

Building A Strong Marriage

Building a God-Honoring Marriage

No one plans to become a broken family or a miserable couple. We marry because we yearn for a life-long, thriving relationship. 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 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

Couples aren’t supposed to just stick it out and find a way to make their marriages survive. 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.

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.

建立堅固的婚姻

建立榮耀神的婚姻

每一對踏入結婚禮堂的新人，都盼望同心建立美滿的家庭。絕對沒有任何一個人會希望自己的婚姻失敗。以下一些提示能幫助耶穌基督的跟隨者，建立榮神益人的美好婚姻。

重點一：了解婚姻是神的精心設計

我們必須了解，每樁婚姻，都應當表彰神與祂所愛的子民之密切關係。聖經常用婚姻來比喻，神與祂子民立約的關係。保羅在以弗所書中，形容婚姻是極大的奧秘，因它描繪出基督與教會之間不可分隔的關係。

重點二：對婚約的承諾和委身

可嘆的是，今日人們往往把婚姻看如生意往來中的契約，輕易的進入，也輕易的退出。神與祂子民所立的約，是永遠信實的許諾，即便祂的百姓以不忠不貞來回報祂的愛。同樣的，在婚姻的誓約中，每一對配偶必須向對方作出終身的承諾，不論是健康或病痛、順境或逆境都委身與對方。基督徒絕不輕易以離婚為威脅或選擇。

重點三：看重婚姻中的熱情

神要我們追求的是一個充滿熱情，茁壯成長的婚姻關係，而不是僅僅在支撐一個婚姻的外殼。聖經中雅歌所表達的愛情及在其中的喜樂與歡悅，是神為婚姻所設計的。這種熱情是建立在身心靈的親密關係上，遠遠超越肉體情慾上的渴求。這是神所設立，讓人們透過夫妻之間這至親密的連合，預嚐到將來在永恆中，我們與神永久聯結的關係。

重點四：夫妻需要捨己相愛

基督為了救贖人類，已捨身付出最大的代價。保羅在以弗所書中，把基督的犧牲與婚姻連接起來：“作丈夫的，要愛你們的妻子，正如基督愛教會，為教會捨己”（弗 5:25）以及“教會怎樣順服基督，妻子也要怎樣凡事順服丈夫”（弗 5:24）。換句話說，夫妻彼此順服，需要刻意放棄自己的利益，且心甘情願以捨己的心態去服事自己的配偶。

重點五：為婚姻奮力爭戰

每對夫妻都會有犯錯的時候，可惜的是，許多人往往選擇放棄努力。我們從聖經看到，神不斷的為祂與祂子民的關係全力以赴。即使百姓不忠，祂仍然信實守約，一再的饒恕人們的過犯。夫妻

之間無法避免壓力和爭執，但我們可以避免給魔鬼留地步，無論發生何事，我們要努力且迅速的恢復和好。