

# Fighting for An Awesome Marriage

Awesome Relationships – Message 1

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*St. Paul: “We all are given different gifts. God gives the gift of marriage to some and to others he gives the gift of singleness.”*

**1 Corinthians 7:7 (NLT)**

*“Marriage should be honored by everyone. . .”*

**Hebrews 13:4a (NCV)**

## WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS: GOD CREATED IT. . .

### 1. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

*“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who is right for him.”*

**Genesis 2:18**

*Jesus said, “God’s plan has been seen from the beginning of creation, when he made us male and female. This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united as one body. Now since they are no longer two but one, no one should separate them, for GOD has joined them together.”*

**Mark 10:6-9 (NLT)**

### 2. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

*“So God created people in his own image; He patterned them after himself—creating both male and female with his image. 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 (Mes)**

### 3. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

*“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 \_\_\_\_\_

*“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**

5. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Proverbs 14:34 (GW)**

6. FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_

*“Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. . . He died so that he could give the church to himself as a Bride in all her beauty. . . In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. . . No one ever hates his own body, but feeds and takes care of it. And that is what Christ does for his church, his body. The Scripture says, ‘a man is united with his wife, and the two become one body.’ 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 each wife must respect her husband.”*

**Ephesians 5:25-33**

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

• **SPRINGTIME:**

• **SUMMER:**

• **FALL:**

• **WINTER:**

# Fighting for An Awesome Family

*Awesome Relationships – Message 2*

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## 4 TRAITS OF AWESOME FAMILIES

### 1. AWESOME FAMILIES

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*Solomon: “I commend the enjoyment of life . . .”*

**Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NIV)**

*“People ought to enjoy every day of their lives, no matter how long they live.”*

**Ecclesiastes 11:8a (NCV)**

*“Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love . . .”*

**Ecclesiastes 9:9 (NIV)**

*“Children are a gift from God.”*

**Psalms 127:3 (LB)**

*“I recommend having fun . . . That way you will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives you.”*

**Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NLT)**

### 2. AWESOME FAMILIES

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*“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with man.”*

**Luke 2:52 (NIV)**

## What Do We Learn From Our Families?

### How?

#### • THROUGH

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*Jesus: “Since I have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”*

**John 13:14-15 (NLT)**

• **THROUGH** \_\_\_\_\_

*“You must teach God’s commandments to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning.”*

**Deuteronomy 6:7 (LB)**

• **NOT THROUGH** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Don’t keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Instead bring them up with the loving training and teaching of the Lord.”*

**Ephesians 6:4**

• **NOT THROUGH** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Each person should judge his own actions and not compare himself with others. Then he can be proud for what he himself has done.”*

**Galatians 6:4 (NCV)**

**3. AWESOME FAMILIES** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Two are better than one . . . If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it’s just too bad, because there is no one to help him.”*

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (GN)**

**Types:**

**4. AWESOME FAMILIES** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds.”*

**Hebrews 10:24 (NCV)**

*“He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; they gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.”*

**Acts 10:2 (NIV)**

*“Choose today whom you will serve . . . As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord!”*

**Joshua 24:15 (NLT)**

# Making Friends for an Eternity

## Awesome Relationships – Message 3

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*“Now we rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God – all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins – making us friends of God.”*

**Rom. 5:11 (LB)**

*“God has restored our relationship with Him through Christ, and He has given us this ministry of restoring relationships.”*

**2 Cor. 5:18 (GWT)**

## HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE TO UNBELIEVERS

**BE** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”*

**Luke 6:31 (NIV)**

**REFUSE** \_\_\_\_\_

*“We can say with confidence and a clear conscience that we have been honest and sincere in all our dealings.”*

**2 Cor. 1:12a (NLT)**

**IDENTIFY** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.”*

**1 Cor. 9:22b (LB)**

**DEMONSTRATE** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ.”*

**Eph. 5:1-2 (NLT)**

*“Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.”*

**1 John 3:17 (LB)**

*“Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God’s Good News with you, but even our own lives.”*

**1 Th. 2:8 (NCV)**

## **GIVE CREDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_

*“For we must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others...”*

**Rom. 15:2 (LB)**

## **EXPECT** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Jesus to His disciples) “... Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

**Matt. 10:19-20 (NIV)**

# What Destroys Relationships and What Builds Them?

Awesome Relationships – Message 4

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*“Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.”*

**Rom. 12:5 (GW)**

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.

*“What causes fights and quarrels? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but you don’t get it.”*

**James 4:1-2 (NIV)**

*“Selfishness only causes trouble.”*

**Pr. 28:25 (TEV)**

## \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDS THEM.

*“Look out for one another’s interests, not just for your own.”*

**Phil. 2:4 (TEV)**

*“The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others – and ignoring God – harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, and eternal life.”*

**Gal. 6:8 (Mes)**

*“Live freely, animated and motivated by God’s Spirit. Then you won’t feed the compulsions of selfishness.”*

**Gal. 5:16 (Mes)**

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.

*“Pride leads to arguments.”*

**Pr. 13:10 (LB)**

*“Pride will destroy a person: a proud attitude leads to ruin.”*

**Pr. 16:18 (NCV)**

*“First pride, then the crash – the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.”*

**(Mes)**

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**BUILDS THEM.**

*“Live in harmony, be sympathetic, love each other, have compassion, and be humble.”*

**1 Peter 3:8 (GW)**

*“...Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves...your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God.”*

**Phil. 2:3, 5-6 (NCV/NLT)**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.**

*“The fear of human opinion disables.”*

**Pr. 29:25 (Mes)**

*Adam: “I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”*

**Gen. 3:10 (NIV)**

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**BUILDS THEM.**

*“Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid... it shows that His love has not been perfected in us.”*

**1 John 4:18 (NLT)**

*“All who proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them... We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in Him. God is love ... And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid...”*

**1 John 4:15-17 (NLT)**

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS.**

*“To worry yourself to death with resentment is a foolish, senseless thing to do.”*

**Job 5:2 (TEV)**

*“Since my heart was embittered and my soul deeply wounded, I was stupid and could not understand.”*

**Ps. 73:21-22 (NAB)**

*“Look after each other... Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.”*

**Heb. 12:15 (LB)**

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**BUILDS THEM.**

*“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

**Col. 3:13 (NLT)**

*“Once our lives were full of resentment and envy. But then... Christ saved us – not because we were good enough to be saved but because of His kindness and love – by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit... all because of what Jesus our Savior did so that He could declare us good in God’s eyes.”*

**Titus 3:3-7 (LB)**

*The Lord says, “Forget what happened before and do not think about the past. I am going to do something new... I will make rivers on dry land.”*

**Isaiah 43:18-19 (GW)**

# Finding the Love of Your Life

*Awesome Relationships – Message 5*

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*“The righteous chooses his friends carefully.”*

**Proverbs 12:26**

## CORRECTING 2 MYTHS

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- \_\_\_\_\_

### “MUST HAVES”

#### 1. WE MUST HAVE

*“Stop forming inappropriate relationships with unbelievers. Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything in common with darkness?... Can a believer share life with an unbeliever?”*

**2 Cor. 6:14-15 (GW)**

*“Do not unite yourself with an unbeliever; they are not fit mates for you.”*

**2 Cor. 6:14 (NEB)**

*“I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.”*

**Rom. 1:12 (NCV)**

#### 2. WE MUST HAVE

*“Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?”*

**Amos 3:3 (NLT)**

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

**Eph. 2:10 (NIV)**

*“Each of you has received a gift from God for serving others. Now you must be faithful to develop and use that gracious gift from God!”*

**1 Peter 4:10 (NCV)**

*“Brothers and sisters, you are holy partners in a heavenly CALLING.”*

**Heb. 3:1a (GW)**

### **3. WE MUST BOTH BE**

#### **A PARTIAL CHECKLIST OF EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

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*“Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man! Do not associate with one easily angered.”*

**Prov. 22:24 (NIV)**

• \_\_\_\_\_

*“Don’t associate with people who drink too much, or stuff themselves with food.”*

**Prov. 23:20 (TEV)**

• \_\_\_\_\_

*“Make sure you all have experienced the grace of God so that bitterness doesn’t take root and grow, because that causes much trouble and will corrupt you.”*

**Hebrews 12:15**

*“If you curse your father or mother, the lamp of your life will be snuffed out.”*

**Prov. 20:20 (NLT)**

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*“Selfish people cause trouble.”*

**Prov. 28:25**

*“People who do not get along with others are only interested in themselves; they will disagree with what everyone else knows is right.”*

**Prov. 18:1 (TEV)**

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*“A greedy man brings trouble to his family.”*

**Prov. 15:27**

*“Don’t eat at the table of a stingy person.”*

**Prov. 23:6 (TEV)**

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*“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”*

**Prov. 11:25 (NIV)**

*“A kindhearted woman gains respect... and a kind man benefits himself, but cruel people bring trouble on themselves.”*

**Prov. 11:17**

• \_\_\_\_\_

*“A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity. His children will be blessed, even after he is gone.”*

**Prov. 20:7**

## **ENDING A DEAD-END DATING RELATIONSHIP**

*“In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery.”*

**Pr. 28:23 (NLT)**

# Becoming Best Friends with God

## Awesome Relationships – Message 6

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*“Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.”*

**James 4:8a (NLT)**

*“We were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, so we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. NOW we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God!”*

**Romans 5:10-11 (NLT)**

*Jesus: “I no longer call you servants... Instead, I call you my friends!”*

**John 15:15**

*“... He is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.”*

**Exodus 34:14 (NLT)**

*GOD: “I don’t want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don’t want your offerings—I want you to know me!”*

**Hosea 6:6 (LB)**

*“Starting from scratch, God made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so that we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him!”*

**Acts 17:26-27 (Mes)**

## HOW TO BUILD A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Everything else is worthless compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus. I’ve discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may know Christ.”*

**Philippians 3:8 (NLT)**

*“You will find me when you seek me with ALL your heart.”*

**Jeremiah 29:13**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Be still, and know that I am God.”*

**Psalms 46:10a (NIV)**

*“Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who reverence him. With them he shares the secrets of his covenant.”*

**Psalm 25:14**

*“When you come before God, don’t turn it into a theatrical production . . . Just find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.”*

**Matthew 6:5-6 (Mes)**

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_

*“You should know that loving the world is the same as hating God. Anyone who wants to be a friend of the ‘world’ becomes an enemy of God.”*

**James 4:4 (NCV)**

*Jesus: “You are my friends if you obey me.”*

**John 15:14 (NLT)**

**4.** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Pray all the time!”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:17**

*“My determined purpose is that I may know Him—that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly.”*

**Philippians 3:10 (Amp)**

**5.** \_\_\_\_\_

*“Cast all your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.”*

**Psalm 55:22**

## **In Trouble?**

*“I’ll get you out of your trouble. And I’ll give you the best of care if you’ll only get to know and trust me.”*

**Psalm 91:14 (Mes)**

## **Drifted Away From God?**

*“If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me. If you speak words that are worthy, you will be my spokesman. You are to influence them; do not let them influence you!”*

**Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT)**

*“No one shows greater love than when he lays down his life for his friends. And you are my friends IF you do what I command.”*

**John 15:13-14**

*“And this is what God commands: that we believe in his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love each other, just as he commanded.”*

**1 John 3:23 (NCV)**