

Relational Resolutions

Because our vision is to...

- Oneness in and with God (Jn 17:23)
- Oneness with each other (Gen 2:23)
- Reflect Christ's profound relationship of love with us towards each other (Eph 5)
- Pursue, experience, radiate and abide in the perfect love of the Father (1 Cor 13)

We hereby resolve to pursue...

Unconditional Commitment

- Fully resolved to each other, no quitting, burning the ships (Luke 9)
- The words "quit, out of here, divorce" are to be erased from our speech, because trust and love cannot fully develop under threat of cancellation or abandonment
- It's a love and respect for each other that flows from Christ and your commitment – not from feeling or emotion...the other persons actions, behavior, and words do not determine your continued love

Forgive Fully, Live Fully, Love Fully

- Keep no record of wrongs (1 Cor 13)
- Pursue the fullness of the present moment regardless of looming or haunting emotions
- Love out of virtue and overflow of God's love – regardless of performance, free from conditions

Ownership of Self in the Journey

- We cannot change, fix, satisfy or determine our partner's actions – we can only own our own actions, behavior, thoughts and response to situations.
- We will focus on the reality of "my response is my responsibility," we will own our part – regardless of whether we think it's small or big – and own the heart issues that produced the behaviors that harmed the relationship or other person

Take the Risk of Being Vulnerable

- I will love fully to the point of being exposed and vulnerable to being betrayed, hurt, or injured...because only if I'm that vulnerable am I free to love and be loved fully
- To be loved for who you are (good things) and who you're not (flaws/weaknesses) you must also do the same for each other

Crucify My Flesh

- In moments of distress, I will choose to die to self rather than cause intentional injury or pain to my partner...I will invite the refining work of Christ in my life, revealing areas where I have placed my contentment, fulfillment or expectations upon my spouse that should primarily be satisfied by Christ
- I will appreciate and represent my feelings as valid but not necessarily truth – allowing God to guide and direct possibly reforming them in the process

Truthfulness in Grace

- Sharing all aspects of reality even at the risk of conflict for the value of long-term intimacy
- Guarding my reaction to truth shared with me, even when it is upsetting...choosing to reinforce the value of transparency over preferred sentiment
- Play the endgame of honesty and transparency now

Use Constructive Vocabulary – *Always Avoid Generalizations and Never Say Never!*

- Avoid using harmful or unfair generalities like “always,” “never” or “all the time” in discussing feelings or behavior...it only lends to injure and frustrate my spouse and is “rarely” true!
- No blaming of personal actions on my spouses behavior...they can evoke a feeling or motive in me, but are not responsible for what I do with it. No ‘you make me...” sentences

Assumed Goodwill of my Spouse

- We are together because of our mutual love and desire for each other, thus our underlying motives are goodwill-ed, well-intentioned and noble...even if poorly expressed, communicated and lived out
- I will choose to assume the best about my spouse (not the worst), and attribute most dissatisfaction or injury I experience to either misunderstanding, miscommunication, personal response to their own sense of woundedness or failed appreciation for how it affects me

God as Source, Not Just Help

- God-centered marriage requires both spouses to grow in God-sourced living...just calling on God as a lifeline is insufficient to live daily in the abundant fullness of His power and life. God as my strength, my source of love – not just a supplement