

13 April, 2008

BUILT TO LAST: A MARRIAGE THAT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME

Text: Ps. 11:3; Mt. 7: 24-27.

Introduction:

Dealing with issues around marriage and family life is something that is not very easy to handle in only one month as we are trying to do this month. However, after the message of last week, it is important to look at what is important regarding marriages and families that last.

There are issues we have to consider today:

1. The parties in the relationship must be broken and must surrender their life into the hands of the Lord: Gen. 2: 18 – 25; Gen. 24: 62-67.
2. The parties to the marriage must allow God to be the Lord of their life. They must endeavour to be a home where God can also dwell and be the master of that home.
3. The parties must understand the counsel of God for marriage as we spelt them out last week and be willing to see that as the basis for their relationship.
4. The two must recognize and respect their integrity in the Lord. They must be men and women of God and ensure that their marriage is a ministry in the vineyard of the Lord. 1 Sam. 25: 2- 44; Act. 5: 1-11.
5. The parties must have an affection and passion for each other. The man must be able to look at the wife at all times and say, this is indeed a beautiful lady!
6. The parties must share the same passion and aspiration about life. They don't need to move at the same pace; but they must be able to move together in any enterprise.

7. Each person must understand the strength and weakness of his/her spouse and understand his weak points.

8. The parties must understand their common denominator on any issue of life.

9. Mutual love, trust, communication, transparency and respect must not be in short supply in the home.

10. The parties must watch out for the negative effect of successes and failures of life.
1 John 2: 15-17, Rom. 8:35-39.

11. They must make sure that the word of the Lord is there as their counsel and direction.

12. Finally, they must know the power of prayer and be together in the place of pray.

Conclusion:

Marriage is like running a race. It takes perseverance; it takes focus and determination to win the race. You will win in the name of Jesus.

By Patrick Tolani.