

INTENTIONAL

Husband



Tools For Men

Building a God-Honoring Marriage

No man plans to become part of a broken family or a miserable couple. We marry because we yearn for a lifelong, thriving relationship. 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 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

Couples are not 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.

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 to get started now.

By Kurt Bruner, Pastor at Lakepointe Church

GOING FURTHER—Resources

It Starts At Home (by Kurt Bruner & 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) sheds new light as you discover intimacy using a series of his/her date night ideas.



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