

Marriage for a Lifetime

Eph 3:20 - *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,* NIV

“Loving the Lord, teaching the Word, and being in ministry do not guarantee you will have a good marriage.” –

H. Norman Wright

- **Good marriages and Godly marriages do not just happen.**
- **The best witness for the truth claims of Christ is when they are applied in the marriage covenant.**

CHOICES THAT DESCRIBE A HEALTHY, EXCITING, GOD-HONORING MARRIAGE.

1. Nurture an intimate, passionate, growing love relationship with Jesus

Heb 6:1a - *Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity...* NIV

John 21:17 - *The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."* NIV

“God’s case for marriage is not about a prescription for thrills and feel-goods...God’s case for marriage is based on His goal of the transformation of His people into faithful image bearers.” - *Marriage Made in Eden*, Alice Matthews and Gay Hubbard

2. Choose to work on yourself

Ps 139:23-24 - *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* NIV

The better question: How can I become a better spouse?

Healthy marriages start with us owning our own stuff.

3. CHOOSE TO UNDERSTAND

Prov 4:7 - *Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.* NIV

Listen, ask questions, seek clarification, and try to understand your spouse’s perspective.

4. Choose to pray together

Dan 6:10 - Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. *NIV*

“Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us.” If you want to experience transformation, choose to cultivate the habit of meaningful, regular, spontaneous, faithful prayer. – Richard Foster

Prayer provides several relational components that are essential to a healthy marriage.

5. Choose a growing marriage, not just a lasting marriage

1 Cor 3:7 - So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. *NIV*

Growing marriages acknowledge that there will be season's ups and downs.

In a growing marriage, we begin to experience new levels of intimacy.

“Intimacy is a place where the presence of Christ becomes very real to us through the presence of another person.” Gary J. Oliver and Carrie Oliver, Mad About Us