

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Marriage was not designed to fix things. In fact, oftentimes the bad things only get magnified in marriage. Since that is the case, why not start becoming the person your spouse needs now? Your preparation now is worth way more than your commitment later on. With that in mind, choose one area Andy mentioned (debt, unresolved past, bad habits, dress, boundaries) and create a goal. Then list the necessary short-term steps that will set you on a path toward becoming the person that the person you are looking for is looking for.

*The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways... Proverbs 14:8*

---

---



**Part 4: If I Were You**

**PRAYER**

On the space provide below, record prayer requests and answered prayers. Pray for one another.

---

---

---

---

---

---

**WARM-UP**

1. What well-intentioned promises have you made that you couldn't follow through on because of your lack of preparation? (Athletic, academic, professional, family, etc.)

---

---

---

2. Tell us of a time you thought you were well prepared, but in reality you were not.

---

---

---

You can say, “I do.” But can you follow through? A promise— even a promise as big as a wedding vow— doesn’t mean anything without preparation to back it up. In this message, Andy has a “to do” list that will prepare you to one day say “I do” and mean it. Here are some points that we can take away from this week’s lesson on sex:

### 1. Promises are no substitute for preparation.

*The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. Proverbs 14:8*

*The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps. Proverbs 14:15*

Pastor said commitment is way overrated and that the paths people choose trump the commitments they make. What does he mean by this? How do these thoughts factor into dating and relationship decisions? What path can you make a commitment to that will prepare you for a long-term successful relationship?

How are simple and prudent people different in Proverbs 14:15? What signs might a couple that is “in love” ignore because they are headed down the path of the simple? How can you avoid this trap in your relationships?

---



---



---

### 2. The past is a better indicator than a promise.

*“If you attempt to build intimacy with a person before you’ve done the hard work of becoming a whole and healthy person, every relationship will be an attempt to complete the hole in your heart.”*

*-Les and Leslie Parrott*

Studies show that living together before marriage is actually detrimental to the marriage. Why do you think so many people still make the decision to live together? How have you seen this play out in your life or with your close friends and family? What are some specific consequences of bringing your unresolved past into your marriage? Can you identify any holes in your heart that you need to work on now in order to spare your spouse later?

---



---

### 3. Commit NOW to becoming someone who can keep commitment later.

Fishermen choose bait based on the kind of fish they want to catch. What are some specific ways that you should present yourself in order to attract a prudent spouse? Alternatively, how can you identify someone whom you should pursue?

---



---