

## FIGHTING FOR AN AWESOME MARRIAGE

Awesome Relationships  
 Rick Warren

Paul: "We are not all the same. God gives some the gift of a husband or wife, and others he gives the gift of being able to stay happily unmarried."

1 Corinthians 7:7 (TLB)

"Marriage should be honored by everyone." Hebrews 13:4 (NCV)

### WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS: GOD CREATED IT . . .

#### 1. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

"It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him." Genesis 2:18 (GNT)

"Jesus responded . . . 'But God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.' " Mark 10:6-9 (NLT)

#### 2. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth.'" Genesis 1:27-28 (NLT)

"God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Children of God, that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage within you." Malachi 2:15 (MSG)

#### 3. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

"Reverence for God gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security." Proverbs 14:26 (TLB)

#### 4. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

"It's selfish and stupid to think only of yourself." Proverbs 18:1 (CEV)

"Love sincerely. . . . Hold on to what is good. Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other." Romans 12:9-10 (GW)

#### 5. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

"Righteousness lifts up a nation, but sin is a disgrace in any society."

Proverbs 14:34 (GW)

#### 6. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

"Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it . . . He died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. . . . In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. . . . No one ever hates his own body, but feeds and takes care of it. And that is what Christ does for the church, because we are parts of his body. The Scripture says, 'So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one body.' That secret is very important—I am talking about Christ and the church. But each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and a wife must respect her husband."

Ephesians 5:25, 27-33 (NCV)

### HOW TO FIGHT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE IN THE SEASONS OF LIFE

- **SPRINGTIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **SUMMER:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **FALL:** \_\_\_\_\_

- **WINTER:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Next Steps

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## FIGHTING FOR AN AWESOME FAMILY

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### 4 TRAITS OF AWESOME FAMILIES

#### 1. AWESOME FAMILIES

Solomon: "I commend the enjoyment of life." Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NIV)

"People ought to enjoy every day of their lives, no matter how long they live." Ecclesiastes 11:8 (NCV)

"Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love." Ecclesiastes 9:9 (NIV)

"Children are a gift from God." Psalm 127:3 (TLB)

"I recommend having fun. . . . That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them." Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NLT)

#### 2. AWESOME FAMILIES

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Luke 2:52 (NIV)

### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM OUR FAMILIES?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW?

#### • THROUGH

"Since I . . . have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." John 13:14-15 (NLT)

#### • THROUGH

"You must teach [God's commandments] to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning." Deuteronomy 6:7 (TLB)

#### • NOT THROUGH

"Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice." Ephesians 6:4 (TLB)

"Fathers, do not make your children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (NCV)

#### • NOT THROUGH

"Each person should judge his own actions and not compare himself with others. Then he can be proud for what he himself has done."

Galatians 6:4 (NCV)

#### 3. AWESOME FAMILIES

"Two are better off than one. . . . If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (GNT)

### TYPES:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. AWESOME FAMILIES

"Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds." Hebrews 10:24 (NCV)

"He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2 (NIV)

"Choose today whom you will serve . . . As for me and my family, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

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## BECOMING BEST FRIENDS WITH GOD

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*"When you draw close to God, God will draw close to you."* James 4:8 (TLB)

*"For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."* Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)

*"I no longer call you servants. . . . Instead, I have called you friends."* John 15:15 (NIV)

*"The LORD . . . is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you."*  
Exodus 34:14 (NLT)

God: *"I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me."* Hosea 6:6 (TLB)

*"Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him."* Acts 17:26-27 (MSG)

### HOW TO BUILD A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

1. *"Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ."* Philippians 3:8 (NLT)

*"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*  
Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

2. *"Be still, and know that I am God."* Psalms 46:10 (NIV)

*"Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him. With them alone he shares the secrets of his promises."* Psalm 25:14 (TLB)

*"When you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production. . . . Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."* Matthew 6:5-6 (MSG)

3. *"You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the world becomes God's enemy."* James 4:4 (NCV)  
Jesus: *"You are my friends, if you obey me."* John 15:14 (CEV)

4. *"Pray all the time."* 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (MSG)  
*"And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]."* Philippians 3:10 (AMP)

5. *"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken."* Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

**IN TROUBLE?**  
*"I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me."* Psalm 91:14 (MSG)

**DRIFTED AWAY FROM GOD?**  
*"If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me. If you speak good words rather than worthless ones, you will be my spokesman. You must influence them; do not let them influence you!"* Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT)

*"No one shows greater love than when he lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you."* John 15:13-14 (ISV)

*"This is what God commands: that we believe in his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love each other, just as he commanded."* 1 John 3:23 (NCV)

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## WHAT DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS AND WHAT BUILDS THEM

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*“Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.”*  
Romans 12:5 (GW)

### 1. DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

*“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have.” James 4:1-2 (NIV)*

*“Selfishness only causes trouble.” Proverbs 28:25 (GNT)*

### BUILDS THEM

*“Look out for one another’s interests, not just for your own.” Philippians 2:4 (GNT)*

*“The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.” Galatians 6:8 (MSG)*

*“Live freely, animated and motivated by God’s Spirit. Then you won’t feed the compulsions of selfishness.” Galatians 5:16 (MSG)*

### 2. DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

*“Pride leads to arguments.” Proverbs 13:10 (TLB)*

*“Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin.” Proverbs 16:18 (NCV)*

*“First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.”  
Proverbs 16:18 (MSG)*

### BUILDS THEM

*“Live in harmony, be sympathetic, love each other, have compassion, and be humble.” 1 Peter 3:8 (GW)*

*“Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves.”  
Philippians 2:3 (NCV)*

*“Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God.”  
Philippians 2:5-6 (NLT)*

### 3. DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

*“The fear of human opinion disables.” Proverbs 29:25 (MSG)*

*Adam: “I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” Genesis 3:10 (NIV)*

### BUILDS THEM

*“Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid . . . this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.” 1 John 4:18 (NLT)*

*“All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them. . . . We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love. . . . And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid.”*

*1 John 4:15-17 (NLT)*

### 4. DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

*“To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.” Job 5:2 (GNT)*

*“Since my heart was embittered and my soul deeply wounded, I was stupid and could not understand.” Psalm 73:21-22 (NAB)*

*“Look after each other . . . Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.”*

*Hebrews 12:15 (TLB)*

### BUILDS THEM

*“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

*Colossians 3:13 (NLT)*

*“Once . . . our lives were full of resentment and envy. . . . But . . . then [God our Savior] saved us—not because we were good enough to be saved but because of his kindness and pity—by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit . . . all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did so that he could declare us good in God’s eyes.” Titus 3:3-7 (TLB)*

*“This is what the LORD says: Forget what happened in the past, and do not dwell on events from long ago. I am going to do something new. . . . I will make rivers on dry land.” Isaiah 43:17-19 (GW)*

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## SIX KEYS TO PEACE IN RELATIONSHIPS

Awesome Relationships  
Rick Warren & Tom Holladay

*"If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."* James 3:13-18 (NLT)

### SIX THINGS WISE PEOPLE NEVER DO

1. 

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#### IF I WANT TO BE WISE . . .

*"He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield, to those who walk with integrity."* Proverbs 2:7 (NLT)

2. 

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#### IF I WANT TO BE WISE . . .

*"Any fool can start arguments; the honorable thing is to stay out of them."*  
Proverbs 20:3 (GNT)

*"A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes."*

Proverbs 14:29 (TLB)

3. 

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#### IF I WANT TO BE WISE . . .

*"Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit."* Proverbs 15:4 (GNT)

4. 

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#### IF I WANT TO BE WISE . . .

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*"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge."*  
Proverbs 18:15 (NLT)

5. 

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#### IF I WANT TO BE WISE . . .

*"Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends."*

Proverbs 17:9 (TLB)

6. 

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Greek: adiakritos & anypokritos

#### IF I WANT TO BE WISE . . .

*"Whoever hides hate is a liar. Whoever tells lies is a fool."* Proverbs 10:18 (NCV)

*"He is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge."* Colossians 2:3 (GNT)

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