

A Challenge for the New Year

One of the most beautiful things Jesus ever said was, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). Known as The Golden Rule, this statement from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount embodies the call to love in the most simple terms possible. It also puts the emphasis on a simple "do."

But wanting to do what's right and knowing how to do it are two different things. We take issue with the common belief among Christians – the belief that if your heart and soul are in harmony with God, you'll somehow automatically know just what to do in your marriage. We don't buy that.

Prospering spiritually does not mean that you know how to do the things that nurture a marriage. For example, do you know how to really listen to your mate, even when tensions are high or you disagree? More important, can you stop an argument before damaging things are said? Do you know how to problem solve as a team, how to work through the process of forgiveness together, how to clarify your deepest expectations, how to enhance and deepen commitment?

These are things you can learn, and when learned well, they can help you develop and keep the kind of marriage you want most. They are ways to put your love in action.

– Dr Scott Stanley, et al, in the book *A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage*

Great marriages take work. Commit in 2017 to take a relationship class or seminar and/or read a good book on relationships together, to date more often, to take time daily to share a cup of coffee and talk together. Dream and plan for future fun together. Go for the gusto!

ABCs of marriage in a great read is Dr Scott Stanley's *A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage*



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.

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Renew your marriage for the New Year. For info about the weekend at Mt. Angel on Jan. 20-22. Details at www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

HALF PRICE! The Weekend to Remember

Renew your love and commitment to one another. Reminisce all the reasons why you married. Restore a little romance. BOGO (Buy One, Get One free) for any U.S. weekends from Jan 9-23. The Sunriver WTR is Mar 10-12. WeekendToRemember.com. Also check out the WTR at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC on Feb 17-19. Register at FamilyLifeCanada.com before Jan 31 for a 2 for 1 Special. A strong U.S. dollar helps make Canada affordable.

Art of Marriage is a fresh approach to a video event delightfully discussing God's design for marriage, including: ♥engaging stories; ♥real-life testimonies; ♥man-on-the-street interviews; ♥humorous vignettes. Feb 3-4 at Estacada First Baptist Church. Details at www.EstacadaFirstBaptistChurch.org

Goals for 2017: Have fun! Enjoy your spouse!
Date often, even weekly!

January 2017
Every Marriage Matters
Advocates for Healthy Marriage
Check out additional resources at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org