

*Simply Relate*  
**God's Power in a Marriage**

**I. Introduction**

- A. All relationships have the same basic stress points.
  - 1. Unexpected differences
  - 2. Unmet needs
  - 3. Unforgiven mistakes
  - 4. Unmet expectations
- B. Ephesians 1:19a (LB) *I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great God's power is to help those who believe Him.*

**II. In my marriage, God wants to give me . . . .**

- A. The power to understand my mate's differences.
  - 1. Maturity is when you realize that differences don't mean right or wrong!
  - 2. I Peter 3:7a (NAS) *You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way.*
  - 3. Proverbs 24:3 (NAS) *By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established.*
  - 4. James 1:5 (NAS) *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*
- B. The power to fulfill my mate's needs.
  - 1. I Corinthians 7:3 (NAS) *The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.*
  - 2. Meeting your mate's needs is a skill that must be learned!
  - 3. Philippians 2:4 (NAS) *Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*
  - 4. Philippians 2:13 (NAS) *It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*
  - 5. "God, Your power never runs out. Your love never runs dry. Love my spouse through me."

- C. The power to forgive my mate's mistakes.
1. Two laws of reality:
    - a. You married an imperfect person.
    - b. You're not perfect either!
  2. Ephesians 4:31 (NAS) *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.*
  3. By "keeping score" you are killing your marriage!
  4. Colossians 3:13 (NAS) *Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*
    - a. No one will ever hurt me more than I've hurt Jesus.
  5. Romans 5:8 (NAS) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

### III. How satisfying is your marriage?

- A. Our marriage is fantastic!
- B. Our marriage is pretty good.
- C. Our marriage is hurting.
- D. Our marriage is barely hanging on.

### IV. Conclusion

#### Upcoming messages:

5/26-27/2012 – "How to Restore Harmony in Our Relationships"

6/2-3/2012 – "Diffusing Anger in Our Relationships"