

Week 41

10/5/10

Emerson: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Emerson Eggerichs and I'm excited about being here with James and Betty, especially to interview them on their new book, "Living in Love." Thank you for joining us!

James: Let's go ahead and really tell the truth, Emerson. We invited Emerson here to talk to him about love and respect, which is the name of his ministry. It is what he teaches to couples about marriage. And he said, "Can I tell you what I really want to do? Just tell people the book is in the bookstores. I want to talk to you about your book because I just read it." To be honest with you, he's taken over and so we're going to just sit here and cut to the chase.

Emerson: That's exactly right. Well, I'm excited because it is such a transparent, truthful story of the two of you; that story is fascinating and it gives us hope. And to see the long years of your marriage and all that you've been through and then to see the success and to realize that that comes not because you have a perfect relationship or you're perfect people -- one of the things I say is that the difference between couples that have a successful marriage and those who don't isn't the lack of conflict, it's that the successful couples know how to deal with conflict. They know how to do the dance. This is coming through loud and clear. This is a great model for how to do marriage because it is not going to be a piece of cake. It is a challenge because God made us different. A wife says, "I have nothing to wear." What she means is she has nothing new. Right? Her husband says, "I have nothing to wear." He means he has nothing clean.

[Laughter]

I love that illustration because we say the same thing, but we mean something different. God made us pink and blue, and we're not wrong we're just different. But as a result of that, there are tensions. Paul said in First Corinthians 7:28, if you marry you have not sinned but you will have trouble. And what trouble? Early on he said, "The husband does not have authority over his own body but the wife does and the wife does not have authority over her own body but the husband does." And he is talking sexual intimacy so it's equal authority, equal say. I said, "Lord, you're saying equal

authority here. I mean like on Tuesday nights does he decide they're going to be sexually intimate or does she decide that they're not going to be sexually intimate?" And that inaudible voice said, "Yes."

[Laughter]

I said, "Lord, have you designed trouble?" "Yes."

[Laughter]

So Tuesday night comes for all of us. Tuesday night comes! Tuesday night comes and you're sharing with us how to deal with the Tuesday night, so to speak, and it is exciting to hear that. I'd like to ask you, just several concepts and just get your feedback on this as I throw it out.

James: You're talking about what we talk about in the book, right? You're not wanting us to come from a whole other --

Emerson: You can say anything you want because this is your show.

[Laughter]

James: But I mean, is these things that you read in the book that cause you to have an interest as far as to discuss because we did discuss it.

Emerson: Yes, and for instance, like expectations. When I say expectations, James what comes to your mind? How do you deal with expectations in marriage?

James: Well, she is supposed to meet my needs all of the time.

Emerson: Good! Good! Okay, next question.

Betty: Wait! Wait! Wait! Wait! Do I get to answer too?

[Laughter]

Emerson: Yes, you do.

Betty: Well, as far as my perspective of expectations was I thought I was... like a lot of girls when you first get married, you think it's going to be this all day romance, all day just in love. You don't even realize how much baggage you bring into the marriage. So you have all of these expectations like I probably felt like he had more trouble with baggage than I did and I'm going to help him get straightened out.

Emerson: Yes, that nurturing mother in you.

Betty: That's right!

Emerson: It's motivated well.

Betty: But he reminded me several times that I was not his mother.

[Laughter]

I'm supposed to be his helpmate and we're supposed to walk through this relationship together in oneness. So I think I expected like any young girl, you expect things that... you have all planned out in your mind how this perfect marriage is going to be and it is not like that because you are two different personalities.

Emerson: Yes, and how did you deal with that moment where you were trying to be helpful, trying to be that helpmate suitable, caring deeply, and if you're like Sarah, suddenly I'm beginning to feel mothered and feeling like she is scolding me -- and I've got one mother, I don't need another one. How did you deal with that?

Betty: Well, because we do -- God does give us, as women, that mothering nature but as everything in our lives, everything that he gave us, we have to allow him to bring that balance in our lives. The mothering was to come as we started our family. But I was supposed to be his partner, his mate that wanted to be an encouragement to what all God had called him to do. It took me a while to learn that. As far as... James was more transparent even with his troubled background that he had, I had more of the stable life growing up -- but even with the troubled background, he was more transparent than I was. I had to grow into that because I thought I was supposed to be something that everybody else expected me to be.

Emerson: Yes, yes, so there are expectations externally as well. Huge!

Betty: The perfect little wife and it didn't quite work out that way.

James: If you think this is a book about having arrived, you're wasting your time. This is about the journey and the joy of the journey even -- hey, why do people try to climb Mount Everest? Let me tell you, climbing Mount Everest is a snap compared to being married happily, joyfully. But I'm going to tell you, they do it! They go out and they work out and they do it. For heaven's sake can't we work for the greatest relationship ever conceived and that is the relationship between a husband and a wife? The only thing to compare with it is the possibility of the relationship between Christ and his church but it is too much like most marriages ending in divorce. Sad -- it shouldn't be that way. Excuse me, I don't mean to preach!

[Laughter]

Emerson: And people go into relationships thinking it shouldn't be hard and yet there is a challenge and it is tough. How you've dealt with not letting that freak you out? Somehow you're able to roll with these difficulties. For instance, when you think of conflict resolution, how do you resolve conflict?

James: Well, we know it is going to be there. I've had people say to me, even those who work for me, "Our parents never showed us how to resolve conflict. They just ignored it, they walked away. It was there, they lived in two worlds. How do you resolve conflict?" -- Because they observed that we did. We recognize conflict. You've got to recognize that it's a conflict and seek resolution not insulation. What most people do is they go off and seek what I call conflict insulation, get somebody to comfort me. A lot of times we think, comfort from someone in our misery is wise counsel. If that comfort and so often we all need comfort, if that comfort doesn't take us into counsel that leads toward some solution or resolution you're just being comforted in your separate worlds. You're going to seek camaraderie and compatibility with more miserable people oftentimes, or a counselor that is not wise counsel. So we try to go into great detail about how you can help conflict resolution. We have the conflict but we don't live miserable.

Betty: No, and really, James really learned that easier than I did about being able to confront and be able to work through the situation, whatever conflict came up. I was a world record pouter. I didn't want to face -- I didn't want to have conflict because I felt like... I had a lot of fear in my life, I had a lot of low self-esteem, a lot of intimidation and I felt like I could never win an argument, so to speak. That's really -- I shouldn't look at it that way -- I didn't feel like I was smart enough to be in the battle so I would want to withdraw and pout. And thank goodness, he wouldn't let me do that. He would draw it out of me. You have to -- sometimes the frustration comes out but as you grow together you learn how to approach those conflicts with God being -- has to

be the center of any communication. It's a journey and God's more about the journey. He wants to show us -- he wants to give us wisdom. He wants us to fall more in love with each other, which we do every day. When we titled the book "Living in Love," that didn't mean we had all the answers. We're still working out things because we're living together... that's part of life. And we grow and we learn from those situations, those times whenever we think, how did I stay with you this long? Everybody has those thoughts and yet we work through it, and we have come to a place where we can laugh about it later. That's what makes it -- I think one thing that has kept it going in our life, that love, is that we've tried to keep even with our busy life and our family, our children growing up and everything, we've tried to keep this relationship first.

Emerson: Very insightful, very helpful. What about this topic -- sex?

James: I think sex is -- it's wonderful!

[Laughter]

Absolutely awesome! I've wanted to -- [stammering] -- I want to read this Song of Solomon to Betty.

Betty: Every night!

James: Yeah! I've said -- here's the thing, it is the greatest -- God, I don't know if you ever had a more wonderful idea! I don't know that all women agree totally with that. You're so cute!

[Laughter]

Betty: We'll talk about it later.

James: I don't know all the most effective moves. I'm still learning, praying, studying, asking her to help me know but here's what I do know, I do know that most of us are damaged goods. I know that we've been exposed to images and enticements that become entanglements. I've seen things and saw things as a boy I wish I had never seen. They're like tattoos on your brain. It's more than a monkey on your back, it is like a gorilla on your back -- a 100-pound gorilla. I would say that lust was a reality in my life. Lust could have destroyed me. I would say this lust would have destroyed me. I would say greater than sex was when you are strong and sensitive and love God, you're very attractive to women. I was very visible and I became, it seemed, very attractive, not to horrible women but women who perhaps didn't have a father or

maybe had never really felt love and saw somebody that had love, and I was attractive, Betty to them it seemed. You knew that I noticed beauty, and she felt very insecure. Betty has understood we're going through a process and it's been absolutely - - many times -- challenging, but for every couple they can make it. Sometimes you bring a circle of prayer in and accountability.

Betty: There again, it comes back to commitment, communication, and compassion and a big one, forgiveness because none of us are perfect, we all have these things that we wish we hadn't done, these things in life that are challenges. We have to realize that we're in this together. It's not your problem, it is not my problem, it's our challenge that with God in the center of it, we can get through this. And sex is so much more than the physical, which is very important, but it is about sensitivity. It is about forgiveness. It is about being compassionate with one another. It is about loving each other when we don't feel that they're very lovely right now. It's being able to get through those difficult times. And then I think that God, just in his beauty and his grace and his love, he makes it all fresh and new for us again.

Emerson: This is one of the powerful things in the book that I want everybody to really understand because you are so transparent on this point. This is a real issue in the culture. So, if a husband comes and makes an honest confession about let's say lust, immediately, that creates fear in the heart of a woman, makes her feel insecure. Now the question is can this couple do the dance? Here's the dynamic, you're feeling fearful and insecure but come across judgmental. He's feeling like I'm going to be honest before God and my wife and I'm going to be a man of honor who does this only to suddenly feel ashamed. This is the dynamic that is going on in our culture, Betty and James. What would you say to couples who are at that point where they really need to have this discussion because healing is about to happen but this thing can blow up in their face and really put a wedge between them and destroy the relationship where the two of you did not let that happen. You've alluded to many of the dynamics but I want to just articulate it that way and have you comment additionally.

James: Let me say to all who are listening, thank God you were listening. You heard profound wisdom and insight just come from Emerson's -- not only his mouth but his heart and the mind of God. That's precisely what happens. I believe it takes supernatural enabling for the natural not to happen. And God supernaturally enabled Betty and supernaturally enabled me to not allow myself to take on a shame that Jesus died to take. He took it. Somehow we were able to see that. So really see the truth, not somebody's opinion but the truth that Jesus will take it all and that he will help us bear it. You've got to understand, this is what I try to help -- men are naturally attracted to beauty. God made us that way and he made beauty, and we recognize it. I recognize it

in everything, and certainly in women, Emerson, I can see it. But that doesn't mean the woman is less, or is being afraid. Don't ever compare your wife. Don't make them feel that way, they're already doing it on their own -- they're comparing. Don't do that to them! Please understand that because a man notices doesn't mean he is wicked or dirty old man, he is just a man. And learning to be a healthy and with supernatural enabling to where we can appreciate beauty and not be consumed or distracted by it or addicted or controlled, that's a God thing, and that's what we talk about in the book. We really go through these things specifically. And I've got to touch on this, we talk about the invisible enemy. We talk about the spiritual battle that is feeding all these things. You know if you keep feeding that dog he keeps coming back, and we keep feeding appetites and feeding problems. But there is an enemy that wants you to feed and he wants then that flesh, that appetite to be fed and it becomes bigger, it becomes the 100-pound gorilla, the 800-pound gorilla -- it becomes that monstrosity. But listen to me, you recognize this enemy, you can walk over him like dust. We can be overcomers. We don't want to escape the battle but we can win. Again, we go into detail, openness -- it works what God does. I'm telling you, you can enjoy the battle. You can enjoy the victory. You go to athlete competitions are a battle, you like to win but you have to deal with the defeat so you can come back and win. It's all part of the processes of life. "Living in Love," we talk about living and we talk about life so we really try to open our heart and our life for people to read an open book and learn and go to the book. We're honored that you feel that way because you've tried to help so many people so we just say to all of our viewers, there is hope, you can get help sometimes, you find wise counsel. I believe you find it around people of God. I believe there are great churches with people who care. So seek out wise counsel. I just want to say, I know you've asked to talk to us and I really thank you. Would you say thanks to Emerson for his interest in marriages and wanting to talk to us? Let me just say, please listen to me. He's got some books that would be like textbooks on marriage. This is -- it is beyond a gift book but it is so much like a gift book. It is just incredible statements and truths and it is so beautifully illustrated. It is a perfect gift to give anybody that will read it. "Love and Respect," it's what we've got to have in marriages. I really encourage you to get it. Then he has pointed out "Living in Love," we deal with these things. They're in the bookstores. I really encourage you to get them. Father, I pray for every couple. I pray for every person that wishes they were a couple. I pray for every person that had a marriage hurt or even divorce, Lord, it is not the end of life. Give them a beginning of a whole new journey with you. I pray you'll fill them with hope and that we can give them help. And Lord, that you'll direct their life and their steps because it is not hopeless, you are our hope. I pray they'll find that hope and that help in Jesus' name. Emerson, thank you! And to all of you in the audience, thank you! And to all of you thank you! Can I just tell you this? We have found incredible joy in relieving the suffering of others. Not a bailout, not something

somebody takes and distributes but love; not something forced but something that comes freely. Right now our missionaries have asked us, would you please -- this is what they're saying, "Would you please help us get transportation? We need to be able to transport life." I want you to just look -- I want you to just look please -- look at the images that reveal the need, I promise you, the need that only love -- but that love can meet. Watch this.

James: Rescue the perishing, care for the dying. Snatch them in pity, both from sin and the grave. I am asking -- I wanted to say begging, pleading. You may say that doesn't sound like a very biblical or Christian term, yet the prophets scolded the other prophets for not pleading the cause of the orphan and the needy. You plead the cause not to turn it all over to Pharaoh to make slaves out of all of us, who will end up making bricks ultimately without straw. You've got to be really careful. When you see a need you're moved with compassion as God is and want to meet the need. All non-government organizations are more effective. Governments work most effective when they cooperate with compassion connections so always keep that in mind. What we're showing you right here is what's happening in reality, this is death but we have an answer, it is to transport life, to deliver the food, the material, for water, to drill it. Listen, some of the all-terrain vehicles are going to cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Some of them will cost \$30,000 or \$40,000; whatever size, whatever need. The missionaries are saying in many places the vehicles are worn out, it is gone. The transport won't work. We've got to replace it. Some are saying we've never had transport to this place that will meet that need. We need 30 trucks right now. This is what the missionaries tell us so we're asking you to help us, \$700,000, immediate need. I don't have it, it is not part of the budget. We're asking you to dial the number today and say, I'll help transport life. I'll make the gift. If you can give \$10,000 I'm asking you, I want to use that word plead again, pleading the cause of the helpless, the suffering, out of the benevolence and love of your heart to do it. That's the way it really works. Love works! It doesn't fail -- compassion. So I'm asking you, if you could give that, do it; give \$1,000, do it. Wait a minute, some of you are saying, "I can't do that." The price of a tire, \$100, or a couple hundred dollars. Could you give a part? Could you join with others and say, "We'll come together and get a truck. We'll give you the transport." Please dial the number. Father, I pray everyone watching will do it. They'll not wait, they're not just pray but if they can be an answer to prayer help them to do it. In Jesus' name. Would you right now dial the number? Take your bankcard,

use it like a check, please. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*, you're giving life but call the number and tell us you're mailing it so we'll know we're going to have that need and we can meet it -- we'll meet it with the love of God in our hearts and just compassion. Please make that gift. Please make that call. Do the very best you can. I want to send you a book that I know will be a blessing to you, it is called "Children: Fun or Frenzy." Get this to everyone who is still rearing kids. Maybe you've got grandchildren you wish your children had it. Here is a message that ought to be heard by every teenager on the planet. You can play this DVD to the entire youth audience. I promise you, they will listen: "Dad to Teens," dad to boys, dad to girls, what every teenager ought to hear, every young person. We're sending this to say thanks for any gift to help us transport life. We have other gifts, children's Bible, other gifts to bless you as you bless others by sharing life. Thank you for making the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you so much!

Begin video clip:

Announcer: It's a missionary's nightmare! Having food and relief supplies in your hand and no way to get it to those who are suffering and facing death. This is happening right now. Many of our trucks, so vital to our outreaches, are completely worn out and another pockets of need no trucks are available. And additional \$700,000 is needed immediately to help purchase 30 new all-terrain trucks that will enable us to transport food and relief supplies to 7 million people around the world. Through Operation Transport Life your gift of \$30 will help transport life to 300 people. \$60 will help transport life to 600 people and \$100 will help transport life-saving food and supplies to 1000 people. With your gift of any amount be sure to request "Dad to Teens Straight Talk to Today's Youth" on CD and DVD as well as "Children: Fun or Frenzy," a time-tested guide to raising children and grandchildren God's way. With your gift of \$100 or more you may also request the popular NIV Adventure Bible, a great investment of the word of God into your children's future. And finally, with your gift of \$1000 or more to help us transport life to 10,000 people around the world, be sure to request our beautiful bronze sculpture titled, "New Creation." Please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, thank you so much! Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*! Thank you for helping us share *LIFE Today*. I really encourage you to get "Living in Love." I have even encouraged couples to get it because I'd like each member of the family to read it, the husband, the wife. And then highlight it; get a highlighter and then sit down and

see, swap books and see what the other person highlighted. That will start the communication, I promise you! I hope you notice what God might be saying to you through "Living in Love." May I remind you, that Emerson Eggerichs has the book, "Love and Respect." That is his ministry. There is his web site, where he is going to be teaching. He is awesome! There is material available for every church and every pastor. It would be wonderful. I talk about helping teenagers, this will help couples and that will help teenagers big time! It will give them a dad to talk to the boys and the girls and a mom. Would you say thanks to Emerson for coming and interviewing us and sharing? Emerson, bless you! Thank you so much! Thank all of you for watching! And from the bottom of our heart, thank you for helping us share love and share life.

Announcer: James and Betty Robison share their personal journey and keys to an exciting and fulfilling marriage in their brand-new book, "Living in Love." James and Betty reveal insights into communication, how to face challenges and overcome failure to enjoy marriage as God intended. "Living in Love" is available wherever books are sold or order today at [Living InLoveToday.com](http://LivingInLoveToday.com).

Beth: People need to know that relationships like this exist.

Announcer: Tomorrow, Beth Moore and her husband Keith discuss communication with James and Betty.