

## GOING FURTHER – Church Support

### **@Home Room Resources**

Practical tools for various seasons of marriage are available from the @Home Room or online at [athomecalvary.org](http://athomecalvary.org) including...

POINTER: *Building a Strong Marriage*

POINTER: *Preparing for Baby*

POINTER: *A Difficult Marriage*

POINTER: *An Unbelieving Spouse*

### **Emmaus Road Saturday Fellowship**

We, men of God, want to allow God to speak to us as we travel the road of life! Join us as we share His Word, praise and worship His Name, and sharpen one another! Let us leave with burning hearts to be Men of God, living the will of God and doing so Back to Back! Join us Saturdays, 7-9AM.

### **Marriages That Last**

Please check your e-bulletin or call the church office for upcoming Marriage Ministry events. We offer *Love & Respect* and *The Art of Marriage* classes at least once per year. You can also email the Marriage Ministry at [marriageministry@calvarycch.org](mailto:marriageministry@calvarycch.org) for more information.

# The Intentional Husband



A ministry of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills • [calvarycch.org](http://calvarycch.org)

Go to [www.athomecalvary.org](http://www.athomecalvary.org) for more information and resources.

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# Tools For Men

# Building a God-Honoring Marriage

*from Pastor George Sasso, CCCH Marriage & Family Ministry  
and Kurt Bruner, The Center for Strong Families*

No man plans to become part of a broken family or a miserable couple. We marry because we yearn for a life-long, thriving relationship. So, how can men become intentional about building a God-honoring marriage?

## **PRIORITY ONE: Discover God's Design for Marriage**

We must understand that every marriage is intended to be a masterpiece reflecting THE marriage between God and His people. Marriage is the most frequent metaphor used in the Bible to describe God's relationship with His people. In fact, writing to the Ephesians, Paul called marriage a "profound mystery" because it is a picture of "Christ and the church."

## **PRIORITY TWO: Commit to a Covenant Marriage**

Today's civil marriages are much like business contracts—easy to get into and easy to get out of. God's covenant with His people was a promise to remain eternally faithful even if His people weren't faithful in return. In covenant marriage, both spouses are committed for a lifetime—in sickness and health, for better or worse. They don't threaten divorce or consider it as an option.

## **PRIORITY THREE: Pursue a Passionate Marriage**

Couples aren't supposed to just stick it out and find a way to make their marriages survive. God calls us to pursue a passionate, thriving marriage. The Song of Solomon expresses the kind of love, joy and celebration God designed for marriage. That passion is built on much more than infatuation and sexual desire. It is rooted in the physical, emotional and spiritual intimacy God created couples to experience as a foretaste of the eternal unity, communion and intimacy we can have with God.

## **PRIORITY FOUR: Become Heroic in Marriage**

Christ made the ultimate sacrifice to rescue humanity. Writing to the Ephesians, Paul connected Christ's sacrifice directly to marriage: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25) and "Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands" (Ephesians 5:24). In other words, mutual submission to one another requires giving up our own interests to heroically serve the other person.

## **PRIORITY FIVE: Fight for Your Marriage**

Every couple will mess up. Too often, however, they also choose to give up. Throughout scripture, God fights for His relationship with His people, remaining faithful in the face of unfaithfulness. He forgives again and again. No couple can avoid strife and arguments, but we can avoid giving the "devil a foothold" in our marriages by keeping short accounts and quickly restoring the relationship regardless of what happens.

## **PRIORITY SIX: Take Initiative**

Men are called to move beyond passivity by taking initiative when it comes to nurturing a strong marriage. Take advantage of the *Going Further* ideas below to get started now.

## **GOING FURTHER - Resources**

*It should be noted that Calvary Chapel Chino Hills does not necessarily endorse any particular resource and the entirety of its content.*

### **Recommended Books:**

*Available from the CCCH Bookstore*

#### ***Turnaround At Home*** by Jack and Lisa Hibbs

You will learn how the spiritual, emotional and social legacy combine to create a strong or weak heritage. You will also discover practical ideas for giving a strong heritage to the next generation.

#### ***The Marriage Masterpiece*** by Al Janssen

Unveils the beauty of God's design for every marriage.

#### ***Love and Respect*** by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Discusses a powerful biblical model for each spouse understanding and meeting the other's most deeply felt need.

#### ***The Five Love Languages*** by Gary Chapman

Describes how to discover and serve your spouse's unique love language.

#### ***Sheet Music*** by Kevin Leman

Sex is about the quality of your entire love life, not just the alignment of your bodies.

#### ***Simply Romantic Nights Kit*** from Family Life Ministries

Discover intimacy in a new light using a series of his/her date night ideas.