

SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON 10: EXPECTATIONS

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life. - Proverbs 13:12

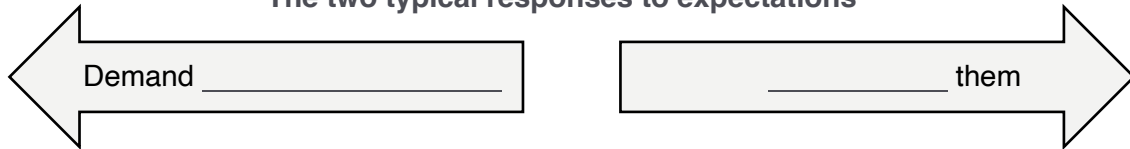
Expectations are beliefs about the way things will or _____ be.

- They show up everywhere, ranging from what marriage should be like to what you plan on doing when you get home tonight.
- Are you aware of your expectations? What comes to mind?

Left unchecked, your expectations will _____ your marriage.

- Unchecked expectations make a healthy, happy (i.e. godly) marriage an impossibility.

The two typical responses to expectations



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. - Psalm 37:4

Instead of asking... "What do _____?"
 Try asking yourself... "Am I wanting _____?"

When I disappoint my spouse's (or anyone's) expectations:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. - Colossians 3:23

The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me? - Hebrews 13:6

Before asking... "What does my spouse want from me?"
 Ask.... "What does God want from me?"

When your spouse (or anyone) disappoints your expectations:

_____ your heart (Psalm 139:23-24)

- Prayerfully evaluate your expectations, attitude and motivation.
- Confess to God (e.g. your failure to hope in Him, forgive, etc.).

_____ your spouse (Colossians 3:8, 12-13)

_____ your hopes (Ephesians 4:15)

- Lovingly communicate your hopes and desires, not as a condition to love, but as a way to deepen your love.