

3. The DNA of Sin

*“If the heart is the problem in a marriage,
what is the problem with the heart?”*

OPENING DISCUSSION:

Consider and discuss the following *BEFORE* watching Session 3:

1. Name three things that, if you had, would result in a peaceful, pleasurable, and comfortable day.
2. How could those three things potentially become destructive idols in a marriage?

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

KEY IDEAS:

1. The power of sin has been broken (justification), but the presence of sin still remains and is being progressively eradicated (sanctification).
2. Sin causes us to shrink our lives down to the size of our lives.
3. The DNA of sin is selfishness.
4. Sin is anti-social in its fundamental form.
5. Sin will cause you to dehumanize the other person in your marriage.
6. You have been born into a world that, by its very nature, is a celebration of Another.

PRINCIPLE 2:
**Sin causes us to shrink
our lives down to the size
of our lives**

IMPLICATION 1:

The DNA of sin
is selfishness

IMPLICATION 2:

Sin is anti-social in its
fundamental form

IMPLICATION 3:

Sin will cause you to
dehumanize the other
person in your marriage

**IT'S NOT
YOUR PARTY!**

REVIEW:

1. For the believer, what is the difference between the power of sin and the presence of sin?
2. What is the DNA of sin, and how does sin reveal itself most frequently in marriage?
3. How can one person dehumanize another person in marriage, or in any relationship?

DISCUSSION:

1. Does your culture try to persuade you that life is your party? What are some of these lies that they communicate?
2. In what ways do you buy into the lie that your life - and marriage - is all about you?

APPLYING WHAT YOU LEARNED:

ASSIGNMENT #3 - Breaking Down Conflict (Part 2)

At some stage during your day, you will face conflict with your spouse. Using the three implications from Session 3, review your own heart and why you started or entered into conflict.

1. The DNA of sin is selfishness: Sin is all about selfishness of the sinner - their wants, their desires, and their self-described needs. How did this conflict reveal the selfishness of your heart? What desires were you chasing after, what did you want, or what did you tell yourself you needed?

2. Sin is anti-social in its fundamental form: We were created to live an outward and an upward life; upward in worship to God and outward in self-sacrificing love toward a neighbor or spouse. Sin does the opposite. How did this conflict reveal your love for you? In your quest to get what you wanted, did you forget that you were in relationship with other people? How did your words and actions affect them?

3. Sin will cause you to dehumanize the other person in your marriage: In our quest to get what we want, we will reduce the other person to a vehicle or obstacle. They either help us get what we want or get in the way of what we desire. How did you try to use the other person to get what you wanted? If they interfered with your plans, how did you respond to them?

Supplemental Reading:

WDYE Chapters 6-8
Philippians 2:1-15



END OF SESSION

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

When I look back at those three things that I listed in the **Opening Discussion**, am I at risk of turning them into idols?

How can I view my spouse - or anyone in my life - more as a person to be loved instead of a vehicle or object to be used?

What can motivate me to love others more?

(HINT: remembering God's love and grace for me - 1 John 4:19)