

“An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field.”

- Neils Bohr

Marriage

Patterns

Who Cares! I'm not married?

- No one is required to get married (1 Cor 7:1, 7, 8; 1 Tim 4:2-3)
- For the young, learn these lessons now! (1 Pet 3:7-9; Mt 19:8-9)
- For the not so young, these patterns are good for communicating with others anyway (1 Cor 9:22)
- Because God uses marriage as a metaphor for Christ's relationship with the church (Eph 5:22-33; John 17:20-23; 1 Cor 6:15-17)

Disclaimer

- Test the spirits (1 John 4:1; Proverbs 27:17; 2 Timothy 2:15)
- Bible supplies everything for righteousness (2 Tim 3:16)
- Topics Bible does not cover; calculus, DNA, electromagnetism, PTSD, the galaxy, nuclear energy, cancer, musical theory, computers, your job, different aspects of worship, etc
- Bible does provide guiding principles in addition to commands, examples, and necessary inferences (Luke 10:26-27)
- God acknowledges the legitimacy of secular knowledge (Titus 1:12; Acts 17:28; Col 4:14; Matt 9:12)

Disclaimer 1

- PTSD
- Gambling addiction
- Porn addiction
- Alcoholism
- Drug use

Patterns

- God created a universe of order
- Seasons (Genesis 1:14-15)
- Life (Hebrews 9:27)
- Order of the universe
- Our relationship with God (Matthew 13)
- Relationships and marriage? (1 Peter 3:7-9)

Birth
Growing up
Growing old
Death

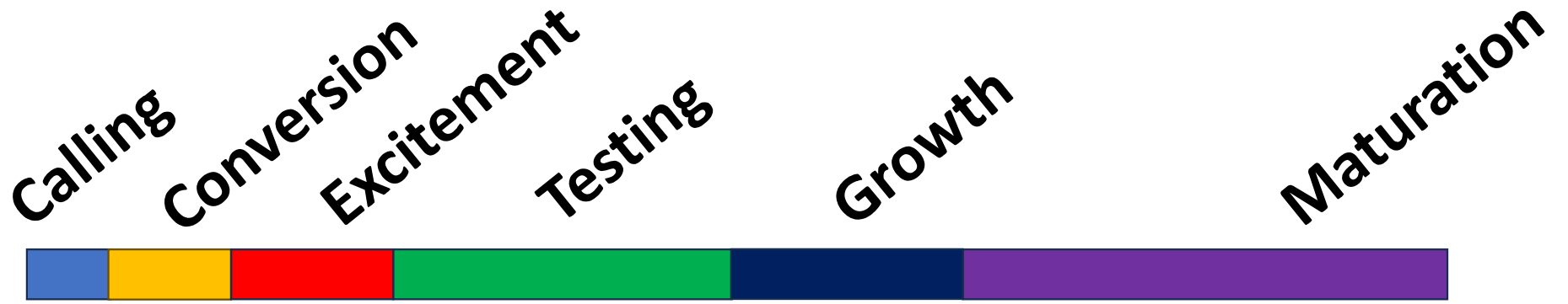
A horizontal timeline with an arrow pointing to the right. Four labels are placed above the line, each with a short diagonal line extending upwards and to the right from its start. The labels are 'Birth', 'Growing up', 'Growing old', and 'Death'.

Calling
Conversion
Excitement
Testing
Growth
Maturation

A horizontal timeline with an arrow pointing to the right. Six labels are placed above the line, each with a short diagonal line extending upwards and to the right from its start. The labels are 'Calling', 'Conversion', 'Excitement', 'Testing', 'Growth', and 'Maturation'.

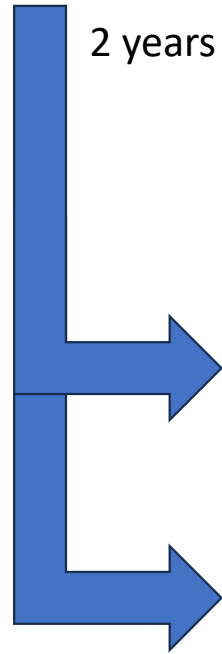
Bonding
Honeymoon
Struggle
Growth
Renewal

A horizontal timeline with an arrow pointing to the right. Five labels are placed above the line, each with a short diagonal line extending upwards and to the right from its start. The labels are 'Bonding', 'Honeymoon', 'Struggle', 'Growth', and 'Renewal'.



1 day to 10 years 2 years to 5 years 1 year to 10 years The rest of our lives
 6 months to 2 years 2 years to 10 years

Matt 13:3-8



Other doctrines



Leaving the faith



**Bonding
Honeymoon**

Struggle

Growth

Renewal



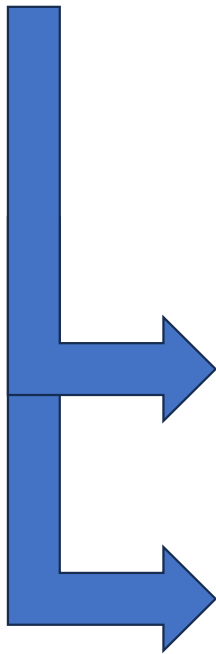
1 day to 10 years

2 years to 20 years

1 year to 5 years

The rest of our lives

6 months to 2 years



**Divorce
Bonding
Honeymoon
Struggle**



Stagnation



I want my spouse to _____

- More conversation
- More date nights
- Less nagging
- Less criticism
- More safety
- More emotional intimacy
- More respect
- More admiration
- More conversation
- More gratitude
- More pride
- More support
- More encouragement
- More help with the chores
- Less time away
- Less time apart
- More time apart
- More time with the kids
- A break from the kids
- More acknowledgement

- Less defensiveness
- More sex
- More experimentation
- Less sex
- A better body
- A better attitude
- Less time on their phone
- To think about them more
- More freedom with money
- More savings
- More time with your parents
- Less time with their parents
- More support against their parents
- To take out the trash on time
- To remember things
- To do what they say they will do
- To pray together more
- To serve more
- To serve less

- To agree with me more
- To like the things that I like
- To come with them to church
- To accept them for who they are
- For them to change

You Can't Make Your Spouse Change

- **Well, you can:**
 - **Coercion, pressure (Daniel 3:1, 4-6)**
 - **Manipulation (Mark 6:21-24)**
 - **Transactions (1 Peter 1:18; John 3:16)**
- **Results?**
 - **Resentment**
 - **Conflict**
 - **Loss of love**

I will _____ for my spouse

Because that's what your spouse wants!

Desires

Husband's

Desires

• Acceptance (Eph 5:2)

• Physical intimacy

• "Admired and Desired"

(Eph 5:8)

• Physical intimacy (1 Cor

ected and Protected"

• Scarcity

• Conflict

• Stagnation

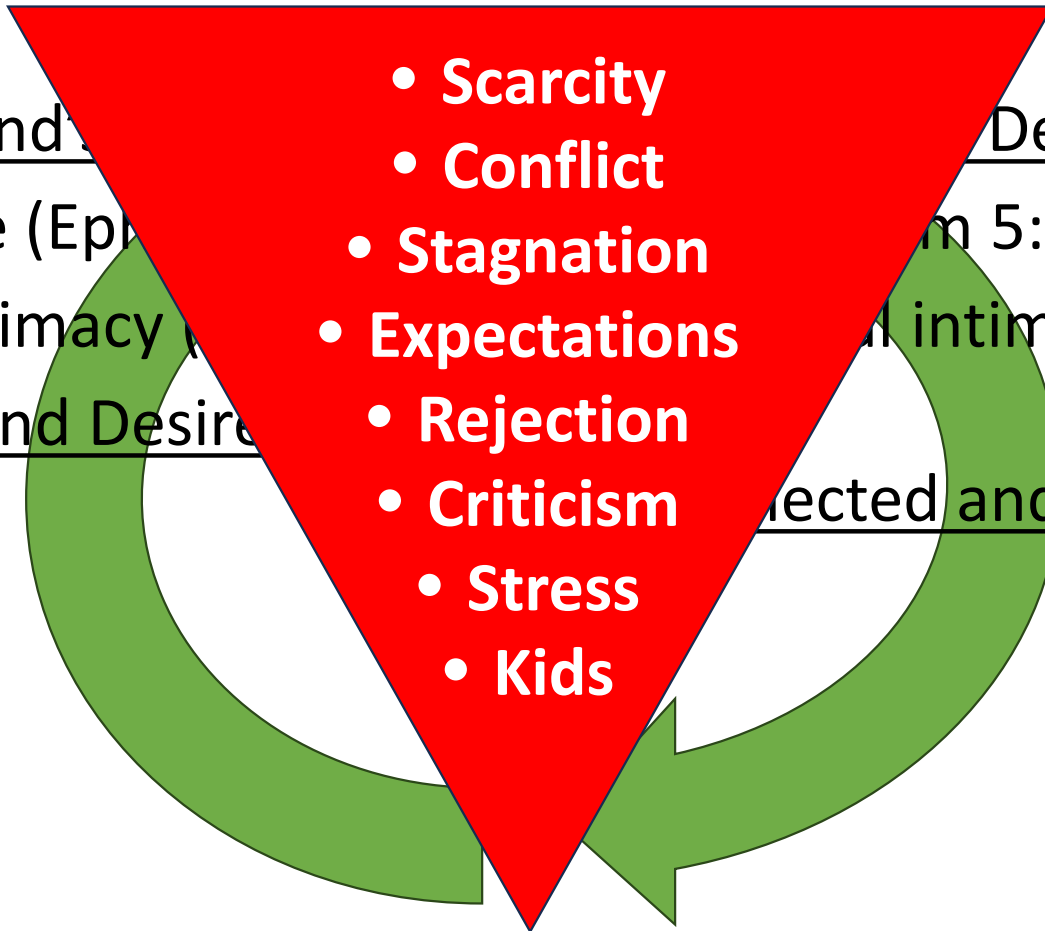
• Expectations

• Rejection

• Criticism

• Stress

• Kids



Where Do I Start?

Understanding and interrupting default patterns

Actions

A Husband Can

- Provide safety (1 Pet 3:7)
- Pay attention to her
- Do what you say you're going to do (Matt 5:37)

A Wife Can

- Criticize less (Prov 21:9)
- Choose desire

Communication

Men

- Direct
- Problem solving focused
- Isolate to process emotions
(Job 2:11-13; Jonah 4:5; 1 Kings 19:4)

Women

- Indirect
- Relationship focused
- Process emotions by sharing
(Ruth 1:6-18; Lk 1:42-56)

Failure to see the pattern and incorporate gender differences results in conflict

In Summary

- **Marriage has a pattern with phases**
- **You can only control you**
- **Communicate with the pattern your spouse uses**