



# Living Well

## What We can Learn from Them



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Check out these websites for more information:

For more detailed information about the ministry - [www.livingwelloc.org](http://www.livingwelloc.org)  
 Photos and writings about the ministry - [www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com)  
 Encouragement/culture on marriage - [www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com](http://www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com)  
 Marriage events in the state, resources for marriage - [www.marriagenetworkok.net](http://www.marriagenetworkok.net)  
 Making Marriage Memorable blog - [www.marriagenetworkok.nblogger.com](http://www.marriagenetworkok.nblogger.com)

### Marriage in the Bible ...

**Marriage is God's doing because it is a one-flesh union that God Himself performs.** John Piper

*When we say "they have a good marriage," what does that mean to you? What do you think of?*

Descriptions of **marriages in the Bible** are actually pretty much non-existent. What we see are incidents that are recounted between husbands and wives – the good, the bad, and the ugly.

**We can learn from them**, the good and the bad. We can also learn from other people today (see the article below and on the back).

**The Bible begins with a marriage and ends with a marriage.** In between is a love story - the love of a Father for a Son - finding a bride for His Son.

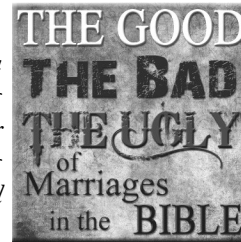
The first marriage in the Bible gives the foundation for **each of us to have a good marriage, a godly marriage.**

*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

*The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.* (Genesis 2:24-25)

The **four principles** that we learn from that marriage are:

**1. Leave** - We leave our family of origin (the family we grew up in) and form a new family unit. We **still love, respect, and honor our parents**, but we **put our new family first. We do not depend on our family of origin emotionally, physically, or financially.**



**2. Unite - or cleave.** The husband and wife join together to become a new family unit. We are to be **united for life**, which takes commitment to the marriage and to the very best for each other.

**3. One flesh** – that phrase carries the idea of **"one life lived together,"** a oneness. We are still two individuals with different personalities, but we live our lives together. We have **the same values and goals.** We are like-minded but not alike.

**4. Intimacy** – *naked and not ashamed.* They had a transparency between them, physically and emotionally. Spiritually, they displayed the character of God to each other. Sin changed everything (see the back)

### Top Strengths of Happy Couples .....

Prepare-Enrich (we use them to do assessments for marriages) compiled some research based on the assessments of 50,000 couples. These are the **Top Ten Strengths of Happy Couples** from their research compiled in 2008. Each quality is followed by the percent of happy couples who agreed with the statement.

1. We **feel very close** to each other. 93% of Happy Couples
2. I am **very satisfied** with how we **talk** to each other. 95%
3. When we discuss problems, **my partner understands** my opinions and ideas. 78%
4. I can **express my true feelings** to my partner. 96%
5. We **compromise** when problems arise. 83%
6. Our **togetherness** is a top priority for me. 83%
7. Even during disagreements, I can **share my feelings and ideas** with my partner. 78%
8. I am satisfied with the amount of **affection** my partner gives. 68%
9. We find it easy to think of **things to do together.** 81%
10. My partner is **reliable and follows through** on most things. 75%

On the reverse side:

**More Good, Bad, and Ugly**

**Top Ten Problems**

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Our next class →  
Mondays, 7-8:30 pm  
Sept. 10 - Nov. 5  
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living  
well  
inMarriage



*Join us for the Journey  
Whether you are married, engaged, or  
at the "is this the one" stage .....  
this class will enrich the Journey!*

## More Good, Bad, and Ugly Marriages in the Bible ....

### **As God by creation made two of one, so again by marriage He made one of two.**

Thomas Adams

**Adam and Eve** started with a perfect marriage in a perfect environment, but that changed when sin entered the picture. Their experience (detailed in Genesis 3) is common to all marriages. [see our blog for more explanations and more marriage examples]

### **The Problems**

1. **Lack of leadership**, Adam being silent/passive
2. **Shame** as they covered themselves after the sin.
3. **Fear in relationships** – being afraid of God or afraid of others, or using fear to control others

4. **Blame** – not taking responsibility for my part, not being teachable

5. **Life is Hard** – we will all have hard things in life, designed to bring us back to Him.

### **Joseph and Mary**

From their story in Matthew 1, we find several traits of Joseph in marriage:

1. **Followed God** – righteous, listened and obeyed God
2. **Compassionate** – he didn't want Mary to be disgraced publicly.
3. **Faithful** – kept his promise, he followed through and married Mary.
4. **Self-controlled** – did not have sex with her until after Jesus was born, so

that she would remain a virgin in accordance with the Scripture.

5. **Good stepfather** – trained him spiritually and in a trade

### **Priscilla and Aquila**

This couple is a great example of oneness. Their names are always mentioned together in the Bible. (Acts 18:1-4, 18-20, 24-26; Rom. 16:3-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19)

**Their togetherness** shows in significant ways:

1. **Work** - making tents together
2. **Spiritual growth** - studied/grew together
3. **Service** - In ministry, they demonstrated serving the Lord as one.

### **Hosea and Gomer**

This couple shows some of the ugliness that can occur in marriage. Gomer (the wife) slides into immorality. God tells Hosea to go after her. The picture is not just about a marriage but also is intended to show God's love for the nation of Israel. In Hosea 3:1, *The Lord said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, ....*

In Hosea, we see him show a **forever love, faithfulness, and forgiveness**. All these qualities are necessary for a godly marriage today. [see our blog for more]

## Top Problems .....

**Top Ten Problems for Married Couples** from research compiled by Prepare-Enrich, followed by percent that identified with the statement.

1. My partner is sometimes **too stubborn**. 84%
2. **Having children** reduced our marital satisfaction. 81%

3. My partner is sometimes **too negative or critical**. 78%

4. During an argument, one person ends up **feeling responsible** for the problem. 77%

5. My partner does **not have enough time and energy** for me. 77%

6. I go out of my way to **avoid conflict** with my partner. 76%

7. I wish my partner were **more willing to share feelings**. 76%

8. My partner has some **personal habits that bother me**. 75%

9. I have difficulty dealing with my **partner's moodiness**. 73%

10. My partner and I have **dissimilar recreational interests**. 73%