



ENCOURAGE
FORWARD

How To Build a Deeper Marriage

God's Word says that every marriage should reflect the relationship between Jesus and the Church. In Ephesians 5:22–23 Paul instructs, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head to the wife even as Christ is the head of the church” (ESV). Then in verses 25–26, Paul speaks to husbands, saying, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her, that he might sanctify her” (ESV). The overarching theme to Paul's words are “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21 NIV). Our marriages must be grounded in the reality of Jesus Christ's love for His Church and the sacrifice He made for us. If they are not, marriage will be aimless, frustrating, and shallow.

Whether you already know those verses or this is your first time seeing them, you picked up this resource card because you want to have a deeper relationship with your spouse. Every marriage is unique, and every marriage will have seasons of joy, pain, delight, and difficulty. But no matter who you are or where you are, the key to going deeper in marriage is this: Husband and wife trusting in the One who created marriage and chasing after His design for marriage with everything they have. The depth of your marriage will never grow beyond the depth of your relationship with God.

Below are several resources that will help you understand the purpose of marriage and deepen your marriage with biblical and practical wisdom.

Book Resources

Praying Circles Around Your Marriage

by Joel and Nina Schmidgall

The 5 Love Languages:

The Secret to Love that Lasts

by Gary Chapman

Love and Respect:

The Love She Most Desires; the

Respect He Desperately Needs

by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

The Meaning of Marriage:

Facing the Complexities of

Commitment with the Wisdom of God

by Timothy Keller

Cherish: The One Word That Changes Everything for Your Marriage

by Gary Thomas

Sacred Marriage: What If God Designed Marriage To Make Us Holy More Than To Make Us Happy?

by Gary Thomas

Marriage: 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs To Make

by Paul David Tripp

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Digital Resources

FamilyLife Today Podcast

This weekday podcast features fun, engaging conversations that help married couples and families grow together with Jesus while pursuing the relationships that matter most.

Fierce Marriage Podcast

Ryan and Selena Frederick discuss all things marriage—communication, intimacy, finances, priorities, purpose, and everything in between.

Focus on the Family

This ministry produces several podcasts about marriage and has a website full of videos, articles, and other resources about marriage, parenting, blended families, and more.

RightNow Media

The world's largest library of Bible study video resources contains content about countless topics, including marriage. Register for a free account at bellevue.org/rightnowmedia.

“Teaming Up in Marriage 2023 |

Steve and Donna Gaines”

bellevue.org/marriage-rally

Bro. Steve and Donna Gaines share special insight from their marriage and provide practical tips for how to approach problems together. Use the web address above to access the video!

Bellevue Resources

Biblical Counseling

Bellevue offers free in-person or online biblical counseling for couples and individuals. For more information or to make an appointment, visit bellevue.org/biblical-counseling.

Midweek at Bellevue

Midweek offers groups throughout the week for all ages and stages of life. You can choose from a variety of classes and topics, including marriage. Go to bellevue.org/midweek for a complete list.



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Bellevue Baptist Church
bellevue.org

2000 Appling Road, Cordova, TN 38016 | (901) 347-2000