

Marriage & Communion

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Establishing Communion Objectives

- This discussion will address:
 - The definition of communion in marriage
 - The purposes of marriage
 - The movement from “separation, to marriage, to communion”
 - The two kinds of marriage
 - The operation of marriage

Definitions of Marriage

(Merriam-Webster, 2001)

- “The mutual relation of husband and wife.”
- “The institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family.”
- Kinds of marriages:
 - Civil marriage, common-law marriage, marriage of convenience, open marriage, shotgun marriage

Definition of Marriage & Communion

■ Communion:

- The act of sharing; having in common, participation, the condition of things held in common with others, union; fellowship

■ Communion Within a Marriage Relationship:

- “Marriage is first vertical, then horizontal” (Hunt, 2003).
- Basis of relationship goes beyond sensual desires or intense feelings.
- Continuous courtship occurs.
- Relationship moves beyond emotional love to unconditional love.
- Spouses treat each other as they would like to be treated.

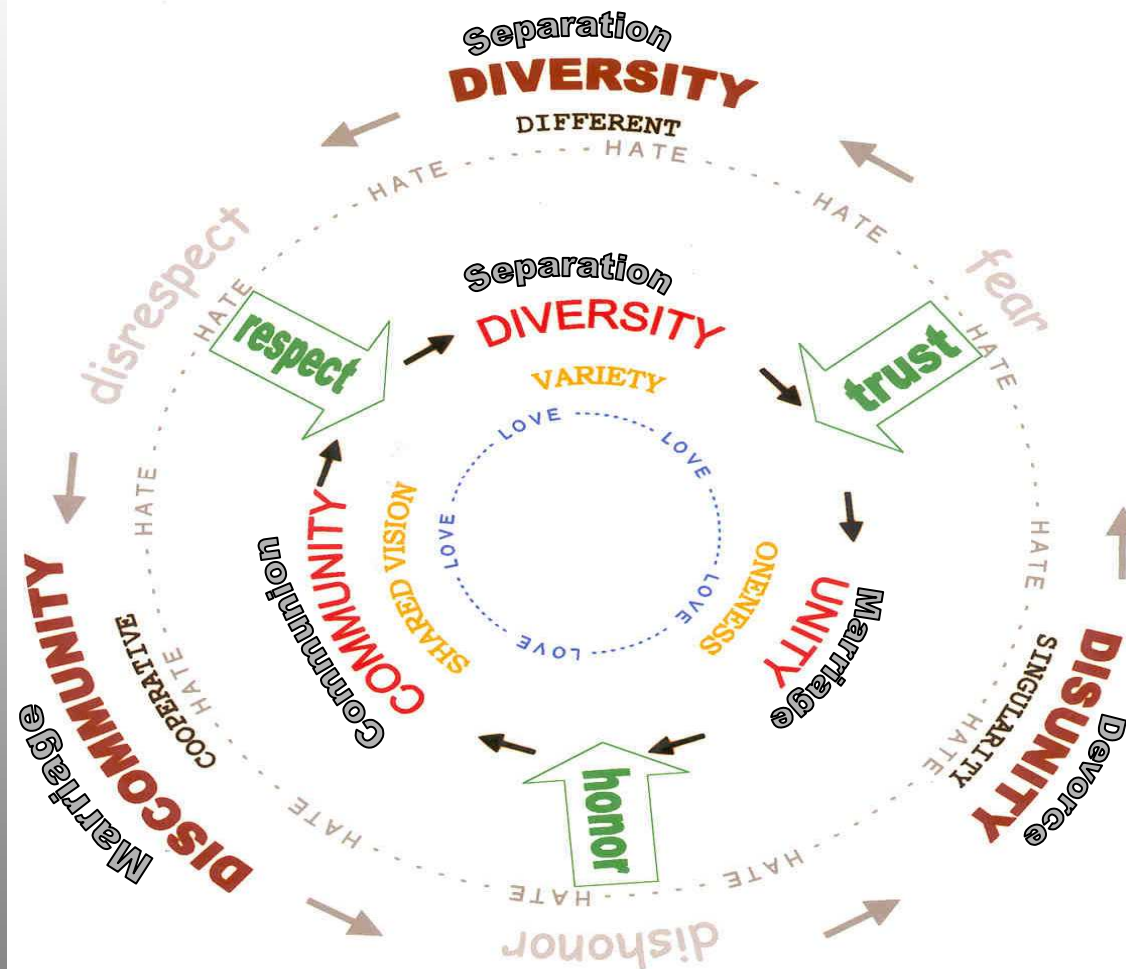
Communion

Purposes for Marriage

- To mirror God's relationship to us
- To teach love
- To provide companionship
- To procreate (*e.g. physical and spiritual children*)
- To multiply spiritual gifts
- To teach submission, surrender, and humility
- To teach commitment and devotion (i.e. faith)
- To prevent fornication
- To build a community of believers

The Ellison Model Community Building Diagram

BUILDING THE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY *The Discommunity, Definitions, Motivations and Values of Each*



Tree of Life and Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

- Both trees were rooted in a foundation.
- Roots brought life.
- Branches reflected the fruits they bare.



Building the House of Marriage

■ House of Intimacy

- Pride
- Lust
- Sensuality
- Unbelief
- Ultimate Will

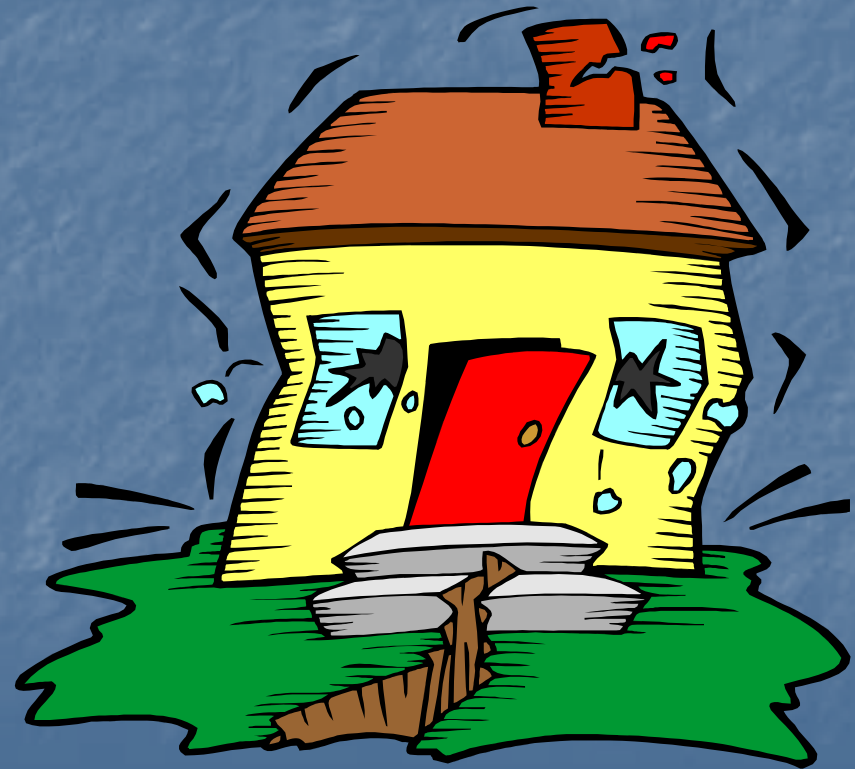
■ House of Communion

- Love
- Peace
- Faith
- Gentleness
- Meekness
- Humility
- Joy
- Longsuffering

Products of House of Intimacy

- The Marriage House will not stand if its fruits are...
 - Attitudes: Hate, Disrespect, Dishonor and Fear
 - Behavior: Adultery, Murder, Fornication

Will Not Stand!



Products of House of Communion

Will Stand!



- The Marriage House will stand if its fruits are...
 - Attitudes: Love, Trust, Honor, and Respect
 - Behavior: Sharing, Caring and Loving

Communion in Marriage Relationships

Inward Motive vs. Outward Act

- Each spouse must be married to God first, then must nurture the relationship amongst each other.
- Inward Motive:
 - Basis of relationship goes beyond sensual desires or intense feelings.
 - Deep level of commitment
 - Love of God shed abroad in your heart
- Outward Act:
 - Continuous courtship
 - Spouses treat each other as they would like to be treated
 - Submitting one to another