

THE MISSION OF MARRIAGE

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.
Ephesians 5:25-27

- **The mission of marriage for every husband and wife should be DEEP FRIENDSHIP.**

"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."
Genesis 2:18

THE MARKS OF MARITAL FRIENDSHIP:

1. **Marital friendship learns TRANSPARENCY.**

The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.
Proverbs 27:9

2. **Marital friendship practices CONSISTENCY.**

A friend loves at all times...
Proverbs 17:17

3. **Marital friendship expresses SYMPATHY and COMPASSION.**

Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2

4. **Marital friendship cultivates INTIMACY.**

"His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."
Song of Solomon 5:16

5. **Marital friendship prioritizes CREATIVITY and FUN!**

Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is your reward for all your earthly toil.
Ecclesiastes 9:9

- Marriage is a way for two spiritual **FRIENDS** to help each other **BECOME** the persons God designed them to be.

"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!"
-Tim Keller

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Ephesians 5:25

