



### I. INTRO

#### A. Picture perfect intro thoughts

- Many families know what it's like to get the perfect family picture
- After several shots we finally get "the one" and try to convince people that our family is always like this
  - Behind every perfect ideal family photo – there's a real deal

#### B. Where can you find a picture perfect family or relationship?

- Hollywood's idea of picture perfect isn't real
- The bible? Sometimes those families were too real!

### II. PICTURE PERFECT

#### A. Hope for the future in spite of the past

**Lamentations 3:19-20 (NIV) <sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. <sup>20</sup> I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.**

- Vows - from this day forward – We recognize we have a past, that I may have dated some other people, done things before you but that's all in my past

**Lamentations 3:21-23 (NIV) <sup>21</sup> Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

**A great marriage is possible, but not likely if you do what everybody else is doing.**

#### B. Men and women have different expectations in marriage

### III. FINDING THE "TWO"

#### A. Culture teaches us to find the "one"

- There is a truth in finding "the one" but ... while you're looking for "the one" you might be missing "THE one"

**Matthew 22:36-39 (NKJV) <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"**

**<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

- **God is your ONE and your spouse is your TWO**

#### B. Focus for those married and singles who hope to be married

- **This should be your focus as a single person who hopes to be married**



- I will seek The One while preparing for my two

**Matthew 6:33-34 (NLT)** <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

- **Become the one the one you're looking for is looking for – Andy Stanley**
- **This should be the focus for those that are married**
  - **I will seek the One with my two**
  - **Don't live out of focus**
    - **Don't** try to make your spouse the # one
    - We might go from idolizing to demonizing

#### IV. FULL FOCUS

A. Do this one thing and your chances of staying together are much better!

- **Pray together, out loud, on a regular basis**
  - Studies show that
    - About 8% of married couples pray together
    - Less than 1% of couples who pray together get divorced
    - Choice is yours 50-50 or 90%?

B. Guidelines

- Short and awkward is better than long and flawless
- Pray WITH not AT each other
- Pray with and for your children
- Text a prayer

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLV)** if My people who are called by My name put away their pride and pray, and look for My face, and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.