



Building a  
**Strong  
Marriage**




HomeLife

Building your family's faith at home

— **Guides** —

# Building a God-Honoring Marriage

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

## **Priority 1** *Discover God's Design for Marriage*

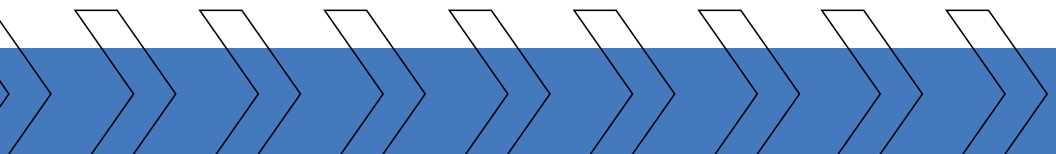
We must understand that every marriage is intended to be a masterpiece reflecting the “marriage” between God and His people. Marriage is the most frequent metaphor used in the Bible to describe God’s relationship with His people. In fact, writing to the Ephesians, Paul called marriage a “profound mystery” 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 2** *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 3** *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 such as date nights to fan the flame of intimacy in your marriage.



## Priority 4 *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 requires giving up our own interests to heroically serve the other person.

## Priority 5 *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 married couples pray together on a daily basis less than one percent ends up in divorce.

## Going Further *Resources*

**Marriage by the Book** by [Senior Pastor Jack Graham](#) // *Provides the secret to building a rock-solid marriage*

**Lovology: God. Love. Marriage. Sex. And the Never-Ending Story of Male and Female** by [John Mark Comer](#) // *Gives a biblical vision for sexual intimacy and marriage and tackles difficult questions related to human sexuality*

**Love and Respect** by [Dr. Emerson Eggerichs](#) // *Helps couples appreciate and meet their mate's greatest need*

**The Five Love Languages** by [Gary Chapman](#) // *Helps couples understand and speak their mate's "love language"*

**Have a New Sex Life by Friday** by [Kevin Leman](#) // *Encourages married couples to pursue the joys and pleasures of sexual intimacy*

## Going Further *Prestonwood Support*

**Before You Say, “I Do” (BYSID)** // Before You Say, “I Do” is a ministry that offers hope to marriages by helping couples move toward oneness through stories of grace, teaching and small-group discussions. BYSID utilizes small groups led by qualified facilitators to offer support, openness and Scripture-guided conversations rather than giving advice. For more information, go to [prestonwood.org/bysid](http://prestonwood.org/bysid).

**ONE: Discovering God’s Plan for Your Marriage** // This Friday evening workshop is led by Prestonwood staff on a quarterly basis. The cost is \$20 per couple including dinner, childcare and materials. Find dates and registration details at [prestonwood.org/marriage](http://prestonwood.org/marriage).

**Mentors 4 Couples** // Mentors4Couples combines Christ-centered, biblical marriage principles with applied training, helping to restore and strengthen marriages. Couples desiring help with their marriage are paired with a mentor couple and walked through designated curriculum to strengthen and enrich their marriage. The length of this dynamic mentoring program varies according to the specific needs of the couple. For more information, go to [prestonwood.org/mentors4couples](http://prestonwood.org/mentors4couples).

**Professional Counseling** // Prestonwood can refer members to offsite, Christ-centered professional counseling for adults, adolescents and children.

*For additional resources, scan code:*



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