

MARRIAGE

Talking Points

- Examine my own stuff rather than focus on my spouse's contributions.
- Write down all the things you love about your spouse.
- View your spouse compassionately: "We must learn to regard people less in light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer." Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Helpful practices: attend church together; pray together before meals; listen to one another; plan a date night; bless your spouse one time per day without expecting anything in return; check-in with a professional counselor for guidance.

Scripture

Genesis 2:18-25	Colossians 3:12-17
Philippians 2:3-4	Hebrews 12:12-15
Philippians 4:8-11	1 Corinthians 13

Prayer

Lord God, together, we very much desire to keep the vows made before You on our wedding day. But we are in a season when that is not easy. We value the life we have made together and want it to be better than it currently is. Remind me to look for good in my partner and to be honest about my own shortcomings. We invite your presence in our relationship. Guide us to be better people and a better couple. Amen.

Suggested Resources

- *Sacred Marriage*, Gary Thomas
- *Boundaries*, Cloud & Townsend
- *Boundaries in Marriage*, Cloud & Townsend
- *5 Love Languages*, Gary Chapman
- *I Don't Want a Divorce*, Dr. David Clarke
- *Married But Lonely*, Dr. David Clarke
- *I Don't Love You Anymore*, Dr. David Clarke
- *Marriage on the Rock*, Jimmy Evans
- *Divorce Busters*, Michelle Weiner-Davis
- *His Needs, Her Needs*, William F. Harley Jr.
- *His Needs/Her Needs* Video Series - available on rightnowmedia.org. This valuable tool is a gift from Van Dyke Church. Contact sleatherwood@vandyke.org for a link to join.
- lesandleslie.com
- cloudtownsend.com
- garythomas.com/blog
- marriagetoday.com
- divorcebusting.com
- davidclarkseminars.com

Group DVD Series

- *Marriage on the Rock*, Jimmy Evans
- *Sacred Marriage*, Gary Thomas
- *Staying in Love*, Andy Stanley

Local Counselors

- Life Connections Counseling Center
813.265.3859
- Laurel A. Slade, Counseling Services, P.A.
813.909.4463
- Marriage & Family Enrichment Center
David Clarke, Ph.D.
813.879.4927
- Drs. Bob & Shea Roop, L.M.H.C.
727.298.8404

