

The Power of Promise

Part 1

The Power of Priority

2021.4.11



TALKING POINTS WALKING POINTS

Leaders' Guide



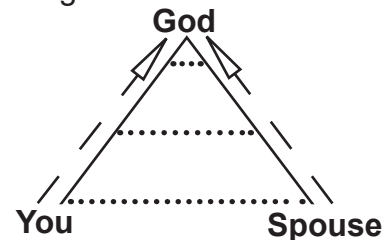
A publication of **TALKING POINTS WALKING POINTS**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent, action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs us to "discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness." "Talking Points, Walking Points" is useful both for individual reflection and for group discussion. The section entitled "Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time" helps us continue to grow and change throughout the week, and prepares us to gather again as a family on Sunday.

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- 1. In your opinion, what are some of the greatest threats to marriages today?
How have you seen those threats derail the marriages of friends or family?
- 2. For what purpose(s) do you think God created marriage? Try to substantiate your answer biblically.
Which of those purposes have you seen accomplished in your marriage.
- 3. Pastor Doug drew a diagram that looks something like this:
As a group, discuss all of the various details.
What makes sense to you? What doesn't?
- 4. Honestly, is **your** arrow headed toward God?
- 5. What one thing do you think would help you and your spouse move even more quickly toward God?
- 6. Who would be willing to tell about a time you realized that your priorities were out of whack?
How did you realize it? Did you resist that conclusion for a while? If so, what finally helped you see the light? And...what did you do then? When and how did changes begin to show in your life?
- 7. How much hope do you feel for your marriage?
- 8. What two or three things could you begin doing today to increase that hope?
What could we as a group do to help?



Application-Challenge

- Practice your priority.
- Protect your priority.

9

For a free "Marriage Tune-Up"

write to:

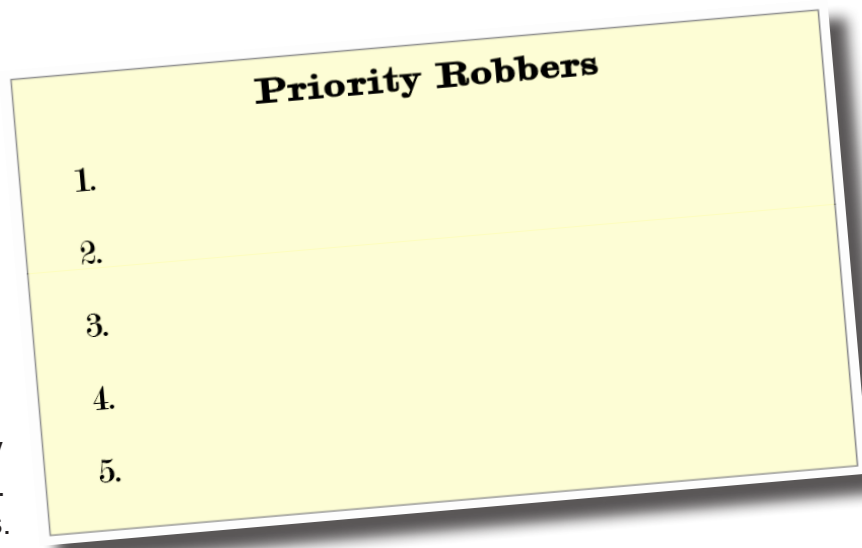
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

- 1 Use your own discretion, but probably both of the questions ought to be asked together, rather than as a sequence. You decide. These questions qualifies as “soft-ball” since they ask about “threats to marriages today”—not threats to **your** marriage! However, many people answer “generic” questions such as this with their own personal response, couched in general terms. So, keep attentive to answers—it may be a cry for help.
- 2 Again, you decide whether or not to ask both of the questions together, rather than as a sequence. The first question probes for biblical knowledge; the second for application, so bit more vulnerability is required (and that, of course, is our aim).
- 3 A straight-forward group discussion. It should be clear, but here’s the idea: If two cars are both heading for Raliegh, it doesn’t matter that one originated in Fuquay and the other in Morrisville—they necessarily will draw closer to each other as they aim to arrive in Raleigh. The same with marriage partners.
- 4 Now **this** is a hard-hitting question! Use your own judgment: do you ask this as rhetorically—not requiring folks to actually voice their answers? Do you read it and then offer **your own** answer first? Or, is your group ready for the vulnerability of responding to this question as written? You decide. (And please, let me know what you decided and how it went. Write to Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com)
- 5 This question actually ought to be easier than 4 . Answers may be a bit superficial and vague. That’s probably OK after the trauma of the previous question!
- 6 Ask all of these together. Ask for two to three volunteers to answer. This series of questions is designed to relieve the pressure a bit—it’s looking retrospectively at a time when they already did make some mid-course corrections.
- 7 Another hard-hitting question! Use your own judgment regarding how to handle it (as you did with 4 .)
- 8 Ask both of these together. Try to get every couple to answer. This is about helping one another.
- 9 Offer this with passion and persuasiveness. **Many** TCC couples have benefitted from a “marriage tune-up”. We have certified biblical counselors ready to help. Counseling (giving it and receiving it) is the normal Christian life. (The fifty “one-another commands” in the New Testament are evidence of the normativeness of “help one-another” in our Christian growth. Just this year Pastor Dan met with one of TCC’s biblical counselors to get some advice on handling an interpersonal relationship. This is the normal Christian life!

Sermon Summary (Key Texts: Ephesians 5:25 & Luke 6:47-49)

Today, Pastor Doug began a new series on marriage entitled, “The Power of Promise.” For the next four weeks, we are going to look at four promises that serve as the foundation for a great marriage. In snapshot fashion, Genesis 2:24-25 gives us God’s blueprint for marriage. Among other things, we learn here that when you get married, you make a promise to radically rearrange your priorities. No longer is your devotion to be centered on your family of origin, or any other human relationship—it becomes centered upon your wife or husband. When you get married, God sees you as one unit. You belong together. When you said “I do” to one another, God super-glued you together, and He intends for that union to last a lifetime. And that means that next to your relationship with God, your commitment to your spouse becomes your lifelong top priority. Jesus added: “So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (Matthew 19:6).

To have the kind of marriage that we all hope for, and that God desires for us to have, the first promise we must take is the promise of priority. It is the promise that says to our spouse, “Next to Christ, you are my top priority.” Now it is one thing to say that, but it is another thing to practice it. Good intentions are admirable, but you can’t build a strong marriage on good intentions alone. To see the benefits of the promise of priority in our marriages, we have to practice it. For the next 40 days, Pastor Doug challenged us who are married to diligently apply the Biblical principles that we hear in this series. We need to apply Biblical truth to our marriages. Here are some steps you can take:



1. Practice the promise of priority. Begin each day with this commitment: “Today, my spouse will be my top priority.” As a reminder, you may want to write this promise somewhere you will see it every morning—maybe on your mirror where you put on your makeup, or where you shave. Look back at the list of priority robbers that you identified during today’s sermon. What one step can you take this week to assure that that priority robber won’t invade your marriage this week? Is it something that you need to give up, or something that you need to begin doing? Take that step as a love gift to your spouse.

2. Protect the priority. Not only do we need to practice the promise of priority, we need to protect our priority, because our marriages are under spiritual attack. They always have been. In Ephesians 6:10-13 the Apostle Paul gives wise Biblical counsel concerning how husbands and wives and parents and children should relate to one another. He concludes his counsel by warning us about the reality of the spiritual battle that confronts our marriage and family life. Your spouse isn’t your enemy. But Satan would love to make it appear that way. He wants to destroy your marriage. He wants to rip apart your family. You see, marriage and the family is designed by God to be the principal place where Biblical truth is passed on from generation to generation. Satan will do whatever he can to disrupt that generational transmission of truth. And so you need to be on the alert. You need to be like a sentinel, diligently guarding the walls of your marriage, because next to your relationship with Jesus Christ, your commitment to your spouse should be your lifelong top priority.

Will you begin to practice the Promise of Priority this week?

Talking To God About This Week’s Message

“Heavenly Father, today I want to be a ‘doer’ of the Word, and not just a ‘hearer’. Amen.”

“**Priority**” [prahy-awr-i-tee]: the right to precede others in order, rank, privilege; taking precedence in obtaining supplies or services, especially during a shortage; something which is given special attention; highest importance, rank, privilege. Well, that’s what a priority is, but how—concretely and specifically—do we make our spouses a priority?

Monday—Read Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:7

- What is the **source** of true love?
- **Where** does it come from?
- How do we get it?

Tuesday—Read Romans 13:8-10 and 14:15

- What **is** love?
- What **isn’t** it?
- What do we **explicitly** learn about love from this passage?
- What do we **implicitly** learn about love from this passage (ie., what is implied, rather than expressly stated)?

Wednesday—Read Proverbs 10:12; 17:9; 1 Peter 4:8

- What does love **do**?
- What **doesn’t** it do?
- What do we **explicitly** learn about love from this passage?
- What do we **implicitly** learn about love from this passage?

Thursday—Read Galatians 5:14-24

- What is the **source** of true love?
- What does love **do**?
- What **doesn’t** it do?
- What is contrasted in v. 14-15?
- What is contrasted in v. 16-17?
- What is contrasted in v. 18?
- What is contrasted in v. 19-21 compared to v. 22-23?
- Do you “belong to Christ” (v. 24)? How do you know?

Friday—Read Ephesians 4:2, 15, 16 and Colossians 2:2 and 3:14

- What **is** love?
- What **isn’t** it?
- What do we **explicitly** learn about love from this passage?
- What do we **implicitly** learn about love from this passage (ie., what is implied, rather than expressly stated)?

Saturday—Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- Summarize everything you’ve learned about true love this week.
- How—concretely and specifically—**did you** make your spouse a priority this week?