

Making Relationships BETTER THAN AVERAGE
“Making Your MARRIAGE Better Than Average” – Pt 1 of 5
September 10, 2017

Paul: “God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others..” **1 Corinthians 7:7 (Message)**

“Marriage should be honored by everyone. . .” **Hebrews 13:4a (NCV)**

WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS: GOD CREATED IT. . .

1. FOR THE _____ OF MEN AND WOMEN

“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is suitable for him.” **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

Jesus said, “But God made them male and female from the beginning of creation. This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what GOD has joined together.” **Mark 10:6-9 (NLT)**

2. FOR THE _____ OF THE HUMAN RACE

“So God created people in his own image; He patterned them after himself—creating both male and female. Then God blessed them and commanded them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply! Fill the earth!’” **Genesis 1:27-28a (NLT)**

“God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Godly children from your union. So guard the spirit of marriage within you.” **Malachi 2:15 (Message)**

3. FOR THE _____ OF CHILDREN

“Those who obey and respect the Lord have a secure fortress; their children have a place of refuge and security.” **Proverbs 14:26**

4. FOR THE _____ OF OUR CHARACTER

“It’s selfish and stupid to think only of yourself. . .” **Proverbs 18:1 (CEV)**

“Love sincerely...Hold on to what is good. Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other.”

Romans 12:9-10 (GW)

5. FOR THE _____ OF SOCIETY

“Righteousness lifts up a nation, but sin brings disgrace to any society.”

Proverbs 14:34 (GW)

6. FOR THE _____ OF OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

“Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. . . In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. . . No one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their own body just as Christ does the church. The Scripture says, ‘a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church! So each husband must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” **Ephesians 5:25-33 (NIV)**

**HOW TO FIGHT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE
IN THE SEASONS OF LIFE**

• **SPRINGTIME:** The season of _____

Act like you did before you were married. Make time for each other. Be intentional

• **SUMMER:** The season of _____

Invest in your relationship. Bank the good times. Do maintenance when it's good.

• **FALL:** The season of _____

Good changes. Bad changes. Be willing to adjust. Remember selfishness. Grow up.

• **WINTER:** The season of _____

Death, an affair, bankruptcy, cancer, mental illness, a child breaks your heart. One of the benefits, if done correctly, is you become very intimate. You allow your mate to know more of you; the ugly you. Fully known; fully accepted.