

## Week Two

### Does Living Together Before Marriage Really Work?

Can living together before marriage help us determine whether we can be successfully married?

The short answer is an emphatic “NO!” Recent research (Whitton, Markman, and Stanley) has demonstrated that the willingness with which men make the regular sacrifices that are necessary for a marriage to flourish, are strongly dependent on how deeply these men want a future with their mate. In other words, less commitment leads to less desire to live sacrificially for the sake of the relationship.

For women, however, the situation is starkly different. They seem to be willing to sacrifice for their partners whether or not they are fully committed.

Further research has revealed that couples who have lived together prior to marriage tend to have husbands who are less committed than other husbands, even after the marriage takes place. Once again, no such difference exists for women.

Can we draw any conclusions from this research? It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that the best way to sabotage a future marriage is to live together prior to marriage!

Questions? Call me. (616-215-9583) Be sure to leave a voicemail if there is no answer.

Next week: The Essential Ingredient in Commitment