

What Did You Expect?
Redeeming the Realities of Marriage
By: Paul David Tripp
Moving from Information to transformation Guide DVD Session 1

Welcome!!!

We believe that you are in for a life changing experience. You will have to wrestle with some things. You might feel uncomfortable at times. You will get great hope. You will see God doing a work in your heart and life and marriage and relationships.

All the handouts you will be receiving over the course of these lessons will provide practical discussion and application of Christ-centered, biblical ideas applied to marriages and relationships. Being in a large group and small group setting is greatly worthwhile. You will be able to see that your challenges in marriage/relationships are not unique and others can play a role in, encouragement or even confrontation (or maybe even accountability).

It will be important to set aside a time to work through the material. This is critical if you want to move from information to transformation. Try to connect with another couple or another single person (for those who are single) for possible accountability.

The study is designed for you to write down your answers and thoughts. It is useful to write out answers and not just think about them. Writing deepens and clarifies your thinking; and writing it down acts as a stronger form of commitment than just saying it in your thoughts.

There are a variety of “**moving from information to transformation**” questions. first considered them individually within your own thoughts then discuss your answer and consider together.

A time of prayer together after answering the **information to transformation** questions can be a good way to reinforce them and to make further application. Prayer can be a way for you to make a commitment to God with what you want to apply, and a good way to hear what God may be saying to you.

As you share your thoughts, feelings, struggles and accomplishments—speak humbly, honestly and in love. We all have sin; we all have great value in God’s sight; and we all are on a journey growing and becoming more like Christ.

We are excited to be on this journey with you. Together, let’s see what God wants to do in us individually, in our marriages, in our relationships and in our church! May God bless you greatly!

Pastor Tom and Ruth Ann Robinson

What Did You Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage

<http://www.paultrippministries.com/whatdidyouexpect>

DVD SESSION 1 INFORMATION TO TRANSFORMATION GUIDE

Character of marriage defined by little moments
We are designed to worship
What comes out of our mouths was first in our hearts

Scripture Passage: Luke 6: 43-45

⁴³No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."

KEY POINTS:

1. God cares about the **little moments** of your life because life mostly consists of "little moments"; therefore, the character of your marriage will be defined by how you respond and make use of little moments.
2. **PRINCIPLE 1: A MARRIAGE OF UNITY, UNDERSTANDING AND LOVE IS NOT ROOTED IN ROMANCE; IT IS ROOTED IN WORSHIP.**
 - a. Romance is a result of a good marriage; not the cause of a good marriage.
3. **Worship is first our identity** before it is ever our activity. **We are designed to worship.**
4. Everything you do and say is somehow someday the result of some kind of worship.
5. Everything you do and say is caused by **what is *inside of you***.
6. What comes out of us is what was already inside our hearts.
 - a. The heart is the causal source of your personhood—the source of your thoughts, feelings, desires, and motivations.

DISCUSSION

Respond to the following statements and discuss their implications for our marriages and relationships:

- ❖ Because life is mostly made up of little moments; that is where we live—"If God doesn't rule your little moments then [God] doesn't rule you because that is where you live." "If the character of a life (a marriage, a relationship) is not set by four or five big moments...but is set by 10,000 little moments, then every little moment of your life is important."
- ❖ Worship is our first identity before it is ever our activity. We all worship; we are all worshippers—everything we do is a result of some kind of worship. What we worship shapes our lives.
- ❖ The things we do and say are caused by what is inside of us; not outside. What comes out of us is what is already inside us. When we are convinced problems arise from outside of us, we stop seeking God's help for ourselves; we focus on blaming others which fuels more conflict; there will be no change, healing or reconciliation.

MOVING FROM INFORMATION TO TRANSFORMATION

Set aside time to work through these items below. If you don't, this will be just another class. DO let the Spirit of God use the next part to transform your heart...let Him!!!

JUST BETWEEN YOU AND GOD

Write two or three things you tend to blame your responses and behavior on? Share your answers.

What actions or responses would you like to change in yourself?

Identify *types* of conflict in your marriage (money, parenting, time management, communication, intimacy, daily concerns, etc).

What tends to flow from your heart when these times of conflict or "shaking" occur? Are you willing to identify and confess any sin to God and to your marriage partner or to the person you are having a conflict with?

In Psalm 139 David asks God to search and know his heart, to see if there is any offensive ways in him. Pray to God for the same thing, asking God to show you your heart.

JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU (if you are married)

Sit together as a couple. Pray together asking God to reveal what he wants to change in your heart. If praying out loud is a stretch for you then sit together and pray silently. We don't want to assume anything—if there is great tension between you, be sensitive to where the other person is...BE SPIRIT LED AND BE OPEN.

Share what actions or responses flow from your heart that you would like to see changed.

Ask your spouse for forgiveness for any wrong and sinful responses/actions you have allowed.

JUST BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR FRIEND (if you are single)

Pray together asking God to reveal what he wants to change in your heart.

Share what actions or responses flow from your heart that you would like to see changed.

Ask your friend for forgiveness for any wrong and sinful responses/actions you have allowed.

Further Reading

1 Kings 8:27-53 (as you read, consider the fact that you are the temple of God-1 Cor 6:19)

"What Did You Expect?? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage" by Paul David Tripp

"The Meaning of Marriage. Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God" By Timothy Keller with Kathy Keller

"Sacred Romance: What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy" By Gary Thomas

"Relationships: A Mess Worth Making" by Timothy S. Lane & Paul David Tripp

"You Can Change: God's transforming power for our sinful behavior and negative emotions" by Tim Chester

Michael E. Breece, *contributor*; *additions from Tom & Ruth Ann Robinson*
This resource is a product of:

Paul Tripp Ministries, 7214 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, PA19135
(800) 551-6595;

<http://www.paultrippministries.org>

ADDITIONAL NOTES