

every marriage matters

From: Every Marriage Matters [mailto:tomdressel@everymarriagematters.ccsend.com] **On Behalf Of** Every Marriage Matters
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 12:09 AM
To: tomdressel@comcast.net
Subject: Five Minutes for Marriage: Do Christian Couples Divorce More Often?

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Five Minutes for Marriage March 2014

One of the best ways you and your church can fight poverty is to work for healthy marriages.

[Eric Metaxas](#) on BreakPoint radio Jan 24, 2014

Click on the orange, bolded title to find the rest of the story.

In This Issue:

[Bulletin Insert](#)
[Class List](#)
[March Video](#)
[Mentoring and Coaching](#)
[Marriage Encouragement](#)
[Marital Research](#)
[Cohabitation and Affairs](#)
[Blended Family Ministry](#)
[Parenting / Youth Ministry](#)
[Distress and Divorce](#)
[Marriage Preparation](#)
[Parting Words](#)

The **BULLETIN INSERT** for March in color, or choose **black & white**. It suggests we surrender our expectations to God.

[Return to Top](#)

The March **CLASS LIST** describes opportunities couples might use to grow their relationships. Is your church offering classes or seminars that should be included here? We would like to add them.

[Return to Top](#)

No, Christianity is Not Bad for Marriage

The data seems to suggest that the role of the local church is vitally important in preventing divorce--in terms of rates of attendance, proximity to pastoral authority and oversight, discipleship, and access to mentorships with older, more experienced couples. Bottom line: the function the church plays in preparing couples for marriage is a very important factor in marital success. That marriage preparation and nurturement is best done in the context of a local congregation is a focal point that pastors should consider when examining whether their churches are fostering healthy marriage cultures.

The study suggests that a conservative way of family life does not work in the modern world unless it is anchored in a community--be it religious or otherwise--that lends social, economic, and cultural support to that way of life. So, churches--especially conservative Protestant ones--need to be a lot more supportive of the young married couples in their pews and outside of their pews. (By Andrew Walker, Canon & Culture)

[Return to top](#)

Your prayers and financial help to strengthen marriage are greatly appreciated

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Steve and Tami Stephens are Directors of Every Marriage Matters where Steve serves as President. Steve is a psychologist in private practice.

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MARCH'S FEATURED VIDEO

John Grey: What Makes Men Happy is Not the Same for Women.

[Return to top](#)

MENTORING AND COACHING

Build a Marriage Coaching Team for your church. Marriage Team will train your coach couples, providing 24 hours of training over two weekends. They will learn using a proven curriculum that offers hope and practical skills to assist couples in all stages of their relationships, from pre-marrieds to seriously challenged couples. Marriage coach couples can be a huge asset to your ministry! Free training starting Fri, Mar 7 at King's Way School, Vancouver, WA. Call Alan Ray at (360) 450-6042.

Guides for the Marriage Journey. When a more experienced couple comes alongside a less experienced couple and allows them to learn from both their successes and their challenges, the tide rises for both couples. Mentoring not only enlightens the newer couples, but it rekindles intimacy for the mentors, too. We call it the boomerang of blessing. (by Dr. Les Parrott with Dr. Leslie Parrott, thrivingfamily.com)

[Return to top](#)

MARRIAGE ENCOURAGEMENT

Building a Lasting Relationship: The Three Pillars of Commitment. When it comes to understanding the fate of any given relationship, I'd argue that knowing something about a couple's commitment level, or their attachment to each other and long-term perspective on the relationship, is critical. (Benjamin Le, Science of Relationships)

[Return to top](#)

MARITAL RESEARCH

Does a More Equal Marriage Mean Less Sex?

"It's the first time in history we are trying this experiment of a sexuality that's rooted in equality and that lasts for decades," Esther Perel said. "It's a tall order for one person to be your partner in Management Inc., your best friend and passionate lover. There's a certain part of you that with this partner will not be fulfilled. You deal with that loss. It's a paradox to be lived with, not solved." (By Lori Gottlieb, New York Times)

[Return to top](#)

COHABITATION AND AFFAIRS

Giving Your Child Unfair Advantage. People spend a lot of time assembling all the things a new baby will need, carefully choosing a crib, soft sleepers, diapers and baby creams. In a matter of several short years the child will have outgrown all of those things. But a child never outgrows the need for stability, a mom and dad committed to making a life and a home. Your precious unborn baby deserves every unfair advantage. Why not give it to him? Why not give him the security of a mother and a father who are also husband and wife?" (Lori Borgman, loriborgman.com)

[Return to top](#)

BLENDED FAMILY MINISTRY

How Stepfamilies Can Be Successful.

Perhaps half of all marriages involve one partner who was previously married. If children are involved, 70% of stepfamilies will divorce, putting everyone through another trauma. Why do so many of these marriages fail? "Putting together or integrating a stepfamily is one of the most difficult tasks for any family in America today. Integrating involves combining two unique family styles, various personalities and preferences, differing traditions, pasts and loyalties," writes Ron Deal, in his must-read book on this subject, The Smart Step-Family. (By Mike McManus, Ethics & Religion Column)

[Return to top](#)

PARENTING / YOUTH MINISTRY

All Pro Dad Breakfasts Have a Lasting Effect.

Consider hosting a breakfast in your kid's school. For help subscribe to the All Pro Dad daily email list and receive links to blog entries daily; go to the website allprodad.com, it is a great place to visit for a plethora of resources or if you would like to get more involved. Using a sports analogy and being backed by Super Bowl-winning coach and fatherhood advocate Tony Dungy, the All Pro Dad Breakfast is another avenue of getting dads into the schools. (Frank Polen, Coshocton (OH) Tribune)

Teach Your Children About Marriage. Raising children isn't easy - and raising them to value and honor marriage is most definitely no simple task. As part of its efforts to help parents create a solid foundation - where children can grow and learn about God's design for the institution - Focus on the Family has created "Teach Your Children

About Marriage." (by Bethany Monk, CitizenLink.com) These booklets are [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#)

[Return to top](#)

DISTRESS AND DIVORCE

[Has Contempt Crept into Your Communication?](#) Watch Out! Contempt is a relationship killer. It can and does destroy marriages. It can wound a child's self image, poison the workplace, and push your friends away. Contempt is criticism with a twist. When I have contempt for another, I put myself above them. It is criticism with a holier-than-thou attitude mixed in. (by Debra Manchester MacMannis, How's Your Family)

[Helping Children Deal With Divorce.](#) The decision to end a marriage is a difficult one that takes a huge emotional toll on the adults involved. When there are children, the impact and consequences of divorce increase significantly. Because of the impact and disruption that divorce has on children, parents must make the right steps in how they interact with their kids during this time. (Ayo & Iken, Florida Attorneys and Advocates)

[Return to top](#)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

[A Few Things Young People Should Know About Marriage.](#) I've spent a lot of time this past year around young 20 somethings - which has been both a joy and privilege. So much energy. So much potential. Because of that, I've been thinking...if I had the first part of my youth and marriage to do over again, what do I know now that would have been helpful to have known then? Because a good marriage is worth the work. It is one of God's sweetest gifts to us. (a four part series by Deanna Davis, her Intersections blog)

[Return to top](#)

PARTING WORDS

Happiness is not the reason for marriage, it is the result of healthy marriage. - Pastor John Mark Comer, A Jesus Church (formerly Solid Rock)

[Return to top](#)

Treasure your spouse. Consider your spouse and your marriage a high priority. Come along side another couple to celebrate Marriage Week.

Pray together! Have fun! Remember the good times! Laugh together!

Respectfully,
Tom and Liz Dressel

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