

session 3: the root of our conflict

– independence from God

Session 2 Review

You bring yourself with you.

Two dead-end ways we deal with brokenness:

1.

2.

What is one area of brokenness that you brought into your marriage?

This is what the Lord says: “Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord.”

“They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land.”

“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.”

“They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:5-8

What does an independent heart look like?

Why it Matters: Faithful Dependence

 **big idea:**

Your marriage cannot make you whole. Only God can do that. But marriage can be a tool that God uses to make you more like him.

session 3 homework

Self-Examination: Diagnosing an Independent Heart

	Passivity / Abdicate (Passive Independence) Adam during the Fall, Eve with fig leaves Examples:	Faithful Dependence (Responsibility for and Strength for) God's mandate to Adam and Eve, "making the unfruitful fruitful" Examples:	Self-Reliance / Dominate (Active Independence) Eve during the Fall, Adam with fig leaves Examples:
Work	lazy, takes the easy way	initiative	workaholism
Marriage	passivity, accepts status quo	proactivity	domination, manipulation
Children	ignored, detached	developed	over-attached
Emotions	apathy, denial	engaged, vulnerable, honest	anger, manipulation
Self-image	defeated, depressed	sinner, saint, child	self-righteous
Pleasure	avoidance, numbing	enjoyment	distraction, addiction
Dealing with Sin	acting out, giving in, contempt	continual repentance, worship, tell on yourself	performance, religion, legalism
Hobbies	none	fun, pursued, in proportion	all-in, obsessed
Church	disengaged, attending	invested, involved	uber-volunteer, worker
Money	no plan	stewarded, managed	hyper-focused
Sex	ignored, ambivalent	enjoyed, celebrated	obsessed, weaponized
Health	negligent, couch potato	balanced, stewards body well	over indulges, proud


Self-Examination: Diagnosing an Independent Heart

Place an "X" on the continuum below that indicates where you have been living in each area over the last few months.

	Passivity / Abdicate (Passive Independence)	Faithful Dependence (Responsibility for and Strength for)	Self-Reliance / Dominate (Active Independence)
Work	lazy, takes the easy way	initiative	workaholism
Marriage	passivity, accepts status quo	proactivity	domination, manipulation
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Self-Examination: Diagnosing an Independent Heart

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	Examples:	Examples:	Examples:
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Marriage			
Children			
Emotions			
Self-image			
Pleasure			
Dealing with Sin			
Hobbies			
Church			
Money			
Sex			
Health			

After you have each completed the Faithful Dependence Continuum chart, set aside some time to share your insights and discuss these questions with your spouse. 

1. Identify the area where you tend most toward passivity and the area where you tend most toward self-reliance.
2. Discuss with your spouse why you rated yourself this way in these areas and ask them how your attitudes and behaviors have affected them. How are your tendencies toward either passivity or self-reliance in specific areas causing conflict in your marriage? How have these tendencies caused you to hurt one another?
3. Share with each other what else you learned about yourself and how that may impact your marriage.
4. Ask your spouse for additional insights they might have (be gentle!).
5. Pick one area that you each would like to work on and define some concrete steps to move toward faithful dependence. How can you help one another grow in this area?