

SERIES: LOVE AFFAIR #4. TITLE: FOREVER FAITHFUL.

I am standing in a chuppah (HOPE-A). In a traditional Jewish wedding the groom would enter the chuppah first, then his bride. This represents his ownership of the home and his duty to provide for his bride, shelter, food, clothing, protection.

Most importantly the chuppah represents the couple coming under the authority of God in their marriage, in a covenant with God and each other. Forever faithful!

- We will never understand marriage until we stand under the authority of God.
- We'll never understand life, until we stand under his authority.
- To reach our ultimate in life we have to understand submission, especially in marriage.
- God wants the best for us, every relationship, he really does.
- So many walk out from under the authority of God!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN WERE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD IN MARRIAGE?

1. UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT POSITION.

- A quarterback can't be an offensive lineman – out of position.
- Our dog: CHASE, positions himself under my authority and stays there when I'm eating. He knows I will feed him whatever I'm eating. He just grabs it!
- Under God's authority we are in the right position for God to feed our marriage.
- He will provide the energy I need to be the best spouse that I can possibly be.
- ? Are you under the authority of God in your marriage?

2. UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY YOU'RE PROTECTED.

- How stupid would I look if it's raining and I hold the umbrella to the side? Not under it!

- I'd get hammered by hail and pelted by rain.
- Hey! Dummy get under the umbrella.
- We all need the protection of God's authority.
- I want my marriage protected – I think you do too.
- God wants us to get under the stuff God has put over us so we can get over the stuff God has put under us.

Listen: under Gods authority = were in the right position and we have protection.

- We are all like diamonds in the rough! It is U.G.L.Y.
- But a master cutter can cut away from that ugly blob and make something beautiful out of it!
- That's what God does for us, chisels away the ugly!
- Marriage is not easy! Sorry to rain on your romantic parade.
- But marriage can become the greatest thing when we stand under the authority of God!
- If you have a problem with the authority of God then you have a problem in marriage.
- When we depend on God, that is when we have true independence!
- In our human nature: we think I'm not going to depend on God I'm gonna do what I want to do.
- What makes me look good, feel good, what gives me pleasure.

When we do that: were pelted by problems, drenched in dysfunction.

- We can't really see who we are. Vision blurred!

3. UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY WE HAVE PURPOSE FOR LIVING.

- Most marriages don't have a real purpose in the world today, because they don't know how they should treat one another.
- Ephesians 5:22 (NIV) Wives, submit to your husbands **as to the Lord**.
- Ephesians 5:25 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just **as Christ** loved the church and gave himself up for her
- THE KEY IN BOTH IS: AS CHRIST OR AS THE LORD!

Marriage should be a serving contest!

But if I drop the umbrella: Start doing what makes Nathan feel good, what makes me look good, what puts wind in my sail.

- MAN, I'm in trouble!
- I w/ start compromising in my marriage!
- But if I stay under the umbrella of Gods authority.
- If I understand it's AS CHRIST.
- It's not about me; it's about Michele. And she knows it's not about her it's about Nathan.
- Now we're thinking about meeting one another's needs.

THAT'S WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US!

- Jesus lived perfect, died on the cross, and rose again for you and me!
- He met our needs! He does that 24 – 7.
- Our marriage is to be a reflection of Christ's relationship to the church.
- What's the church: we're a bunch of moral foul ups.
- We're a hug collection of sinners! That's what we are!
- Jesus though: loves us even when we're hard to love!
- Jesus loves you even when you trip up, mess up!
- So I need to think about Michele's needs.
- Michele needs to think about my needs.

IN THE NATURAL MOST OF US WON'T DO THAT?

- If we didn't have Jesus Christ we would have divorced a long time ago!
- If you believe in Jesus Christ and that he has a purpose and plan, and power for your life.
- Get under the authority of God because Christ is the author of marriage, of communication, of intimacy, sexual relations.
- SO: I either do it his way: Reflecting Christ to her or: I DROP THE UMBRELLA AND START COMPROMISING!

SINGLE GIRLS:

- Many of you will get married. You're looking for Mr. Right.
- You better be looking for a man under the authority of God!

- A man w/ do anything to get you to marry him if he isn't under the authority of God.
- You better watch him for at least a year to see if he is real.
- If he is: that's a good one! If not: get out of town.

SINGLE GUYS:

- You're looking for miss beautiful.
- You better look for one that's under Gods authority.
- You better watch her long enough to know!
- If not: miserable life! If she is: get her a big ring!
- Love her selflessly!
- Jesus died for our sins selflessly, his love is never ending!
- Love your wife as Christ loves the church.
- Always put her before yourself.
- We are all sinners in need of a savior, Jesus met our need.

We serve each other because we've been served!

- WIVES: submit to your husband as unto the Lord.
- HUSBANDS: Love her in a sacrificial way!
- Michele is superior to me in so many ways & I submit to her gladly in those areas.
- There are some things I can do better than her, she submits to me in those areas.
- I'm not talking about rights; I'm talking about job descriptions.
- Men, God has given you the leadership role, your to love her first, serve her first, sacrifice for her first!

SO MANY PEOPLE ARE JUST DOING THEIR OWN THING:

- They always end up compromising!
 1. I know what's best for me!
 2. I know how to do life!
 3. I know how to relate to members of the opposite sex!

THEN ONE DAY THERE IS AN ATTRACTION!

- THE DEVIL IS A LIAR!

- John 8:44b (NIV) He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for **he is a liar** and the father of lies.
- There is nothing wrong with looking.
- Talk to them, compare to your spouse.
- Spend time with them, take them to lunch!
- Think about them, it's just a fantasy!

THE PRE-VIEWS ARE GREAT BUT THE MOVIE IS PAINFUL!

- Don't sacrifice your future on the altar of the present!
- There is serious pain involved.
- It can happen to anyone who doesn't stay under Gods authority!
- HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
 1. Attend church.
 2. Read the bible.
 3. Pray together.
 4. Seek wise counsel!
 5. Serve God. Become a fully devoted follower of Christ.

You see under Gods authority there are some things Gods placed under you.

Finances: Under your feet.

- The # 1 cause of divorce = Money fights, money problems!
- 10% – 10% - 80%
- It's all Gods stuff anyway.

Kids: Under the marriage.

- Some of you have given your children control.
- Your life revolves around the kids.
- Kids aren't mature enough for that responsibility.

Intimacy: under God's authority.

- One in the mood the other isn't?
- Talk show host, books, friends.

- What does God say?
- If you say no, have the 24 hr. rule.
- Bible says only if you both feel the need to pray instead.
- In 33 yrs. Michele and I have never wanted to pray so bad we couldn't take a one hour break!

ALTAR CALL:

- YOU CAN BE FOREVER FAITHFUL! Under Gods authority!
- Take your spouse's hand.
- Thank God for His protection and purpose.
- Yes sin rips and shreds lives.
- But based on God's word there is hope!
- All of us have committed adultery spiritually!
- Jesus is the groom, the church is the bride!
- Maybe you have never been under God's authority in your life? Your marriage, your home, your work place.
- Say yes to Jesus – give him control or your life.