

#### TIPS ON RELATIONSHIPS:

- 1) **Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, (James 1:19)**
- 2) **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25)**
- 3) **“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)**
- 4) **Accept one another as God accepted you (Romans 15:7)**
- 5) **Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32) I die daily (to self): (1 Corinthians 15:31) Put Jesus on the throne of your life!!**
- 6) **Drop expectations expecting your partner to be perfect. Wrong/high expectations only lead to disappointments – only God is perfect. Accept people where they are at, pray for them, and as they change/grow you’ll become more thankful.**
- 7) **If one person is having a tough time or acting “crazy” don’t get drawn in. Stand “back” and pray allowing God to work and them to vent (unless it gets abusive). Ask God what they are really saying and allow the Holy Spirit to work.**
- 8) **Walk away when emotions rise beyond manageable allowing them to simmer down. Come together when you are ready to “listen to the other person.”**
- 9) **Strongly consider a mature couple that you meet with on a monthly basis (or more often during tough times) to pray with and discuss your marriage. Life changes and we need support!!**
- 10) **Choose your battles and which hill you are going to die on. Don’t compromise God’s Word but do everything in LOVE!! The goal is for GOD TO WIN – not you!!**
- 11) **Listen to God’s Spirit – stay close to the Holy Spirit – and listen to what the person is really saying at a deeper level.**

#### PREMARITAL QUESTIONNAIRES:

- 1) <https://www.ibelieve.com/relationships/34-christian-premarital-questions.html>
- 2) <https://thehealthymarriage.org/questions-for-christian-couples-before-marriage/>
- 3) <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/questions-to-ask-when-preparing-for-marriage>
- 4) <https://www.truehopechristiancounseling.com/blog/essential-questions-for-christians-to-ask-before-getting-married>
- 5) <https://discover.hubpages.com/relationships/80-Premarital-Christian-Counseling-Questions-to-Ask-Before-You-Marry-Your-Beloved>
- 6) <https://biblicalpathway.com/30-crucial-christian-questions-to-ask-before-marriage/>

#### RESOLVING MARITAL CONFLICTS:

- 1) <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/strategies-for-effective-conflict-resolution/>
- 2) <https://thehealthymarriage.org/conflict-resolution-in-marriage/>
- 3) <https://www.drwyattfisher.com/blogs/marriage-blog/conflict-resolution-in-marriage>
- 4) <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/a-better-way-to-resolve-conflict/>

#### THING TO AVOID IN MARRIAGE

- 1) <https://www.marriage.com/advice/relationship/things-you-should-never-do-in-a-relationship/>
- 2) <https://www.beliefnet.com/love-family/relationships/marriage/10-things-you-should-not-do-in-a-marriage.aspx>
- 3) <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/relationships/g3927/things-to-never-do-in-a-healthy-relationship/>

1. STRUGGLING: [www.altogetherlovely.org/marriage](http://www.altogetherlovely.org/marriage)

NEED PRAYER (as individuals or couple): 1-800-700-7000 or 1-866-987-7729

### **Marriage Scenarios to ROLE PLAY:**

**DIRECTIONS:** read the Scenario. Then start out in a “conflict mode” stating either George or Mary’s side. Then work towards a solution either by compromising, accepting each other’s position, or praying about it:

- 1) **George wants to go golfing. Mary wants him to come with the family to the beach.**  
George: I’m going golfing tomorrow. Mary: Honey, I was hoping we’d go to the beach as a family.
- 2) **George thinks what you are wearing is too provocative. Mary thinks his wardrobe is “dull”.**
- 3) **Mary can’t stand his manners at the dinner table. George doesn’t like the meals he’s been getting.**
- 4) **Mary wants more help with the housework and kids.**
- 5) **Mary is very sick and she wants George to stay home and help with the kids. George is busy at work.**
- 6) **Mary wants one child and George wants 3 or 4.**
- 7) **George struggles with Mary’s family and Mary with his.**
- 8) **George wants to watch the hockey game – Mary wants to watch a movie together.**
- 9) **George thinks Mary is spending too much money.**
- 10) **Mary is frustrated with George’s hygiene (he smells and doesn’t clean properly).**
- 11) **George thinks it is “funny” to fart –Mary gets annoyed.**
- 12) **George like sex 4-5x a week. Mary is alright with once or twice.**
- 13) **George always wakes up aroused while Mary is tired and wants to sleep.**
- 14) **Mary is having her period but George is still “jazzed”.**
- 15) **George wants to separate.**
- 16) **George’s friend is coming on to Mary and he is jealous. Talk about it.**
- 17) **Mary thinks George is spending more time with their son than their daughter.**
- 18) **Both George and Mary come home very tired and there is no dinner and the house is a mess.**
- 19) **Mary is getting into “religion” and wants George to come with the family to church. George is tired.**
- 20) **George is spending too much money. Mary is having trouble affording groceries.**
- 21) **Their marriage is strained as George lost his job. He wants Mary to go to the Food Bank & Thrift store.**
- 22) **Mary wants her own car. George says it is too expensive.**
- 23) **Mary wants to put the kids in piano, swimming, math tutor, etc. and George can’t afford it.**
- 24) **Mary enjoys their friends Jim and Jill. George hates Jill as she is too talkative.**
- 25) **Mary doesn’t discipline the kids as she was over-disciplined as a child. George thinks it is necessary.**
- 26) **George wants to borrow money from Mary’s family – Mary isn’t too sure.**

### **ACTIVITIES FOR COUPLES:**

[https://www.altogetherlovely.org/files/ugd/3cd1d7\\_b61c60c1848a43efac2504bd2d65f4e8.pdf](https://www.altogetherlovely.org/files/ugd/3cd1d7_b61c60c1848a43efac2504bd2d65f4e8.pdf)

### **EATING CHEAP:**

<https://www.cheapskatecook.com/weekly-grocery-budget-meal-plan-25-dollars/>

### **THINGS TO DO WITHOUT MONEY:**

<https://moneybliss.org/things-to-do-with-no-money/>

**DAVE RAMSEY’S STEPS: to budget and become a “giver”:**

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/dave-ramsey-7-baby-steps#cookie-banner>



**HUMBLY COME TO THE CROSS – FORGIVE AS GOD FORGAVE YOU!!**

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## MARRIAGE SAYINGS:

- Young lovers seek perfection.  
Old lovers learn the art of sewing shreds together and finding beauty in a multiplicity of patches.
- **Above all else, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)**
- Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.  
Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13)
- **Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**
- Marriage is like a horse with a broken leg. You can shoot the horse but its leg is still broken.
- **“A good marriage isn’t something you find; it’s something you make.” (Gary L. Thomas)**
- “We are, all of us, utterly committed and deeply devoted to our “style”, our “way”, our “approach to life.” We have absolutely no intention of giving it up. Not even for love. So God creates an environment where we have to. It’s called marriage.” (John Eldredge)
- **“A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.” (Ruth Graham)**
- “Love...is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God. They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself.” (C. S. Lewis)
- **“Staying married, therefore, is not mainly about staying in love. It is about keeping covenant. “Till death do us part” or “As long as we both shall live” is a sacred covenant promise—the same kind Jesus made with His bride when He died for her.” (John Piper)**
- “Marriage is a call to die [to self]... Christian marriage vows are the inception of a lifelong practice of death, of giving over not only all you have, but all you are. Is this a grim gallows call? Not at all! It is no more grim than dying to self and following Christ. In fact, those who lovingly die for their [spouses] are those who know the most joy, have the most fulfilling marriages, and experience the most love.” (R. Kent Hughes)
- **“We [should not] make the mistake of thinking that marriage will provide the ultimate satisfaction for which we all hunger. To assume so would be to be guilty of blasphemy. Only God satisfies the hungry heart. Marriage is but one of the channels He uses to enable us to taste how deeply satisfying His thirst-quenching grace can be.” (Sinclair B. Ferguson)**
- Great marriages don’t happen by luck or by accident. They are the result of a consistent investment of time, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, affection, prayer, mutual respect, and a rock-solid commitment between a husband and a wife.” (Dave Willis)

## MARRIAGE SHOULD MODEL HOW TO LOVE LIKE CHRIST!!



## MARRIAGE IS THE LIFE-LONG PROCESS OF BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS!