

NewSpring Church Groups Guide

Don't Get Married Until . . . You Take Care of Your Junk — Week 5

Most of us have a past we're not proud of, but through Christ, our sin is erased and we have new life. Could it be that some marriages struggle because individuals haven't properly dealt with their past? It seems that dealing with our past before marriage is a proven way to avoid lots of conflict and possible catastrophe. The problem is that it takes guts to deal honestly with the past. Dealing with our past insures that we do not burden our spouse with our leftover junk. Today, we talk about dealing with our junk and why doing that sets us up for success in marriage.

- What does “deal with your junk” mean?
- Why is it so important to deal with your junk before marriage?
- What kinds of things should a couple disclose to one another before marriage?
- What are the consequences of not dealing with your junk before marriage?
- How do you begin a conversation with your spouse about past sin in your life that may have a negative consequence on your future?
- Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Why should you stop dating if one of you is not a believer?
- Read 1 Corinthians 7:13. As a believer, what is our obligation to our unbelieving spouse?
- How can this group pray for you?

Ephesians 5:1-2 says, “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Despite all of our junk, God sent Jesus into the world to die for our sin. In view of all He has done, He calls us to imitate Him in forgiveness and love. To move forward in any relationship, we must be open and transparent with them, forgiving and loving as they forgive and love us. In that way, we imitate God and He is pleased.