

# What Every Marriage Needs

Have you ever experienced the frustrating reality of being disgusted with someone while at the same time knowing that you love them dearly?

Welcome to marriage! In marriage we are asked to live with a person who is different in many ways than we are. Even though we are deeply in love and have much in common—there will be conflicts. Even in the moments of anger, betrayal, exasperation, and hurt, we are called to pursue this person, to embrace them, and to grow toward them.

So, how do we make it work? What do we need to know in order to have a marriage as God designed it? What is one great lesson we can learn in marriage?

## Marriage Teaches Us To \_\_\_\_\_

- ♦ Marriage is the union of two \_\_\_\_\_
- ♦ Sinful people \_\_\_\_\_ each other

Our marriages as well as our relationship with God cannot survive if the one with whom we are in partnership is most interested in using the law to impale us or beat us over the head. The law, all boundaries, and rules are there for our benefit and protection but marriage helps us to understand what it is like for God to have us for a partner. As we live with our spouses on a daily (and sometimes difficult) basis – we are forced to make a choice. We can either give in to our hurt or we can grow as a Christian and learn yet another important lesson on how to forgive. The longer we are married the more fully we will understand God’s forgiveness toward us – and we can better appreciate grace.

Sin in marriage – on the part of both partners – is a daily reality, an ongoing struggle. The person you have married will hurt you – sometimes even intentionally so, making the practice of forgiveness a necessity for an enduring marriage that will glorify God.

- ♦ *In a man-centered view the focus and the strength of our marriages is based on our comforts, desires, and expectations.*
- ♦ *In a God-centered view our marriages exists and endures for the purpose of bringing glory to God and pointing a sinful world to a reconciling Creator.*

## The Challenge Is Utterly Selfless!

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**One of marriage's primary purposes may very well be to teach us**

**to \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!**

## **Forgiving Like God Forgives...**

**1. Forgiveness Is A \_\_\_\_\_ Of \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Don't Confuse Your Feelings With Your Will**  
Proverbs 14:12; 28:26

**2. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ In The \_\_\_\_\_**  
Philippians 3:13

**3. Forgiveness Will \_\_\_\_\_ You**  
Matthew 20:28