

Marriage

1. LOVE AND SACRIFICE

Edifying your spouse begins with love, modeled after Christ's love for the church—a selfless, sacrificial love.

Ephesians 5:25: "HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR HFR."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND. IT DOES NOT ENVY, IT DOES NOT BOAST, IT IS NOT PROUD. ... IT ALWAYS PROTECTS, ALWAYS TRUSTS, ALWAYS HOPES, ALWAYS PERSEVERES."

Loving your spouse unconditionally creates an environment of growth and mutual encouragement.

Resources

Being Intentional in Your Marriage Devotional

3 Not-So-Common Issues that Can Cause Emotional Distance in Marriage

> Help for Abusive Relationships

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2. WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The Bible underscores the power of words to build up or tear down. Use your words to encourage, affirm, and uplift your spouse.

Proverbs 18:21: "THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH, AND THOSE WHO LOVE IT WILL EAT ITS FRUIT."

Ephesians 4:29: "DO NOT LET ANY UNWHOLESOME TALK COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS, BUT ONLY WHAT IS HELPFUL FOR BUILDING OTHERS UP ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS, THAT IT MAY BENEFIT THOSE WHO LISTEN."

Speak life into your spouse's heart by recognizing their efforts, strengths, and value.

3. MUTUAL RESPECT

Respect is foundational for a thriving marriage, as it honors the image of God in your spouse.

Ephesians 5:33: "HOWEVER, EACH ONE OF YOU ALSO MUST LOVE HIS WIFE AS HE LOVES HIMSELF, AND THE WIFE MUST RESPECT HER HUSBAND."

Respecting and esteeming one another fosters trust and unity.

4. SERVING ONE ANOTHER

Edifying your spouse includes serving them with humility and joy, as modeled by Christ.

Galatians 5:13: "SERVE ONE ANOTHER HUMBLY IN LOVE."

Philippians 2:3-4: "DO NOTHING OUT OF SELFISH AMBITION OR VAIN CONCEIT. RATHER, IN HUMILITY VALUE OTHERS ABOVE YOURSELVES, NOT LOOKING TO YOUR OWN INTERESTS BUT EACH OF YOU TO THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHERS."

Seek ways to meet your spouse's needs, whether emotional, physical, or spiritual.

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5. BUILDING SPIRITUAL INTIMACY

Edify your spouse by growing together in faith, praying for and with them, and encouraging their walk with God.

Colossians 3:16: "LET THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST DWELL AMONG YOU RICHLY AS YOU TEACH AND ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER WITH ALL WISDOM THROUGH PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SONGS FROM THE SPIRIT."

1 Thessalonians 5:11: "THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP, JUST AS IN FACT YOU ARE DOING."

Spiritual connection strengthens the foundation of your marriage.

6. FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

Edifying your spouse means extending forgiveness and grace, reflecting God's love.

Colossians 3:13: "BEAR WITH EACH OTHER AND FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER IF ANY OF YOU HAS A GRIEVANCE AGAINST SOMEONE. FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU."

1 Peter 4:8: "ABOVE ALL, LOVE EACH OTHER DEEPLY, BECAUSE LOVE COVERS OVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."

Forgiving your spouse helps restore and maintain a healthy relationship.

Resources