

## **SESSION 23 – THREATS**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Authentic men need to be \_\_\_\_\_ of these threats, know how they operate, and take precautions to avoid them.

### **II. FIVE MARRIAGE THREATS**

#### **1. Sex**

- Proverbs 6:27 (ESV) “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?”
- God \_\_\_\_\_ the intimacy and the flames of sex to burn safely within a life-long commitment between a husband and a wife.
- Internet Pornography
  - The Bible tells us “\_\_\_\_\_ from sexual immorality.” 1 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV)
  - We learned in first semester that we have to fight fire with fire by fully embracing the power of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and turning our hearts to His more satisfying promises.
  - One of the greatest gifts you can give your wife or future wife is to be a man who fights for purity.
- Premarital Sex
  - When sex precedes \_\_\_\_\_, pain and distrust are the eventual result every time.
  - One of the greatest ways you can show love and build trust is to guard both your and her \_\_\_\_\_.
- Extramarital Affair
  - Proverbs 6:32 (ESV) “He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.”
  - An extramarital affair won’t even deliver the \_\_\_\_\_ it promises.
  - They usually start out as an emotional connection but follow a pretty predictable pattern.
  - The best way to affair-proof your marriage is to keep the fire kindled at home – to cultivate the flames of friendship and intimacy with your wife.

- If you've messed up in any of these areas, there's one word to remember: \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus died on the cross to offer you grace, forgiveness, and the power to change.
  - An Authentic Man confesses, repents, and \_\_\_\_\_ God with his repentant heart.

## 2. A Graceless Home

- A graceless home is when a home or marriage become performance-based and expectations-filled.
- A graceless home will \_\_\_\_\_ oneness in your marriage.
- You and your spouse will tend toward one of two extremes when faced with conflict:
  - "Fighter": you tend to be aggressive and don't mind verbalizing your frustrations.
  - "Bottler": you tend to \_\_\_\_\_ conflict and escape.
- Proverbs 19:11 (NLT) "Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs."

## 3. Money

- \_\_\_\_\_ about money can be a major source of stress in a marriage.
- Financial baggage usually includes:
  - Influence from family of origin.
  - Personal financial choices.
- It is crucial for spouses to openly and honestly \_\_\_\_\_ these money issues so they can be on the same page and avoid the major threat that money can become.

#### 4. Kids

- Psalm 127:3 (NLT) says that “children are a gift from the Lord.”
- There are usually two types of misses when it comes to kids:
  - Selfishness: this is when a married couple neglects or pays too little attention to the kids.
  - Too much attention: this is when the marriage becomes kid-centric at the expense of the married couple’s relationship.

#### 5. Identity

- This is when a husband tries to find his ultimate \_\_\_\_\_, value, or worth in his marriage or his wife.
- No wife can be perfect, and she’s not designed or equipped to be our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Authentic Men love their wives deeply and neither overly-depend on nor act completely independent of their spouse.

### **DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Are you finding that you and your wife are more susceptible to some of these particular threats more than others?
2. How are you doing with sex-related threats (porn, premarital, extramarital)? What are some precautions you have taken or need to take to avoid those threats?
3. Discuss what an authentic friendship with a woman who’s not your wife should look like.
4. When it comes to conflict, are you a “fighter” or a “bottler”? What about your wife? How can understanding these tendencies help you and your wife deal with conflict?
5. Is your home defined by grace? Do you create space for your wife to make mistakes?

## **ANSWERS**

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  - o Proverbs 6:27 (ESV) “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?”
  - o God **designed** the intimacy and the flames of sex to burn safely within a life-long commitment between a husband and a wife.
  - o Internet Pornography
    - The Bible tells us “**flee** from sexual immorality.” 1  
Corinthians 6:18 (ESV)
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  - o Premarital Sex
    - When sex precedes **commitment**, pain and distrust are the eventual result every time.
    - One of the greatest ways you can show love and build trust is to guard both your and her **purity**.
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  - o If you’ve messed up in any of these areas, there’s one word to remember: **grace**. Jesus died on the cross to offer you grace, forgiveness, and the power to

change.

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- A graceless home will **corrode** oneness in your marriage.
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