

Advice From A Control Freak

Here is how Jesus described God's love language in John 14:23-24: "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me." We abide in Christ and His words. He is the giver of all life. He is the source. In Him we live and move and have or being (Acts 17). We were created by Him and for Him.

Let's do a quick little exercise. Before you plug into the True Source, you must unplug from your spouse. With passion and a deep breath, raise your right hand and repeat after me, "I, [state your name], do hereby resign as general manager of the universe of my spouse. I am officially before God unplugging from my spouse as the source of life." There, don't you feel better? Now, take your finger and point it at your spouse. If your spouse is not present, pretend. Again with passion say, "You're fired!" Take a few moments with your spouse and explain what you just did. You just fired your spouse as the source of life.

When your spouse is your source of life, you spend your days trying to control, manipulate, and change him or her into your image. That's exhausting. Take it from me, a control freak. It's exhausting, pastoring, fathering, and husbanding when you run around policing everyone all day long. Unplugging give you room to breathe.

- Ted Cunningham, from his book *Fun Loving You* (Ted will participate in our 5th Annual Date Night PDX Comedy Night on August 5. Catch a brief video on our homepage at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org)

How's about taking your marriage up a notch? Get a copy of Ted Cunningham's book *Fun Loving You* and read it together.



RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

Your marriage can be one of your life's most rewarding relationships!

It's a challenge to build a strong, God-honoring relationship. But so worthwhile! Whatever your age, whether dating, engaged, or married, there's a class or seminar for you.

We Go Together ... Marriage Conference Do you remember all the reasons why "you go together" with your spouse? This seminar will lead you on a journey with your spouse to: Deepen your friendship; Resolve your conflicts more effectively; Plan for a great future together; and Fall more deeply in love. Feb 5&6 at Rolling Hills Community Church, details at <http://tinyurl.com/jy6gram>

Date Night Comedy Tour Scripture says a joyful heart is good medicine. Find a fun night, filled with laughter. Be entertained by Steve Geyer and Jason Earls. This Valentine's Day evening event February 14 is at Living Hope Church, Vancouver. Tickets available at www.DateNightComedyTour.com

Marriage Encounter A weekend that can help married couples turn a good marriage into a GREAT marriage! Rediscover your best friend! Join the millions of couples who have learned how to keep their marriage vibrant and alive! Sponsored by the Catholic Church, all faiths welcome. Feb 19-21 at Saint Benedict, OR. Call James & Marisol Carter (503) 853-2758 for details.

The Weekend to Remember is a great way to renew your love and commitment to one another, to reminisce all the reasons why you married, to restore a little romance in your relationship. Mar 4-6 at Sunriver Resort. Save \$100 when you register using the group "MarriagePDX." Details WeekendToRemember.com.

Have fun! Date often, even weekly!

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Every Marriage Matters
Advocates for Healthy Marriage
Check out additional resources at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org