

BUYING V. RENTING

When a couple live together before marriage, they tend to be “renters.” By that I mean that they view their relationship much as they would be renting an apartment. If something goes wrong in an apartment, the landlord is expected to fix it – if it needs paint, the landlord paints it; if it needs repairs, the landlord does the repairing. In other words, the renter is not responsible for making the apartment suitable for living – the landlord is responsible. And if the apartment is not repaired, the tenant isn’t expected to fix the apartment himself, he simply moves to another apartment if he doesn’t like the one he is renting.

On the other hand, when couples marry before they live together, they tend to be “buyers.” Much like buying a house, these couples realize that if anything needs fixing, they will have to fix it – the sooner, the better. Their marriage is not a test of how livable their relationship is, but rather, it’s a commitment to make their relationship livable. That means that when a problem first surfaces, they go right to work fixing it, knowing that if they don’t fix it soon, it can lead to an even bigger problem later.

– Willard Harley, referencing his book
Buyers, Renters and Freeloaders

A great opportunity to grow more deeply in love:
Read together *The One Year Devotions for Couples*
by David and Teresa Ferguson



RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

Marriage is one life’s most rewarding relationships.

It is a challenge to build a strong, God-honoring relationship. Whether you are 18 or 80, dating, engaged, or married, there is a class or seminar for the two of you.

Engaged Encounter Lay couples share the joys, troubles, and victories that they have encountered in their marriages. Engaged couples then have opportunities, as a couple, to discuss the challenges they will face: such as maintaining open communication and resolving conflicts on issues such as religious differences, money, planning and sex. Catholic in orientation, couples of other faiths are welcome. March 9-11 at Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center, Beaverton. details at <http://OregonEngagedEncounter.org>

Marriage Redeemed is a conference to guide couples on their recovery journey from sexual sin. You will learn from couples that have tested and developed the topics in their own marriages and have found success in ‘learning a new dance’. April 7 at Mountain Park Church, Lake Oswego. Find helpful videos at and conference details at www.TuffStuffMinistries.com

Cannon Beach Couples Conference Shane and Phillis Womack expertly lead guests through a frank, honest and biblical study of The Song of Solomon we call the Solomon, Sex and Marriage conference. Their skillful presentation is lively, full of content, interesting, and sprinkled with humor and personal stories. April 13-15 at Cannon Beach Conference Center. Details at www.cbcc.net

SAVE THE DATE! July 29 is the 7th Annual Comedy Night starring Kristin & Danny Adams with Jim & Carol Shores. Details and tickets at www.DateNightPDX.org

March 2018

Every Marriage Matters

Helping Marriages Become All God Intended

Check out additional resources at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org