

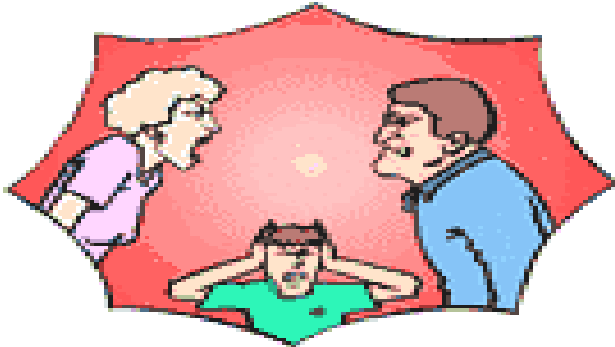
1. Last Sermon (*Saul at Gigal*) Circuit Breakers for Arguments and Anger:



1. **Listening** Test
2. **Time** Tests (Let's **TRY** this....)
3. **No Interrupting** – Take Notes
4. Agreed upon **Space of Time** to resume discussion.
5. Agreed upon Space of Time to **write letters**.
6. _____
7. _____ - _____

2. "Face to Face" dialogue Vs. "Written" dialogue:

Which is **BETTER?**



Vs.



2 Questions:

How _____ is the subject? How _____ is the subject?

~ ALWAYS Remove these two elements FIRST! // *Cor. 1:23-2:1*

~ *Romans 14, 1 Cor. 8-10* Stronger always _____ the weaker! (High D's)

3. Circuit Breaker # 6 The **GOAL** ---

Great **Permanent Victory** with Great **CONFIDENCE** for future issues

4. The Process:

1. Pick a set of Partners
2. Answer the 40 Questions (*Re-answer if poor quality*)
3. Side by Side Prayer Week
Answer 41 Questions
4. Meet with PJ and your Partners

Marriage Counseling with PJ

I LOVE Marriage Counseling!!!

I deeply believe that true marriage counseling is a huge Win/Win for both the husband and the wife. When a husband and wife both believe with all of their hearts in equal trades, it is very easy to help them to hear each other's hearts. It is very easy to help them have a FANTASTIC marriage.

I also believe that your response to this season of marriage counseling may be the most or second most important decision in your entire life. For many of you your entire life and eternity hang in the balance. For almost all of you, this is one of the two biggest tests of your love for Jesus you will ever face.

Before we dive into this process, I would like to ask you to carefully assess **“My Core Beliefs Relating to Marriage”** and **“My Core Expectations during Marriage Counseling”**. If you cannot agree wholeheartedly with both of these then I would prefer to not be involved in your situation. If you agree wholeheartedly with both of these, then I am extremely honored to be involved in your situation.

My Core Beliefs Relating to Marriage:

- 1. The Real Problem is between you and Jesus.**
- 2. God wants you both to serve your mate aggressively in their areas of THEIR passions in ways that thrill them.....and.....
then to require your mate to serve you equally in your areas of YOUR passions in ways that thrill you. (EQUAL TRADES)**

I would like to expand on my first Core Belief.

When I lived in Philadelphia PA from the age of seven until fourteen, the house we lived in had a leaky basement with no way to drain the basement except by scooping the water into buckets and carrying the water outside. After a hard rain, we could have 1-2 inches of water in the basement and I was the one who got to bail out the basement. It was hard work and could take 4-6 hours.

The only way to stop the leaking would have been to dig around the outside of the house, seal the outside of the foundational walls and re-grade the yard so that water would not flow against the house.

In the same way, many people come to Marriage Counselors wanting them to bail out their leaky basement. Unless you are willing to let Jesus dig down into the hidden areas of your heart and make some major changes in your relationship with HIM, then your basement will simply continue to leak every time the rains of testing come. You can even change mates 3-4 times but the basement will still keep leaking. Jesus is trying to get your attention THROUGH your mate.

My Core Expectations during Marriage Counseling

I like to be clear up front about my expectations and requirements for someone with whom I work on marriage counseling. I ask for three things of every couple in Liberty whom I work with for marriage counseling. Those three things are that they both be:

- 1. Humble.**
- 2. Hard Working**
- 3. Have a Partner couple from within their home group or congregation.**

Please allow me to expand on these three things.

1. Humble

If you do not truly believe in equal trades, then please don't come to me. If you are gladly willing to change equally with your mate, then I would love to work with you.

2. Hard Working

I will ask you to work as hard as you would for one major college class. Most of your counseling will be the actual homework. My goal is to show you how YOU and YOUR MATE can seek the Lord to resolve the issues in your marriage. With almost every couple, I have the following work requirements.

1. Listen well to the Marriage Series.
2. Answer the 40 questions and the follow up questions
3. Practice Repeatedly the “*No Interrupting Take Notes*” tool and the “*Listening Test*”
4. After this initial set of work, I also usually ask each couple to go through Breakthrough to Joy

Any couple who is truly willing to work hard can have a dream come true marriage that will last a lifetime and grow sweeter through the years. This will be less work than a college term paper and one million times more valuable.

3. Have a Partner couple from within their home group or congregation.

This other couple will serve as a constant point of encouragement and prayer support. They will join us in any meetings we have.

Thus if you have heard or watched all of the marriage series sermons, then I would love for you to each answer the 40 questions and to email your answers to myself and your teammates.

I want to repeat how PROUD I am of both of you for being willing to work hard to make your marriage successful.

I also want to repeat that I am asking that BOTH OF YOU ANSWER ALL 40 QUESTIONS so I can have both perspectives. I would like to ask that neither of you read the other's answers until you have sent off your answers. Also, please DON'T SKIP any questions.

40 Questions

1. The main subjects that cause tension in our marriage are...(Please list)

2. HUSBAND's greatest strengths are.....

3. HUSBAND's greatest weaknesses are.....

4. WIFE's greatest strengths are.....

5. WIFE's greatest weaknesses are.....

6. What counseling have you both been to.....

7. The main things that counseling taught in HUSBAND's life are....

8. The main things that counseling taught in WIFE's life are.....

9. Areas of change that WIFE HAS SEEN in HUSBAND in the last 2 years.....

10. Areas of change that WIFE would LIKE TO SEE in HUSBAND in the future.....

11. Areas of change that HUSBAND HAS SEEN in WIFE in the last 2 years...

12. Areas of change that HUSBAND would LIKE TO SEE in WIFE in the future.....

13. What do you think are the WIFE's DISC giftings (Please include percentages)

14. In the WIFE's SOUL the main passions that guide her in every interaction with every person are.....
(Please list at least 3 or more)

15. Please list specific things that the HUSBAND does to greatly satisfy the number 1 passion of the Wife's soul?

16. Please list specific things that the HUSBAND does to greatly satisfy the number 2 passion of the Wife's soul?

17. Please list specific things that the HUSBAND does to greatly satisfy the number 3 passion of the Wife's soul?

18. Does the HUSBAND aggressively serve his wife with excellence in the areas of her passions?

19. AFTER aggressively serving his wife with excellence in the areas of her passions, does the husband then require his wife to serve him in his passions with equal excellence?

20. What do you think are the HUSBAND's DISC giftings (Please include percentages)

21. In the HUSBAND's SOUL the main passions that guide him in every interaction with every person are..... (Please list at least 3 or more)

22. Please list specific things that the WIFE does to greatly satisfy the number 1 passion of the husband's soul?

23. Please list specific things that the WIFE does to greatly satisfy the number 2 passion of the husband's soul?

24. Please list specific things that the WIFE does to greatly satisfy the number 3 passion of the husband's soul?

25. Does the WIFE aggressively serve her husband with excellence in the areas of his passions?

26. AFTER aggressively serving her husband with excellence in the areas of his passions, does the wife then require her husband to serve her in her passions with equal excellence?

27. How OFTEN does the HUSBAND offer the tool of *"No Interrupting – Take Notes"* ?

28. How OFTEN and how WELL does the HUSBAND practice the "*Listening Test*" with his wife?

29. How OFTEN does the WIFE offer the tool of "*No Interrupting – Take Notes*" ?

30. How OFTEN and how WELL does the WIFE practice the "*Listening Test*" with her husband?

31. Who works HARDER to INITIATE laughter into the marriage regularly? (Let's Call this person Mate # 1)

32. How much does the other mate (Let's call this person Mate # 2) respond by always making a great effort to laugh at their mate's jokes or silliness?

33. If Mate # 2 (Who does NOT Initiate) does NOT try hard to RESPOND when the Mate # 1 INITIATES laughter, how much bitterness has built up in the heart of the Mate # 1 over the coldness of the response of Mate # 2 ?

34. The Bible clearly states hundreds of times that the best measure of who you love MORE yourself or Jesus is best measured by asking the question of who you love MORE yourself or your church family. In fact, this is the summation of every single book in the Bible from Romans to Jude.

Thus, this next question is: Who does the HUSBAND love MORE himself or Jesus? Specifically.....

How much does the HUSBAND:

A. Make church attendance and Small Group Attendance the Highest Priority in His Schedule?

B. Passionately committed to always be faithful to tithe?

C. Put great effort into asking the Lord to show him ways to help make his small group and individual church congregation a close and warm family?

The Bible clearly states that there are two main tests to determine if you are truly Saved and going to Heaven. These two tests are:

1. Whether you have received Christ Jesus as Savior AND LORD according to the Word of God.

Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. Whether you bear the fruit of Christ in your life.

Matthew 7:15-23

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

²¹"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Before I ask the next question, I would like to give an important word of explanation. When someone is a Fruitless Christian who obviously loves himself MUCH MORE than they love Jesus, their mate or their church family, (*John 14 & 15*) there are two strong possibilities.

Possibility #1 (*Mt. 7:15-23*) is that they may have never truly been converted to a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus. It is my job as a Pastor to ask these questions and to do all that I can to make sure that each person is going to heaven.

Possibility# 2 (I Cor. 3:10-15, 4:1-5, II Cor. 5, 10,11) That this person is truly born again and will face a very painful time at the judgment seat of Christ, when all of their motives are exposed.

This marriage crisis may be the Lord shouting to you. I don't want to miss this chance for the Lord Jesus to reach your heart.

35. How certain are you that the HUSBAND is Born Again Biblically and going to heaven?

II Corinthians 13:5, 6

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

36. How has the HUSBAND'S walk with the Lord been over the:

1. Past few years?

2. Past few months?

37. The Bible clearly states hundreds of times that the best measure of who you love MORE yourself or Jesus is best measured by asking the question of who you love MORE yourself or your church family. In fact, this is the summation of every single book in the Bible from Romans to Jude.

Thus, this next question is: Who does the WIFE love MORE herself or Jesus? Specifically.....

How much does the WIFE:

A. Make church attendance and Small Group Attendance the Highest Priority in Her Schedule?

B. Passionately committed to always be faithful to tithe?

C. Put great effort into asking the Lord to show her ways to help make her small group and individual church congregation a close and warm family?

The Bible clearly states that there are two main tests to determine if you are truly Saved and going to Heaven. These two tests are:

1. Whether you have received Christ Jesus as Savior AND LORD according to the Word of God.

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This marriage crisis may be the Lord shouting to you. I don't want to miss this chance for the Lord Jesus to reach your heart.

38. How certain are you that the WIFE is Born Again Biblically and going to heaven?

II Corinthians 13:5,6

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

39. How has the WIFE'S walk with the Lord been over the:

1.Past few years?

2. Past few months?

40. After answering the first 39 questions, the final question is "What is the Lord saying to you?".

I am really looking forward to hearing from you.

Bunches of love and prayers,
PJ

