

WARM UP

"My son and I made a decision to go to the Promise Keepers Conference and God blessed it and now spiritually we're closer than ever.

I have enjoyed WiseChoices DVDs throughout the last year, the latest issue being my favourite by far (Sexual Integrity). I was so impressed I watched it again with my wife. This is one of the few things we've viewed together and actually got the main point, the challenge to "never enter a woman's body without first entering her mind". Wow, I've never had such a challenge! Even though initially it seemed to me to be impossible, the rewards are so special I just wish I'd heard that so clearly 30 years ago." Jack



READ Ephesians 5:23-33

QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 2:24 and discuss what God's purpose for marriage is.
2. When we share what is on our hearts with our wives they feel truly loved. Why is this so?

BACKGROUND

Treat your wife with dignity and respect. Listen to her heart, serve her and lead her to a greater love of Christ. This is what marriage is about.

3. When things do not work out in our marriages we want to know who is wrong "me or the wife". Why doesn't this help?
4. Share with the other men things that you have done that have not helped in your relationship with your wife.
5. Share with the men things that you have done that have made your marriage richer.

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

1. I will set a time to have a special date with my wife.
2. I will invite my wife to a special place where we can have a significant time of prayer together.

CONSIDER THIS

- The proportion of marriages where one or both partners have previously been married has remained stable at around 36% over the last decade. In 2004, the number of remarriages was 7,500. By comparison, 4,400 marriages (16%) in 1971 involved the remarriage of one or both partners. About 90% of those remarrying in 2004 were divorced.
- The median age at divorce in 2004 was 40.4 years for women and 43.0 years for men. These people were, on average, three years older than those who divorced a decade earlier. The increase partly reflects the steady rise in age at marriage since 1971.
- One-quarter of all divorces in 2004 were couples who had been married 5 to 9 years. The median duration of marriages ending in divorce in 2004 was 13.2 years compared with 12.4 years in 1994. Analysis of divorce statistics by year of marriage shows that one-third of New Zealanders who married in 1979 had divorced before their silver wedding anniversary (25 years).

WRAP UP

Share with each other about the joys of married life and why your wife is the best in the world for you.