

BUILDING A STRONG MARRIAGE

VARIOUS SCRIPTURES // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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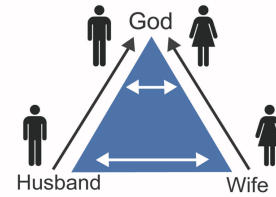
If you want to have a strong marriage, it must be built on the right foundation (Psalm 127:1a; Genesis 1:26-27) according to the God-established roles for husbands and wives (Ephesians 5:21-33) and with single-minded devotion to each one's own relationship to Christ (1 Corinthians 7:1-16; 1 Peter 3:1-7)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can you sensitively engage our culture about biblical perspectives on marriage without automatically losing your audience?
- Before we delve into the topic of marriage, what are some godly principles that every male-female cooperative relationship in the church should uphold so that God is honoured by our work together?
- Now to the married, when's the last time you praised God publicly for your spouse as a gift in your life? What did you say?
- How could you further celebrate and value the unique contributions your spouse brings to the quality of life in your home?
- If you're young and married, how do you respect your parents while taking proper responsibility to form your own household before the Lord? If you've raised children, how have you let them develop a marriage that's free from your authority?
- A marriage has many dimensions beyond a sexual bond. How can two people make monogamy a life-long fulfilling experience beyond physical pleasure?
- Do you know of any area where your (potential) spouse currently feels disrespected and/or unloved by you? If you take Ephesians 5:21-33 to heart, how would you take a new approach to him or her so that Jesus is honoured?
- Sometimes we idolize marriage in the church and unfairly exclude unmarried people in aspects of church life. Since we know this is not God's will, how can a local church help single, widowed, or divorced people feel loved and needed in the life of the church?

(Questions continue on the second page)

- Why does moving toward God individually bring couples to a greater experience of unity? Do you have an example of how this principal works in your relationship?



- Even though it can be hard to “go it alone”, how do you start to move toward God while you feel unloved or disrespected by your spouse?
- In what ways are you trying to work as a couple to help people see the gospel in action through your marriage relationship? If none, which of these activities would be able to get you started?
 - Serve coffee at the church
 - Open your home to welcome new people in the neighbourhood
 - Give financially to support a ministry you both love
 - Teach children about Jesus, your own and/or others who need spiritual leadership in their lives
 - Volunteer together to help the marginalized