

DISCIPLESHIP track

Gospel › Men/Women › Marriage

for Marriage

The most significant earthly relationship that we can enter into is that of marriage. God designed marriage for the expressed purpose of reflecting the invisible gospel to the world. What follows is our attempt to help you enter into and/or grow your marriage for the glory of God according to the Word of God by focusing on four key components of marriage: the theology of marriage, communication, finances, and sex.

consider.

- Where did marriage come from?
- Why does marriage exist? Why should we pursue it?
- What is marriage? What makes a marriage?
- What makes for a good marriage?
- What makes for a bad marriage?
- How do we know anything about marriage?

pray.

Ask God to...

- make plain to you his will for marriage in your life.
- make your marriage reflect the gospel.
- give you a great love for your husband or wife.
- give you a humility to acknowledge where you've fallen short in your marriage.

read.

- *Reforming Marriage*, Douglas Wilson or *Love that Lasts*, Gary and Betsy Ricucci
- *Managing God's Money*, Randy Alcorn
- *Sex, Romance, and the Glory of God*, C.J. Mahaney

do.

- Memorize Ephesians 5:22-33
- Commit to knowing what it means to make your marriage reflect the gospel and commit to doing so.
- Commit to spending time in the Word and prayer together with your spouse.
- Commit to making your marriage your primary earthly relationship.
- Commit to handling sin and conflict within your marriage in a manner consistent with Scripture.
- Men, commit to loving and leading your marriage for the glory of God and the holiness of your wife, as Christ loves and leads the Church.
- Women, commit to respecting and responding to your husband's leading for the glory of God and the good of your husband, as the Church is to respect and respond to the leading of Christ.



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For Further Reading...

The Exemplary Husband, Stuart Scott
The Excellent Wife, Martha Pearce (deeper dive on marriage roles)
What Did You Expect?, Paul Tripp (video series)

purpose.

The primary call on all our lives is to glorify God by following Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The desire and ability to live out this call are the result of a beautiful merging of God's sovereign grace and our dependent effort. At Grace Church we are committed to coming alongside anyone who is interested in examining and accepting this call. It is our joy to follow Jesus with you.

covenant.

One of the most popular and tragic counterfeit versions of Christianity in existence today is the one which suggests that people can choose to follow Jesus to some (or even most) of the places that he goes—that people can come to Jesus on their own terms. Throughout the time of his ministry, however, Jesus made it plain that people would follow him wherever he might lead them and whatever it might cost them or they would not follow him at all (i.e. Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 14:25-33). Jesus will meet us wherever we are but he alone determines where we're going. Indeed, the bible makes plain the fact that there is a high cost to following Jesus. But the bible also makes plain that the reward is incomparably greater (Matthew 13:44) and that the strength to do so comes ultimately from God (Philippians 2:12-13).

Consequently, we want to mutually enter into a covenant—an agreement that is serious and significant. Before agreeing to begin this discipleship track, know that it should only be entered into after much prayer (with your spouse if you are married), consideration, and with a whole heart. It may bring spiritual challenges but it will most certainly bring God's help and reward.

- I agree to finish this discipleship track. Given the significant investment that others are making in me I acknowledge the need for punctuality and uninterrupted attendance.
- I agree to be honest and forthright—speaking the truth in love and being willing to receive feedback, even if it hurts. We can only help each other if we are willing to be transparent and vulnerable.
- I commit to completing assignments and coming prepared to engage fully.
- I commit to consistent prayer for the person that I'm meeting with.
- I commit to the consistent disciplines of reading God's Word and prayer during this discipleship track.
- Finally, I commit to leading at least one other person through this discipleship track in the future.

In short, we're asking you to commit to taking this seriously and sharing it with at least one other person as an expression of your love for God and the calling He's placed on your life.

Signed: _____ Date: _____