

GOING FURTHER

RESOURCES

The Seven Principles of Making Marriage Work by John M. Gottman

Resolve conflicts, create common ground, and achieve greater levels of intimacy.

Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Helps couples appreciate and meet their mate's greatest need.

The Naked Marriage: Undressing the Truth about Sex, Intimacy, and Lifelong Love by Dave Willis

Imagine a marriage with intimacy, vulnerability, transparency and trust.

Safe Haven Marriage by Archibald Hart

Establishing a safe haven so couples can count on each other during tough times.

Hold Me Tight by Sue Johnson

Reestablish a safe emotional connection and preserve the attachment bond.

Love Like That: 5 Relationship Secrets from Jesus by Les Parrott

Improve all your relationships--with family, friends, coworkers, and even strangers.

RightNow Media: You and Me Forever, Love and Respect

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SHAWNEE TRAIL SUPPORT

Marriage Idea Cards

Free resources and date night ideas available at the Faith@Home Center or at shawneetrail.org.

Professional Counseling

Shawnee Trail provides resources to Christ-centered professional counseling. Both male and female counselors are available. Counseling is offered for adults, adolescents and children.

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All counseling referrals are confidential. For more info, call one of our ministers at 214-618-2500.

For more
resources, visit our
Faith@Home
Center
----- or -----
shawneetrail.org

Building a

STRONG MARRIAGE

SHAWNEE TRAIL
CHURCH OF CHRIST

P O I N T E R

BUILDING A GOD-HONORING MARRIAGE

How can believers become intentional about building a God-honoring marriage?

PRIORITY ONE

Discover God's Design for Marriage

We must understand that every marriage is intended to be a masterpiece reflecting THE marriage between God and His people. Marriage is the most frequent metaphor used in the Bible to describe God's relationship with His people. In fact, writing to the Ephesians, Paul called marriage a "profound mystery" because the man represents Christ, the groom, while the woman represents His bride, the church. The marital union of husband and wife is a sacred reflection of the gospel itself.

PRIORITY TWO

Commit to a Covenant Marriage

Today's civil marriages are much like business contracts—easy to get into and easy to get out of. God's covenant with His people was a promise to remain eternally faithful even if His people were not faithful in return. In covenant marriage, both spouses are committed for a lifetime—in sickness and health, for better or worse. They do not threaten divorce or consider it as an option.

PRIORITY THREE

Pursue a Passionate Marriage

God calls us to pursue a passionate, thriving marriage. The Song of Solomon expresses the kind of love, joy and celebration God designed for marriage. That passion is built on much more than infatuation and sexual desire. It is rooted in the physical, emotional and spiritual intimacy God created couples to experience as a foretaste of the eternal unity, communion and intimacy we can have with God. Prioritize a routine like date nights to fan the flame of intimacy in your marriage.

PRIORITY FOUR

Become Heroic in Marriage

Christ made the ultimate sacrifice to rescue humanity. Writing to the Ephesians, Paul connected Christ's sacrifice directly to marriage: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25) and "Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands" (Ephesians 5:24). In other words, mutual submission to one another requires giving up our own interests to heroically serve the other person.

PRIORITY FIVE

Fight for Your Marriage

Every couple will mess up. Too often, however, they also choose to give up. Throughout scripture, God fights for His relationship with His people, remaining faithful in the face of unfaithfulness. He forgives again and again. No couple can avoid strife and arguments, but we can avoid giving the "devil a foothold" in our marriages by keeping short accounts and quickly restoring the relationship regardless of what happens. Prayer is a key part of fighting for your marriage. Statistics from Gallop and the National Association of Marriage Enhancement reveal that when couples pray together on a daily basis less than one percent would end up getting a divorce.

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