



## questions for reflection

### series: "Hopes And Fears"

We have an idea of what our life could be. We even have glimpses of the deep beauty and goodness that our lives should be. But some days - and sometimes everyday - our fears darken our hopes and cage our dreams.

This series, leading into TNL at Crooked Creek, looks at God's plans and promises for us as a community and as the individuals who follow Him.

### part 6: "Marriage"

by Chip and Debra Anderson on Tuesday October 20, 2009

In approaching the conversation about hopes and fears regarding marriage, we come from a variety of relational backgrounds: single and want to be married, single and can't imagine being married, married and content, married and discontent, remarried, single again. Based on this diversity, we've posed reflection questions for both married (m) and single (s) people.

(m) What expectations did you have for your marriage before you were married and what kind of expectations do you have for your marriage now?

(s) What kind of expectations do you have of being married some day?

(m) What kind of concerns do you have for your marriage?

(s) What kind of concerns do you have relating to being married?

(m/s) What is the healthiest marriage you have seen, and what made it so?

Genesis 2 describes three rhythms to marriage: leaving family and singles behind, uniting in a new relationship, and becoming one in that relationship.

Leave:

(m) What was it like for you to leave your former life and enter into the new relational dynamic of being married?

(s) What will you need to leave in order to enter into your new relational dynamic of being married?

- What do you need to move away from?
- What do you need to leave?
- If you're looking at marriage in the near future, are you prepared to let your current family ties loosen so that you can devote yourself to your spouse?
- If you're looking at marriage in the far future, what are you letting go of so that you can fully receive that God-given identity he has designed for you?

(m) If you're struggling in your marriage, are you holding onto something that takes the place of committing yourself to your spouse?

(m/s) The marital and relational dynamics from our family of origin are one of the biggest determinates of the relational dynamics of our present/future marriages. Thinking about your parent's marriages and the way your family related to one another:

- What patterns do you want to leave behind for the health of your marriage?
- What patterns do you want to repeat for the health of your marriage?

(continued...)



## questions for reflection

### series: "Hopes And Fears"

We have an idea of what our life could be. We even have glimpses of the deep beauty and goodness that our lives should be. But some days - and sometimes everyday - our fears darken our hopes and cage our dreams.

This series, leading into TNL at Crooked Creek, looks at God's plans and promises for us as a community and as the individuals who follow Him.

### part 3:

"When all hope is gone"

by Chip Anderson on Tuesday September 22, 2009

## Unite

(m) How do you stay united as a couple, yet not become enmeshed and or lose your individuality?

- Do you have any competition, secrets, or needs that go unvoiced?
- Do you feel unified in your marriage?
- Think about why or why not?
- Are you taking time for one another? talking? serving one another?

(s) What/who are you, as a single person, united with or clinging to when it is not yet your spouse?

Become One

(m/s) What are the best ways to "become one" with each other?

(m) Think about the unity of your marriage/family:

- Does your family have a sense of purpose? Are you living by it?
- Are you seeing strengths (compliment and partnership) in your differences?
- Does your marriage have a corporate spirituality to it (meaning more than just two individuals)? How?
- How do you feel about your sexual intimacy with each other?

(s) A lot of people have experienced or seen the way that sexual intimacy outside of marriage can create a bond that is painfully broken after a dating relationship ends.

- Why does sexual intimacy have such a magnetic and unifying effect between people?
- Why would God want sexual intimacy to only happen between a husband and wife?

