“Trouble in Paradise” – Chris Hodges  
February 24, 2013

**Review It**

Each of us desires to understand love and have stronger relationships. We long for healthy marriages and Godly courtships, but still something seems to be missing. In a world where the relationships we seek seem to be fleeting, the good news is God wants to help! He has much to say about love and relationships. During this series called "Love Story" we will study Song of Solomon for what God has to say on relationships and intimacy.

**Talk About It**

1. Pastor Chris talked about the three phases of a marriage relationship: honeymoon, disillusionment, and commitment. Why do you feel so many relationships falter in the disillusionment phase? What can you do to make sure you make it beyond that phase and into commitment in your marriage?

2. "Pre-fight decisions" help us to manage conflict. They allow us to know what we're going to do before our emotions get involved. What pre-fight decisions have you made for your marriage? Discuss some decisions you should make, and discuss with your spouse to help you "fight right".

3. "I will act, not react." The true test of a relationship is how you respond when there's conflict, not whether there's conflict. So, if there's going to be conflict, in what ways can you choose to respond instead of react?

4. We can choose, even in the midst of conflict, to focus on the good things about our spouse, rather than the bad things. How would your life and relationships be different if we focused on the good and not the bad? Read Philippians 4:8 and discuss the things we should think on.
5. Are you willing to commit to talk through and stay committed through any struggle your relationship may face? How would your fighting be different if both of you were willing to completely remove the threat of divorce? Are you willing to do that? Why or why not?

**Think On It**

A man's deepest need is to be respected, to know that his wife believes in him. A woman's deepest need is to be loved and feel secure. Think about these truths as they relate to your spouse. Have there been ways that you have disrespected your husband? Have you created insecurities in your wife? Think about ways you can build love and respect in your marriage.

**Act On It**

Pastor Chris gave us three ways to apply this: focus on my part, let God take care of them, and ask for God's grace every day. Begin to view your relationship and the conflict through these principles.