



God's Road to a Happy Marriage, Part 3
“Going All The Way”

Pastor Bob Botsford

Main Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:27-35

Referenced Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33, Proverbs 12:4-6, Joshua 7:10-24

OPEN:

1. What in particular spoke to you from Pastor Bob's message?
2. What does it mean to “go all the way with God”? What hinders people from doing so?

DIG DEEPER:

1. In what way does fear, guilt, sin, and shame work to destroy marriages? How have you seen these impact your own marriage?
2. **Ephesians 5:22-33** gives a clear picture of God's heart for the marriage relationship. In what way are you challenged by this picture? How do you think things would change in your own marriage if you did apply these principles?
3. In **1 Corinthians 7:35** Paul refers to a “leash”, which can also mean a “noose”. When it comes to both marriage and singleness, we can see several leashes, or nooses, can that choke us. Noose #1 is *Singleness is Second Rate*. How does this thinking encourage singles to settle for less than God's best? In marriage settling takes on a different, yet still significant meaning. What does it mean to settle, whether in singleness or in marriage?
4. Noose #2 is *Time Heals*. In what way can this thinking lead to avoidance rather than action? What problems do you see with this when it comes to the need to make peace if there is conflict? How have you seen this at work in your own marriage?
5. Noose #3 is *Your Words Will Never Hurt Me*. In what way can our speech and conduct feed into a husband's worst fear- shame of failure, and a wife's worst fear- abandonment? In what way have you seen this at work in your own marriage?
6. Noose #4 is *My Life is None of Your Business*. As we see in the life of Achan in **Joshua 7:10-24**, how does sin and compromise create a barrier between us and God, and in a marriage? Just as Achan's business was “*laid out before the Lord*”, what would it look like for us to lay down our marriages before the Lord? In what way would this be a pivotal point in a marriage?

REFLECT:

1. How has compromise hindered you from “going all the way” with God in your life and marriage?
2. In what way are you now ready to “go all the way” with God in your life and marriage?

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 7:35

“*And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.*”

