



Shepherd Care®

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To Care for People Where They Live and Work

COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

The Titanic or How to Sink Your Marriage

The most famous cruise ship ever--and the most ill-fated. On it's maiden voyage, the Titanic, once called "Unsinkable" by it's builders, struck an iceberg. Less than three hours later, it was on the bottom of the sea along with almost 1,500 men, women, and children.

(http://library.thinkquest.org/17297/titanic_home.htm; Accessed December 5, 2013.)

The ship was doomed, and it was slowly sliding into its watery grave. But why did the largest, most advanced ship of the century sink? These comments are distilled from this web site: <http://www.historyonthenet.com/Titanic/blame.htm> (Accessed December 5, 2013).

Basically, the reasons fall in these categories:

Communication

The final iceberg warning sent to the Titanic was from the ship Californian. Captained by Stanley Lord, she had stopped for the night about 19 miles north of Titanic. At around 11.15 p.m., Californian's radio operator turned off the radio and went to bed. Sometime after midnight the crew on watch reported seeing rockets being fired into the sky from a big liner. Captain Lord was informed but it was concluded that the ship was having a party. No action was taken by the Californian. If the Californian had turned on the radio she would have heard the distress messages from Titanic and would have been able to reach the ship in time to save all passengers.

Construction

About three million rivets were used to hold the sections of the Titanic together. Some rivets have been recovered from the wreck and analyzed. The findings show that they were made of sub-standard iron. When the ship hit the iceberg, the force of the impact caused the heads of the rivets to break and the sections of

the Titanic to come apart. If good quality iron rivets had been used the sections may have stayed together and the ship may not have sunk.

Pride

Bruce Ismay was the Managing Director of the White Star Line, and he was aboard the Titanic. Competition for Atlantic passengers was fierce and the White Star Line wanted to show that they could make a six-day crossing. To meet this schedule the Titanic could not afford to slow down. It is believed that Ismay put pressure on Captain Smith to maintain the speed of the ship. Remember that "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." *Proverbs 16:18*

Design

If Mr. Andrews, the ship's architect, had insisted on making them the correct height then maybe the Titanic would not have sunk. The belief that the ship was unsinkable was due, in part, to the fact that the Titanic had sixteen watertight compartments. However, the compartments did not reach as high as they were originally designed. The White Star Line did not want them to go all the way up because this would have reduced living space in first class.

What Can Your Marriage Learn from this Disaster?

- Sinking can happen to any marriage- Stay on watch!
- Build right- the storms of life will come but the house built on the Rock will stand.
- Communicate- frequent and heartfelt communication is constantly required.
- Look out for each other- marriage requires respect and continual commitment.

And lastly, and most importantly, Sinking is preventable!

Introducing your Community Chaplain

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(pronounced "key-sill-baa")

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"We have struck iceberg ... sinking fast ... come to our assistance."

The Titanic wireless operator's distress call

"Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

Matthew 7:24-25

All Scripture quotations, except otherwise noted, are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769. Public Domain