

## every marriage matters

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**From:** Every Marriage Matters

**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 8:50 AM

**To:**

**Subject:** [Every Marriage Matters] What Are You Doing to Protect Your Marriage?



### Five Minutes for Marriage November 2015

**God only established 2 institutions... Family and church. Discipleship is central to both.**

FamilyLife

Dear

Do you know where you and your relationship are weak? We have an enemy who seeks to devour who also knows your weaknesses. Be prepared, start with a discussion with your spouse. Share candidly your own frailty and those of your relationship. Be proactive, build a defense that the world and Satan cannot overcome. The article [7 Strategies for Protecting Your Marriage](#) offers suggestions, as does Jerry Jenkins' book [Hedges](#).

Tom Dressel

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Our marriage problems are not really marriage problems.

[Weekend to Remember](#) returns to Portland November 20-22 at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion. Great marriages don't just happen. It's a weekend to discover the blueprints for a healthy, happy marriage. Sponsored by the FamilyLife division of CRU. Save \$100 by using the group 'MarriagePDX'. [Pastors](#) are eligible for Free Registration. Be pro-active with your marriage by attending a Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway this year.

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[3 ways opposite-sex friends can hurt your marriage](#). Be VERY careful about having close friends of the opposite sex. Most affairs start out as "friendships" that cross the line. Never give a friend or co-worker of the opposite sex time and attention that rightfully belongs to your spouse. Your spouse should be your best friend, so always protect your marriage. (by Dave Willis, Patheos.com)

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[6 Marks of Healthy Sexuality](#). Seeking a healthy sexual relationship is a fair and good and wise and holy pursuit. These six marks listed in this article aren't exhaustive; there are many more, but here's a short, non-scientific test to see how you and your spouse are doing in regards to sexual intimacy. (Gary Thomas, GaryThomas.com)

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[7 Strategies for Protecting Your Marriage](#). [The author and her husband] were amazed at the constructive conversations [the TV show] Temptation Island initiated -- topics we probably wouldn't broach at the supper table -- such as, "How can we avoid temptation?" and "How can we please each other?" These are good conversations to have, especially in light of today's sex-saturated society. The Bible tells us to "guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the [husband] of your youth" (Malachi 2:15). Here are seven strategies to safeguard your marriage. (by Ginger Kolbaba, "Today's Christian Woman")

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[A prayer for my marriage](#). The author believes in the power of prayer. One of the simplest ways you can invest into your marriage is by praying with and for your spouse. God uses our prayers to change our circumstances and He also uses prayers to change our perspectives. You are encouraged to pray a prayer described (or your own version of it) DAILY. There's nothing at all "magical" about these words, but there is something supernatural that can happen when we pray with faith. (By Dave Willis, Patheos.com)

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[Around the Globe, Less Marriage = More Single Parents](#). This suggests that the global retreat from marriage will leave more children landing in homes headed by a single parent or no parent. In other words, when marriage disappears, so too does the two-parent family. (By Anna Sutherland and W. Bradford Wilcox, Family Studies)

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[Do Children of Single Parents Become Criminals?](#) Ben Carson came under fire recently for daring to suggest that the natural family is still the best family form for the upraising of children. (By Nicole M. King, Mercator.net)

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[Forgiving Your Spouse After Adultery](#). You don't have to have endured infidelity in your marriage to lose trust. Trust can be broken in many different ways. I am still on my journey of having my trust restored in my husband, but I have learned a few things that I hope you will find helpful. (By Cindy Beall, FamilyLife)

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**[Time to 'Go ahead and shack up'?](#)** Cohabitation is trending big in the news once again. Did you hear? Let's talk about the news and what it means. Listed are just a few of the headlines based on a study, just out. They are followed by Scott's analysis. (By Scott Stanley, Sliding vs Deciding blog)

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**[Your Husband's Infidelity Is Not Your Fault.](#)** The idea that wives of bear responsibility for their husband's infidelity can be found nowhere in Scripture. Instead, this narrative seems a horribly misogynistic strategy to use fear of infidelity to compel women to submit to their husband's sexual advances, regardless of their feelings or physical limitations. This has nothing to do with Christian marriage, and actually violates the nature of marriage itself. (by Julie Roys, Christianity Today)

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**[When You Need Some Intervention.](#)** We hate divorce so much that we ignore the other side: God does not want an army of wounded, damaged people; he wants wholeness. When a spouse endangers his or her relationship with the family and with God, something must be done. And if nothing is done, then the spouse is giving cover to the sin. It's scary to ask for help. It requires humility to tell someone else your marriage is messed up. But let's not forget the bigger picture: What does it help to gain the whole world but lose your soul (Matthew 16:26)? Here are five things in marriage that warrant outside intervention. (By Sheila Wray Gregoire, GrowthTrac.com)

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**[When Your Spouse Lets You Down.](#)** When we've been offended, the last thing we want to do is to let it go. And yet, if our desire is to have a healthy, lasting marriage, that is exactly what we've got to do. Here are seven suggestions to keep in mind. (by Dr. Dave Currie with Glen Hoos, FamilyLife)

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**[Why Marriage Shouldn't End Your Dating Life.](#)** Dating your spouse doesn't have to be expensive or difficult, but to maintain-and grow-a healthy marriage, consistently dating your partner is important to do. Listed are a few reasons we all need to continue to date our spouses after we say our vows at the altar.

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### **Last Words**

Our marriage problems are not really marriage problems. They are heart problems. They are God problems. Our lack of intimacy with God causes a void that we try to fill with the frailest of substitutes. Like wealth or pleasure. Like fame or respect. Like people. Like marriage.  
-- from *You and Me Forever: Marriage in the Light of Eternity* by Francis and Lisa Chan

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Tami and Steve Stephens, Directors. Steve also serves at President. Tami serves her family in their home. Steve is a psychologist in Happy Valley.

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What a precious gift our Lord has given you: your spouse! Treasure that gift as you treasure your relationship with God. Strengthen both of these relationships by spending time with them. Pray together! Rejoice together! Laugh together!

Rejoicing,

Tom and Liz Dressel  
**Every Marriage Matters**  
[tmdressel@comcast.net](mailto:tmdressel@comcast.net)  
Phone: (503) 468-7054  
Cell: (503) 655-1489

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Every Marriage Matters | 1005 Woodlawn Ave | Oregon City | OR | 97045