

GOING FURTHER - RESOURCES

Recommended Books/Kits:

It Starts At Home (by Kurt Bruner and Steve Stroope) explains why marriage is a key path of our spiritual formation and provides practical advice for intentional couples.

The Marriage Masterpiece (by Al Janssen) unveils the beauty of God's design for every marriage.

Love and Respect (by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs) discusses a powerful biblical model for each spouse understanding and meeting the other's most deeply felt need.

The Five Love Languages (by Gary Chapman) describes how to discover and serve your spouse's unique love language.

A Celebration of Sex (by Dr. Douglas Rosenau) is a guide to enjoying God's gift of sexual intimacy.

Simply Romantic Nights Kit (from Family Life Ministries) Discover intimacy in a new light using a series of his/her date night ideas

GOING FURTHER - PCBC SUPPORT

Faith@Home Resources – Practical tools for various seasons of marriage are available from the Faith@Home Center or online at pcbc.tv/faithathome

THE INTENTIONAL HUSBAND



Faith@Home
Center

BUILDING A GOD-HONORING MARRIAGE

By Kurt Bruner

No man plans to become part of a broken family or a miserable couple. We marry because we yearn for a life-long, thriving relationship. So, how can men 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 it is a picture of “Christ and the church.”

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 weren’t faithful in return. In covenant marriage, both spouses are committed for a lifetime—in sickness and health, for better or worse. They don’t threaten divorce or consider it as an option.

PRIORITY THREE: PURSUE A PASSIONATE MARRIAGE

Jesus taught that our enemy’s primary weapon is deception – getting us to believe and live according to lies rather than truth (John 8:44). And when someone is deceived, he or she doesn’t know it! Our children are growing up in a culture that bombards them with lies. An hour or two per week at church is no match for the hundreds of hours spent with media, school, and friends. Nor can it compete with a child’s fallen nature that often wants to rebel against what is good, true and beautiful. It is the job of fathers to equip children with the corrective “lenses” of truth so they can better navigate the deceptive roads of life.

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.

PRIORITY SIX: TAKE INITIATIVE

Men are called to move beyond passivity by taking initiative when it comes to nurturing a strong marriage. Take advantage of the Going Further ideas below to get started now.