

Making Marriage Work by . . .
Choosing a New Partner
Ephesians 5
Pastor Jim Hottenstein
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Beginning steps to making marriage work:

1. Choosing a new partner. (Ephesians 5:18)

“A magnificent marriage begins not with knowing one another but with knowing God.”

Gary and Betsy Ricucci, as quoted in *Sacred Marriage*,
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2000, p. 73.

2. Choosing a new perspective. (Ephesians 5:26-27, 32)

“Marriage is the operation by which a woman’s vanity and a man’s egotism are extracted without anesthetic.”

Helen Rowland, as quoted in *Sacred Marriage*,
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2000, p. 89.

“One of the best wedding gifts God gave you was a full-length mirror called your spouse. Had there been a card attached, it would have said, ‘Here’s to helping you discover what you’re really like!’”

Gary and Betsy Ricucci, as quoted in *Sacred Marriage*,
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2000, p. 89.

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas

(Available at the resource table in the Lobby for a suggested donation of \$8.00. Please make checks payable to CBC.)

Synopsis:

“Your marriage is more than a sacred covenant with another person. It is a spiritual discipline designed to help you know God better, trust him more fully, and love him more deeply. Scores of books have been written that offer guidance for building the marriage of your dreams. But what if God's primary intent for your marriage isn't to make you happy...but holy?

And what if your relationship isn't as much about you and your spouse as it is about you and God? Everything about your marriage—everything—is filled with prophetic potential, with the capacity for discovering and revealing Christ's character.

The respect you accord your partner; the forgiveness you humbly seek and graciously extend; the ecstasy, awe, and sheer fun of lovemaking; the history you and your spouse build with one another—in these and other facets of your marriage, *Sacred Marriage* uncovers the mystery of God's overarching purpose.

This book may very well alter profoundly the contours of your marriage. It will most certainly change you. Because whether it is delightful or difficult, your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God, and to a spiritual integrity that, like salt, seasons the world around you with the savor of Christ.