



◦ ————— *Premarital* ————— ◦

WORKBOOK

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Ministry Mission Statement

The Premarital Ministry seeks to make disciples of couples who desire a lifelong marriage relationship. Our goal is to equip couples with a biblical foundation through teaching, counseling, and mentoring. We also desire to educate couples with planning and conducting the practical aspects of a godly wedding.

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GOD CREATED MARRIAGE . . .

Although this statement sounds simplistic, it's a truth that is commonly overlooked or completely ignored. God, the Master Architect, sat down at the drafting table and carefully designed marriage. This blueprint that He etched out was not done with numbers, lines, and drawings. No, the Master Planner put His ideas down on paper in written form. We call it the Bible.

The One that thought it out and designed it is also the One that engineered the institution. The Scriptures not only teach us about the will of God concerning marriage, but also reveal to us how we are to execute His will. It is one thing to say, "I love my spouse." However, it is a different story to say, "I know how to love my spouse" in the way intended by the Lord. The strength of your relationship with your spouse will be directly linked to the intimacy of your relationship with Jesus. Why? Because the Bible says, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16 NKJV). When the Bible says, "all things," it includes marriage. Therefore, not having a personal relationship with the Creator means that you will not be able to fulfill all that the Lord has designed for your marriage.

If you are unsure of where you stand with God, you can receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior and have the assurance of heaven if you:

Recognize that you need Jesus in your life (Romans 3:23).

Repent of (turn away from) your sins (Mark 1:15).

Receive Jesus by opening your heart up to Him (John 1:12).

Living your life for Jesus will be the foundation upon which your marriage will be built. Jesus said, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock" (Matthew 7:24–25 NKJV).

DIGGING DEEPER: SUGGESTED READING

Getting Married:

12 Questions to Ask Before You Marry by Clayton and Charie King

Fit to Be Tied by Bill and Lynne Hybels

Saving Your Second Marriage by Les and Leslie Parrott

Passion and Purity by Elizabeth Elliot

Marriage Enrichment and Communication Helps:

The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy and Kathy Keller

What Did You Expect? by Paul Tripp

Covenant Marriage by Gary Chapman

Rock-Solid Marriage by Robert and Rosemary Barnes

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas

Love and Respect by Emerson Eggerichs

Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage by Lee and Leslie Strobel

Romance, Intimacy, Contraception, and Sexual Issues:

Intended for Pleasure by Ed and Gaye Wheat

Love Life for Every Married Couple by Ed Wheat and Gloria Perkins

Intimate Issues by Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus

Sheet Music by Kevin Leman

Blending Families:

Winning the Heart of Your Stepchild by Bob Barnes

The Smart Stepfamily by Ron Deal

Finances:

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

Financial Freedom by Dave Ramsey

LOOKING AT SEXUAL INVOLVEMENT BEFORE MARRIAGE

When you're together, read 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8 and Hebrews 13:4. Talk about these verses with each other.

Why do you think it is best to wait until after marriage for sexual involvement?

Consider the following benefits of waiting:

- You build trust which is necessary for intimacy; it eliminates suspicion.
- You develop the godly qualities of patience and self-control.
- You affirm the worth of the person. It shows that you care more about them than your sexual drives.
- There is no fear of rejection. Within marriage, you have the freedom to fail. You will not be judged for your performance. There is security. There is no guilt.
- You make your wedding night much more special.
- You can instruct your children one day from your example.
- You have the blessing of God.
- You are protected from God's judgment.
- You will not sin against God, which cuts off fellowship and communication with Him.
- You are protected from emotional trauma should you break off your relationship.
- Your thinking is not clouded. You can evaluate other aspects of your relationship more clearly.
- Communication continues and deepens. Anyone can kiss, but not anyone can carry on a meaningful conversation.
- You avoid sexually transmitted diseases.
- You avoid unexpected pregnancy.
- You are stronger at resisting extramarital affairs after marriage.

Do you need to seek God's forgiveness and each other's forgiveness?

To reestablish trust and mutual respect between you, what guidelines do you need to establish for sexual purity?

Consider the following:

- Become accountable to someone you respect and trust.
- Don't put yourselves in situations that lead to failure, such as:
 - Being alone too much
 - Lying down together
 - Viewing sexually stimulating material
 - Arousing sexual desires in your future spouse that you can't fulfill in a godly manner until marriage

HOMEWORK

Congratulations! By taking premarital counseling classes, you're taking an important step toward a successful, lifelong marriage.

Read Carefully:

This work must be completed in order to be married at Calvary or to utilize a Calvary officiant for an off-site wedding.

Submit a completed questionnaire for each of you and a headshot of the two of you together.

Complete the following homework assignment based on Ephesians 5:

- Read Ephesians 5:22–33.
- Write a one-page, double-spaced essay (due by week two) about the following:
 - Bride: What does it mean to “respect and submit myself to my husband as to the Lord?”
 - Groom: What does it mean to “love my wife the way Christ loves the Church?”

Complete estimated budgets—a “his” budget, a “her” budget, and a combined budget. Complete the financial homework using the budget form found on page 20 (due the week following the finance class).

Read *12 Questions to Ask Before You Marry*. Complete this assignment by week six.

Essays, photos, and budget forms can either be brought to class or e-mailed to LindaN@CalvaryFTL.org.

Please write your name on all paperwork and photo.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda at LindaN@CalvaryFTL.org or call 954-556-4244.



CONSIDERING *the* COVENANT

CONSIDERING *the* COVENANT

PICTURING MARRIAGE

Part One: Have you considered the following?

Realities in Marriage: Comforts and Challenges

- In Sickness and in Health . . .
 - Dynamics of a Blended Family
 - Making Lasting Memories
 - Financial Differences: Spenders vs. Savers
 - Parenting Philosophy: Spanking or Time Out?
 - The Blessings of Friendship in Marriage
 - How Will You Spend Your Holidays?
 - Morning Eagle or Night Owl?
 - Others
-
-
-

Pursuing Godly Habits: Deciding to Grow

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CONSIDERING *the* COVENANT

Practical Habits: Will You Manage Your Marriage?

The Sticky Issues:

- Are you a spiritual match or mismatch?
- Are you living together?
- Are you pursuing purity for one another?
- Understanding divorce and remarriage.

Part Two: Have You Considered the Covenant? A Covenant, Not a Contract

*Love doesn't come with a contract
You give me this, I give you that
It's scary business, your heart and soul is on the line
Baby, why else would I be standing 'round here so tongue-tied
—Keith Urban, "I'm In"*

Language of Covenant in the Bible and Marriage (Malachi 2:14, Genesis 2:23–25, Mark 14:24, and Ephesians 5:31–33)

CONSIDERING *the* COVENANT

Covenant Love

(Romans 5:5)

Covenant Help

(Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Covenant Blessings

(Proverbs 18:22)

Much to Consider: Table Talk/Group Time



EXPECTATIONS *and* BIBLICAL ROLES

EXPECTATIONS *and* BIBLICAL ROLES

Great Expectations

- _____ has them. However . . .
- Some are _____, others are not.
- Some are _____, others are not.

Expectations of the Husband

Expectations of the Wife

What Happens When Our Expectations Go Unmet?

EXPECTATIONS *and* BIBLICAL ROLES

Husbands and Wives

Equal in _____ and _____, different in _____

and _____.

Husband

Spiritual _____

Ephesians 5:23

P_____

1 Corinthians 7:3

1 Timothy 5:8

P_____

1 Peter 3:7

Wife

S_____

Genesis 2:18

M_____ of the home

Titus 2:4–5

1 Timothy 5:14

N_____

Proverbs 22:6

Proverbs 31:10–31



FINANCES *in* MARRIAGE

FINANCES *in* MARRIAGE

Part One: The Power of Money

“Many people spend more time in planning the wedding than they do in planning the marriage.”—Zig Ziglar

Money is like radioactive material: When harnessed correctly, it can power entire cities, but when harnessed incorrectly, it's toxic.

Although every couple takes the vow “for richer or for poorer,” many people are financially unprepared, and experience “for poorer” far too quickly.

Part Two: Six Steps

“I promise you if you do these six things, if you're responsible on your part . . . not once, not twice, but consistently in your life from this day forward, you will definitely reduce the financial blow-outs.”—Ron Collins

Knowledge

What is your attitude about money? Is it mine or His?

“For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.”—Psalm 50:12b (NKJV)

In most relationships, you'll find a union between one "nerd" and one "free spirit."

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . .”—Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)

Don't make it difficult. Find a couple who handles their finances well and become their apprentice.

Goals

“If you don't have a goal, you'll never hit it! So make sure you plan and talk about your future and what you want it to look like.”—Lynn Ellen

A budget can help you determine if something is God's plan for you.

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”—1 Corinthians 9:24 (NKJV)

Live on Less

The most important thing to remember: If you don't need it, don't buy it.

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”—1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV)

FINANCES *in* MARRIAGE

Avoid Debt

“You miss God’s hand of provision if you don’t tell yourself ‘no’ sometimes.”—Lynn Ellen

Debt is simply a way to get what you want now when God hasn’t provided it yet.

“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.”—Proverbs 22:7 (NKJV)

Save

The Bible says that the wise often store up wealth, while fools spend their money as fast as they get it (Proverbs 21:20).

Give

Our riches amount to nothing if we are not rich toward God.

Nerd vs. Free Spirit

Which term best describes you? _____

Which term best describes your fiancé? _____

Budgeting: Step-by-Step

Step 1: Track your spending.

Step 2: Set a monthly spending plan.

Step 3: Set short-term goals.

Step 4: Set long-term goals.

Make sure your goals are SMART

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

Relevant

Time-Bound

FINANCES *in* MARRIAGE

How to manage money in marriage so it doesn't manage you!

"Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."—1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

The most important thing you must know about your money: GOD OWNS IT _____!

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."—Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

The overriding principle of Matthew 25:14–30 is that we are stewards of God's resources, not the owners.

Five Principles of Biblical Money Management

1. Make _____ your first priority. Put God first and do good.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. _____ me in this," says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'"—Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

If you have wealth, be generous and use it to do good. Our management of wealth is a test of our faithfulness (1 Timothy 6:17–19).

2. Spend less than you _____ (trust God, not money).

"The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down."—Proverbs 21:20 (NIV)

Put your hope, faith, and trust in God, not in your money. Trust God to provide your needs as you seek His Kingdom (Luke 12:16–34).

3. Avoid the use of _____. Bondage is bad.

"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."—Proverbs 22:7 (NIV)

"The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously."—Psalm 37:21 (NIV)

FINANCES *in* MARRIAGE

4. Set _____ goals.

“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
—Philippians 3:14 (NKJV)

5. Don't try to keep up with the _____ because they're in debt! Be content with God's provision.

Do not pursue material wealth, but be content with God's provision, pursuing “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness” (1 Timothy 6:11 NIV).

“Then he said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.’”—Luke 12:15 (NIV)

Thoughts for the Wife

Proverbs 31

Verse 11 – Her husband has full confidence in her.

Verse 13 – She works with eager hands.

Verse 14 – She brings her food from afar.

Verse 15 – She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family.

Verse 16 – She considers a field and buys it; she plants a vineyard.

Verse 17 – She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

Verse 18 – Her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

Verse 25 – She is clothed with strength; she can laugh at the days to come.

Verse 27 – She watches over the affairs of her household.

Spending Triggers: “Retail Therapy”

1. _____ spending.

2. _____ spending.

FINANCES *in* MARRIAGE

Thoughts for the Husband

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”—1 Timothy 5:8 (NKJV)

The Three R’s:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

10 Practical Steps to Financial Freedom

1. Start the recovery process by _____.
2. Save money _____ for emergencies.
3. Get on a monthly _____.
4. Start a _____ envelope system.
5. Pay off _____ using the snowball method (credit cards, cars, student loans . . . everything except the mortgage).
6. Increase savings to _____ living expenses.
7. Invest _____ of your household income into retirement and college funding.
8. Pay off your home _____.
9. Begin saving for _____ purchases (home, auto, etc.).
10. Build _____ and increase _____.

Our Financial Goals for Marriage

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

FINANCES *in* MARRIAGE

“For I have learned to be _____ whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being _____ in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”—Philippians 4:11–13 (NIV)

Practical Suggestions

If you are having financial struggles, the Stewardship Ministry at Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale offers:

- One-on-one financial counseling. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call the church office at 954-977-9673.
- Financial Peace University, a life-changing program that teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money. Dave Ramsey teaches how to save money, live on a budget, communicate about money, eliminate debt, find bargains, and experience the joy of giving. For more information, please visit CalvaryFTL.org/Stewardship or call 954-315-7533.

Resources

If you're interested in learning more about managing money God's way, the following resources are available in our bookstore:

Financial Peace Revisited by Dave Ramsey

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

Debt Free Living by Larry Burkett

Answer Key:

All	Aggressive	Recognize	Cash	Major
Giving	Jones's	Respond	Consumer Debt	Wealth
Test	Emotional	Giving	3-6 months	Giving
Make	Impulsive	\$1000	15%	Content
Credit	Reflect	Budget	Mortgage	Content

ESTIMATED BUDGET | SPENDING PLAN

Monthly Income

Gross Monthly Income _____
 Salary _____
 Interest _____
 Dividends _____
 Other Income _____
 Less _____
 Tithe/Giving _____
 Taxes (Federal, State, FICA) _____
 Net Spendable Income _____

Monthly Living Expenses

1. Housing _____
 Mortgage/Rent _____
 Insurance _____
 Property Taxes _____
 Electricity _____
 Gas _____
 Water _____
 Sanitation _____
 Telephone _____
 Maintenance _____
 Cable TV _____
 Other _____

2. Food _____

3. Transportation _____
 Payments _____
 Gas and Oil _____
 Insurance _____
 License/Taxes _____
 Maint./Repair/Replace _____
 Other _____

4. Insurance _____
 Life _____
 Health _____
 Other _____

5. Debt _____

6. Entertainment/Recreation _____

Eating Out _____
 Babysitters _____
 Activities/Trips _____
 Vacation _____
 Pets _____
 Other _____

7. Clothing _____

8. Savings _____

9. Medical Expenses _____

Doctor _____
 Dentist _____
 Prescriptions _____
 Other _____

10. Miscellaneous _____

Toiletries/Cosmetics _____
 Beauty/Barber _____
 Laundry/Cleaning _____
 Allowances _____
 Subscriptions _____
 Gifts (including Christmas) _____
 Cash _____
 Other _____

11. Investments _____

12. School/Child Care _____

Tuition _____
 Materials _____
 Transportation _____
 Daycare _____

Total Living Expenses _____

Income versus Living Expenses

Net Spendable Income _____
 Less Total Living Expenses _____
 Surplus or Deficit _____



COMMUNICATION *in* MARRIAGE

COMMUNICATION *in* MARRIAGE

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."—Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."—1 Peter 3:8-9 (NKJV)

Obstacles

Spiritual Blockages to Communication

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."—Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

This is an appropriate prayer for every believer. We must be aware that there may be something in us that grieves God. If anything offensive is found, we must turn from it in repentance.

Spiritual Blockages and Obstacles

1. **UNFORGIVENESS** involves punishing others for having been hurt by them (retaliation). It leads us to not do the things they desire us to do. Unforgiveness can rob, kill, and destroy a relationship (Matthew 5:23–24, 6:14–15, 18:21–22).
2. **REJECTION** is the inability to love or feel loved. Those who are rejected always feel as though they're on trial, as if being judged, never receiving affection (Romans 15:7; Ephesians 5:22, 25).
3. **PRIDE** leads to defensiveness, stubbornness, and the inability to say, "I'm sorry, it was my fault" (Proverbs 8:13, 11:2, 13:10).
4. **WITHDRAWAL** causes us to hide ourselves in television, newspapers, computers, work, activities, etc. The biggest reason we withdraw is that we are afraid of being hurt, judged, or rejected (Titus 2:1–8).
5. **DISALLOWANCE OF FEELINGS** is when we don't let ourselves experience our feelings, thinking, "You shouldn't feel that way, that's stupid" (1 Corinthians 13:4–7; Ephesians 4:15–16).
6. **LACK OF LOVE** is when the commitment level has dropped (1 Corinthians 16:13–14; Romans 12:9–10, 13:8–10; 1 Peter 4:8).
7. **COUNTERATTACK** is when, rather than looking at the problem, we turn it around and say, "Let's look at what's wrong with you" (Philippians 2:1–4; Hebrews 10:24).

COMMUNICATION *in* MARRIAGE

8. **SUPER-GUILT** is creating guilt in the other person by saying, “Is this all the thanks I get” or “You don’t appreciate me” (Galatians 5:15; 1 Peter 1:13–16).
9. **DIFFERENT PRIORITIES** is when we’re unable to agree on God’s plan for our priorities (1 John 2:15–17; Romans 12:12; Matthew 22:34–40).
 - God
 - Family
 - Work/Ministry
 - Everything else
10. **DISOBEDIENCE** shows an unwillingness to walk in obedience to God’s Word (Matthew 6:33, 28:18–20; 1 Peter 1:22).

Evaluation

Do you think you or your future spouse struggle with any of the following spiritual obstacles to communication? Please check the appropriate boxes.

Problem

me my fiancé

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | UNFORGIVENESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | REJECTION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | PRIDE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WITHDRAWAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | DISALLOWANCE OF FEELINGS |

me my fiancé

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | LACK OF LOVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | COUNTERATTACK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | SUPER-GUILT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | DIFFERENT PRIORITIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | DISOBEDIENCE |

COMMUNICATION *in* MARRIAGE

20 Sensitive Areas of Communication and Dialogue

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Excessive credit and conflict over money | 11. Disciplining the children |
| 2. Sexual frustration—not being fulfilled
(<i>may lead to infidelity</i>) | 12. Time spent with children |
| 3. Interference from parents or in-laws | 13. Wife's employment |
| 4. Possessions, toys, worldliness | 14. Business failure or success |
| 5. Alcohol or substance abuse | 15. Getting married too young
(<i>unrealistic expectations</i>) |
| 6. Unrealistic expectations | 16. Over commitment to politics, clubs, church, etc. |
| 7. Jealousy | 17. Physical exhaustion |
| 8. Selfishness | 18. Spiritual head of the home |
| 9. Pornography | 19. Christianity and how to live it |
| 10. Gambling | 20. Anger |

It All Begins with God

All good communication in life begins with communication with God.

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."—Colossians 4:6 (NIV)

What is Communication?

How are you defining your terms?

Communication is an act of transmitting, imparting, and making known; an exchange of information or opinions; a method to send forth a message.

Communication is the sharing of yourself in such a way that someone else can understand what you mean and how you feel.

COMMUNICATION *in* MARRIAGE

What is Dialogue?

Dialogue is a conversation between two or more persons.

The purpose of dialogue is to come to a deeper understanding and acceptance of each other through the sharing of feelings and emotions.

For a Married Couple, Dialogue Includes:

1. **Listening** to your spouse
2. **Ministering** to your spouse's needs
3. Being willing to **Care** about the details of your spouse's life

Why is it So Hard?

Why do people find it hard to communicate and dialogue?

1. We may be unwilling to share our real feelings or real selves.
2. We may have a fear of rejection.
3. It may seem like more trouble than it is worth.
4. We may feel uneasy about lovingly confronting those who have caused us problems.
5. We may feel that we're not good at it . . . that we don't possess the skill of communication.
6. We are all different.

Remember this Truth:

We were not born with the skill of communication and dialogue, yet every person (especially born again Christians) can learn to communicate and dialogue.

COMMUNICATION *in* MARRIAGE

The Five Levels of Communication



LEVEL FIVE: Small Talk or Cliché Conversations

Using small phrases, but no personal sharing.

LEVEL FOUR: Reporting the Facts About Others

We tell others what someone else has said, but still no personal sharing. We're just reporting the facts.

LEVEL THREE: Sharing Ideas, Opinions & Judgments

Real communication begins to unfold. Here, the person is willing to step out and begin to share something about themselves in a very careful and cautious way.

LEVEL TWO: Sharing Feelings and Emotions

This form of dialogue involves expressing the feelings and emotions that lie beneath my ideas, opinions, and judgments.

LEVEL ONE: Open and Honest Sharing of Oneself . . . Complete Emotional and Personal Dialogue

This is true dialogue; intimacy. This level takes time and effort and produces rich rewards.

Remember this Truth:

If we don't communicate and dialogue with honesty, our relationships aren't going to be all that God intended them to be.

COMMUNICATION *in* MARRIAGE

Help from Scripture on Guarding Our Mouth and Tongue

God sets high standards for our communication. He makes that quite clear in Colossians 4:6 and it is reaffirmed in Ephesians 4:29.

Proverbs

4:20–23	17:27–28
10:19	18:2, 15, 21
12:18	19:11, 14, 20
13:3	20:7
14:29	21:9, 23
15:1, 4, 23, 31	25:11
16:5, 7, 23–24, 32	29:20

Other Passages

James 1:19–21
James 3:8–10
James 3:13–18
1 Peter 3:10
Colossians. 3:8–10
Ephesians. 4:15
Ephesians. 4:20–32

Communicating with God

We need to communicate with our Lord daily. Remember, all good communication in life begins with communication with God.

The level that we use daily in communicating with our Lord is usually the same level that we use to communicate with our spouse.

If we move toward level one in our relationship with our heavenly Father, then we will attain level one in our relationship with our spouse.



PARENTING

PARENTING

“As long as we have breath, it’s never too late to change our legacy.” —Priya Ramsaran

What are some of the characteristics of a godly man or woman?

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Parenthood is a spiritual role, because every parent plays a part in shaping tomorrow’s leaders.

Parenthood gives you a chance to create a legacy for your family.

Part One: The Impact of a Father

“You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

—1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (NKJV)

A dad is the single greatest influence on the success or failure of a family.

What is the most important thing a father can give his son? Identity.

What do girls need most from their fathers? Security.

The question to ponder now is what kind of an impact are you going to make?

Part Two: The Influence of a Mother

“Our identity in Christ moves on into eternity. Everything else is subject to change.” —Priya Ramsaran

What is the most important thing a mother can give her son? Security.

What is the most important thing a mother can give her daughter? Identity.

PARENTING

A mother can build up a healthy sense of identity in her daughter by knowing her own identity in Christ.

The question to ponder now is where does my identity lie?

Part Three: Purposeful Parenting

“Before you teach it, you have to be it.”—Pastor Reuben Ramsaran

Training, discipline, boundaries, and consequences are of extreme importance.

As a parent, your job is to correct bad behavior.

As for corporal punishment, spanking removes the guilt and shame of rebellion and time-outs redirect a child to allow for self-examination.

The most important key for raising godly children is modeling (James 1:22 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

When all else fails, depend on the grace and mercy of God.

Tips for Blended Families

“It’s better for you to be unified than for one of you to be right.”—Pastor Reuben Ramsaran

1. Never speak negatively about the other parent in front of the children.
2. Always encourage your children to have a relationship with the other parent, unless it’s unhealthy for them.
3. Realize that relationships take time to build, so be patient—especially if you are a new stepparent.
4. Remember that when a child loses a parent through divorce, it is parallel to experiencing the death of a parent.
5. Give age-sensitive responses to difficult questions.
6. Always be conservative when disciplining a stepchild, and always be unified with your spouse, especially concerning corporal punishment.



ROMANCE *and* **INTIMACY**

A Look at Intimacy

- Into-Me-See
- Intimacy with God | (Psalm 139, John 17:23, and John 15:15).
- Intimacy with One Another | (Psalm 133 and Proverbs 5:18-19).

Obstacles to a Healthy Sexual Relationship

- Lack of Spiritual Leadership | (Hebrews 13:4)
- Unrealistic Expectations
- Unhealthy Alternatives
- Fatherly Figure
- Issues of the Past (pain, partners, and pregnancies) | (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
See *Intimate Issues* by Dillow and Pintus
- Selfishness | (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

The Romantically Intimate Marriage

S — (Romans 15:6)

E — (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

R — (Song of Solomon 2:15)

V — (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

I — (Song of Solomon 2:10)

N — (2 Peter 3:18)

G — (Genesis 2:25)

FOR *the* NEWLYWEDS

Here at Calvary Chapel, we want to set you up for a successful marriage!

Therefore, we are encouraging an ongoing relationship between the couple who gets married and their premarital counselor.

As a way of “cheering you on” and blessing your marriage, we invite you, within 90 days of getting married, to set up a follow-up appointment with your counselor. In doing so, we hope your marriage will be enriched. We'd also like to bless you with a \$20 gift card to The Grill restaurant. Once you've met with your counselor, please see the Premarital Ministry to pick up your gift card or e-mail LindaN@CalvaryFTL.org.



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