should be spontaneous.
- ▶ Living together before marriage is a good idea.
- ▶ Marriage preparation is a waste of time — "We are in love!"
- ▶ My past doesn't affect me, or my past will always haunt me.
- ▶ Men can't understand women, and women can't understand men.
- ▶ If marriage doesn't satisfy me, I'll leave.

**Romans 12:2 (NLT)** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

### 2. Count the cost.

**Luke 14:28-33 (NIV)** "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."

*How do you commit to your marriage?*

- ▶ Remove the "escape" thoughts, clauses and conversations.
- ▶ Remove the influence of anything draining your attention or affection.
- ▶ Remember your vows.
- ▶ Elevate commitment over emotions.
- ▶ Adjust your attitudes about relationship problems that arise.
- ▶ Identify and adopt a common goal — teamwork
- ▶ Demonstrate your commitment through investment.
- ▶ Communicate your commitment in words.

**Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)** Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit — you choose.