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**It's A Trap
The Pursuit of Happiness May Be Killing Your Marriage PT 2
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**4 Corners Church
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Marriages fail long before the actual separation or divorce papers are served. At some point, you have to choose which design of marriage you want for your life.

Nine Signs That Happiness Is A Problem

5. You prioritize comfort over commitment.
James 3:16 "For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder."
6. You view disagreements as threats to your happiness.
Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."
7. You think a good marriage means always feeling good.
John 3:30 "He must become greater; I must become less."
8. You choose self-gratification over self-sacrifice.
Ephesian 5:2 "And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."
Hebrews 13:16 "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
9. You avoid Godly correction viewing it as an attack.
Proverbs 10:17 "Accept correction, and you will find life; reject correction, and you will miss the road"

Keep In Mind

- Starting over isn't easier.
Forgiveness is also hard, but it allows freedom and joy.

- Unforgiveness: at one point in time one or both people in the relationship decided that there are things that God's grace and mercy does not cover.
- You can't counsel a spiritual problem out of your marriage.
 - o A controlling spirit cannot be silenced by emotional intelligence training.
 - o A rebellious spirit cannot be tamed by visualization exercises.
 - o A passive spirit cannot be activated by resolutions techniques.
 - o An unholy alliance of friends who encourage your gossip, applaud your selfishness, stoke your bitterness, and prod your rebellion isn't neutralized by self-soothing practices.
- You cannot fix what you are unwilling to see; your enemy is counting on your ignorance and lack of Holy Spirit revelation to keep you stuck.
- You cannot outrun chaos and resentment in marriage – running from your problems is often just running in circles.
- Bad friends corrupt good marriages. Friends who celebrate your complaints about your spouse, fuel your frustration, or pull you away from God's design, are not friends – they are demonic distractions.

How long are you supposed to wait until your marriage is healed?

- Renewal is a daily decision.
 - Full Restoration is not an arrival point – arrival is stagnation.
 - What you do while you wait is vitally important.
 - o Being still doesn't mean you don't do anything.
 - o Having peace doesn't mean we don't fight well.
 - o Being righteous doesn't mean we aren't angry.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16** *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.*

Repentance breaks strongholds and softens hard hearts.

- There is no world where God requires humility, surrender, and repentance from your spouse but excuses it in you. The second you believe that lie, pride has entered your heart.
- "I repent for...
 - ... silencing and control the impact of my spouses voice."
 - ... rebelling against God's design for marriage."

... allowing my fear to turn into manipulation.”
... allowing chaos to turn into domination.”
... retreating into passivity instead of leading myself and where I have responsibility.”
... excusing my apathy by blaming their actions.”
... using disappointment to avoid confrontation.”