

11 Things a Husband and Wife Must Agree On

In marriage, there are certain things that you can “agree to disagree” on and other things that you absolutely must agree upon. A husband and wife must agree on the following.

1. You are married for life, no matter what; except possibly for unfaithfulness, abuse or abandonment. Therefore, the “D” word, divorce, should never be used.
2. Your marriage is a top priority and you will do whatever you need to do to strengthen it.
3. You will strive to meet the sexual needs of your mate. Sex will not be withheld as punishment or because of lack of interest.
4. You will always be honest with your spouse and will speak the truth in love. That means no secrets.
5. Whether you would like to have children and how many you would like to have.
6. Where you will live and what you will live in.
7. When and how you will discipline your children.
8. You and your spouse will always honor your parents and in-laws, but you and your spouse, not your parents or in-laws, will make the decisions in your marriage and for your children.
9. How much you will spend, save and share.
10. Whether you will have debt and, if so, what kind and how much you will allow.
11. Who you will worship and where you will worship.

Which of these areas is toughest for you and your spouse to agree upon?

– Mark Merrill, Family First
www.markmerrill.com

Check out Dave and Ann Evans' book *Vertical Marriage*
Also available as a DVD group study



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.

Weekend to Remember A time to renew your love and commitment to one another and to restore a little romance in your relationship. It is a weekend to discover the blueprints for a healthy, happy marriage. Mar 6-8 at Sunriver, also at Seattle Apr 3-5 and Lake Tahoe Apr 17-19. Save \$100 when you register using the group “MarriagePDX”. Details at WeekendToRemember.com.

Engaged Encounter Lay and clergy 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 religion, money, planning and sex. At Our Lady of Peace, Beaverton. Register at 0regonEngagedEncounter.org

Marriage Coach Training MarriageTeam offers 24 hours of free marriage coach training for Christian couples who want to become volunteer marriage coaches. Training starts March 14 for two consecutive weekends. At US Digital Outreach Center, Vancouver. Details at MarriageTeam.org or call (360) 450-6042.

Cannon Beach Couples Conference at Cannon Beach Conference Center. Shane and Phillis Womack will address difficult issues such as: How to eliminate sexual refusal; How to develop sexual intimacy; How to avoid emotional affairs, and much more. Their skillful presentation is lively, full of content, interesting, and sprinkled with humor and personal stories. Apr 17-19, details at www.cbcc.net

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Every Marriage Matters

Advocates for Healthy Marriage

Check out additional resources at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org

