

Further Resources:

www.nationalmarriageproject.org

Books:

- “The Meaning of Marriage” – Tim Keller
- “Love & War” – John & Stasi Eldredge
- “His Needs, Her Needs” – Willard F. Harley Jr.
- “The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating” – Andy Stanley
- “People to Be Loved: Why Homosexuality is Not Just an Issue” – Preston Sprinkle

Right Now Media:

- “iMarriage” – Andy Stanley
- “The Mingling of Souls” – Matt Chandler
- “Love and Respect” – Emerson & Sarah Eggerichs
- “Marriage: Built to Last” – Chip Ingram
- “Grace/Truth 1.0” – Preston Sprinkle

Podcasts:

- Preston Sprinkle – “Theology in the Raw”
- Jon Tyson (Church of the City New York) “Controversial Jesus” sermon series.
- StAAC – Nathan C – Jesus on Divorce
<http://staalliance.org/resources/teaching/jesus-on-divorce-part-1/>
<http://staalliance.org/resources/teaching/jesus-on-divorce-part-2/>

Upcoming Sermons:

January 27 - Mutual Honour in Marriage

February 3 - Honouring the Journey of the Single Person

February 10 - Exploring God’s Design for Sexuality

February 17 - Exploring God’s Design for Sexuality
A Biblical View on Same-Sex Attraction

February 24 - Exploring God’s Design for Sexuality
An Honest Wrestle with Same-Sex Attraction
A Personal Story (Journey Canada)

March 3 - The Gift of Sexual Intimacy in Marriage



The Foundation of Friendship

Jeremy & Lisa Peters ~ January 20, 2019

Three Characteristics of True Friendship

1. CONSTANCY

“A friend loves at all times...”

Proverbs 17:17 NIV

“One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Proverbs 18:24 NIV

2. Transparency & CANDOR

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

Proverbs 27:9 NIV

An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

Proverbs 27:5-6 NLT

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Proverbs 27:17 NLT

3. Common **PASSION/INTEREST**

C.S. Lewis: *“Friendship arises . . . when two or more . . . discover that they have in common some insight or interest . . . Friendship must be about something, even if it were only an enthusiasm for dominoes or white mice. Those who have nothing can share nothing; those who are going nowhere can have no fellow-travelers.”*

Vision of Friendship within Christian Marriage

Physical attraction is an **UNRELIABLE** indicator of relational compatibility.

Andy Stanley: *“[The truth is] You are sexually compatible with far more people than you are relationally compatible with.”*

“And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” Mark 12:30 NLT

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...” Matthew 6:33 ESV

Francis Chan: *“Honestly, most of the problems we experience in marriage stem from a lack of relationship with God, which means they are not really marriage problems. They’re God problems.”*

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions

Reflect together on the following two quotes and the extent to which they describe your current experience and mindset in relationship. What could you do to be this kind of friend and, if applicable, this kind of spouse?

Regarding Friendship:

Maria Dinah: *“...the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person – having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.”*

Regarding Marriage:

Tim Keller: *“Within the Christian vision for marriage, here’s what it means to fall in love. It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of the person God is creating, and to say, “I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to His throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, ‘I always knew you could be like this. I got a glimpse of it on earth, but now look at you!’”*

“....most people, when they are looking for a spouse, are looking for a finished statue when they should be looking for a wonderful block of marble. Not so you can create the kind of person you want, but rather because you can see the kind of person Jesus is making.”
