

A close-up photograph of a couple's hands clasped together. The person on the left is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, and the person on the right is wearing a tan ribbed sweater and blue jeans. The background is a bright, slightly blurred beach scene with the ocean and sky.

Vanessa and Deron Snyder

50 Ways
to put Christ in your
Marriage

And Live Happily Every Day

An Excerpt From

**50 WAYS TO PUT CHRIST
IN YOUR MARRIAGE**

And Live Happily Every Day



Vanessa and Deron Snyder

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Also see the Snyder's book on putting Christ back in Christmas
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1. Keep your spouse lifted up.

Remember your spouse's needs and wants, and lift them up in prayer. You know—or should know—your spouse better than anyone else. Your spouse has strengths and weaknesses, but also goals, dreams and daily challenges. Don't forget the desires of your spouse's heart when you pray.



***“Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.”***

—Colossians 4:2

2. Go to God together in prayer.

This is the most powerful tool you have as a couple. Although it's important that you each have private time with God—praying for your spouse, marriage, family, etc.—there's a unifying effect when husband and wife join in their petitions. It brings a calm to situations and reminds you Who's in control, even if the two of you are on different sides of an issue. In addition to your personal prayer life, be sure to pray together regularly.



***“For where two or three come together
in my name, there am I with them.”***

—Matthew 18:20

3. Study God's Word together.

The bonds of your relationship with God and each other are strengthened when you read God's Word together. Reading the Bible has a way of centering couples on who they were called to be. We can't use God's Word as a resource if we don't know it, particularly as it relates to marriage. And even if you know the Word, there's always more to learn and glean. Dedicate a regular time to "see what sayeth the Lord."



***“Study to show thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”***

—2 Timothy 2:15

4. Allow God to be the equalizer.

Sooner or later, couples reach an impasse about something big—or small. And if we're not careful in how we resolve the "small" things, they can add up and evolve into major issues. No matter the scope or subject when you disagree, let God be the source to equalize any problem. You can't go wrong using God's Word as the final say, which keeps you in the right perspective.



*“For the word of God is living and active.
Sharper than any double-edged sword,
it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit,
joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts
and attitudes of the heart.”*

—Hebrews 4:12

5. Fast together.

Fasting is an act of discipline that shifts your focus from the physical to the spiritual. It's a demonstration of faith and sacrifice that helps bring clarity to whatever you're dealing with, while also taking your mind off yourself. Do this together and strengthen the spiritual bond.



*“So we fasted and petitioned our God about this,
and he answered our prayer.”*

—Ezra 8:23

6. Create an altar in your home.

It's beneficial to have a place set aside specifically for entering God's presence, a place that's reserved for you and God. It doesn't have to be a room with a physical altar; it can be any area or space that you designate for regular communion. Pick a place and dedicate it as your altar, where you can come alone and as a couple to pray, meditate and commune with God.



*“Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build
an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my
distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.”*

—Genesis 35:3

7. Judge not each other's salvation.

You may know your spouse well but you don't know how he or she relates and communicates with God. Each person's relationship with God is intimate and personal. Sometimes one's upbringing includes traditions and rituals that might be in opposition to another's practices. But we each have a unique and special connection with our heavenly Father and it's not our place to judge others' relationship.



“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.”

—Romans 14:13

8. Commit to fight for your marriage.

Many couples give up at the first major crisis, when a tragedy occurs or troubles continue to mount. It might seem easier to throw in the towel and move on, try to start over without your spouse. The pain, disappointment and challenge of trying to keep a marriage together are overwhelming. But it's worthwhile. The enemy desires marriages to fail. God's Word tells us to fight against the enemy's schemes.



“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

—Ephesians 6:13-17

9. Seek Christian counseling.

There is no shame in seeking the biblical guidance and counseling of those who are trained in this area. The Bible includes everything needed to keep marriages whole and restore them when necessary. It often takes an objective person—sometimes even someone besides your pastor—to offer and make you hear sound instruction. We did it and we encourage you to consider it, too.



***“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding,
for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.”***

—Proverbs 3:13-15

10. Worship together.

If you want a God-centered marriage, it's essential that you worship together in church with other believers. Worship is about intimacy with God, and couples share that closeness when they do it together. Being in God's House with your spouse also re-affirms His presence in your relationship and your family. Receive God's Word and praise Him for His blessings—together.



*“Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”*

—Psalm 95:6

11. Be proactive.

There's a reason many of these Scriptural references come from the book of Proverbs. That's because so much of succeeding in marriage relates to being wise. Making the decision to be proactive is wise. Plan for problems; they will come. But if you are proactive, you've got a plan in place.



*“If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you;
if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.”*

—Proverbs 9:12

12. Be on the lookout.

Be aware of your heart and your spouse's heart. It's amazing how we can ignore developing situations and emerging feelings. Take the time to examine every aspect of yourself and your spouse. Sort through any negative feelings you detect and discuss them with each other. It's easy to miss sadness, loneliness, anger, etc., taking root if you're not paying attention. Protect your relationship by being on guard against threats.



***“Above all else, guard your heart
for it is the wellspring of life.”***

—Proverbs 4:23

13. Reject the world's concept of marriage.

If you pay too much attention to television and celebrities, you can foster some strange ideas about what marriage is really about. It's not OK to be rude and sarcastic all the time. It's not OK to ridicule your spouse. And it's not OK to give up just because things get tough. The media's depiction of love is skewed, unrealistic and, frankly, ridiculous. Marriage is work, but make no mistake: It's a wonderful gift from God.



“Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a “fool” so that he may become wise.”

—1 Corinthians 3:18

14. Go to bed together.

This is a simple act and we realize that job schedules often might prevent this from occurring. However, make it a habit to lie down together if you're both home. This might mean a sacrifice for one of you, but it's worthwhile. If you don't lie down together, chances are you're missing out on some important time together. There's something about this time of intimacy that solidifies the unity and oneness of the relationship. Don't neglect or underestimate its importance.



“The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.”

—I Corinthians 7:4

15. Make love even when you're not in the mood.

Face it. You're not always in the mood. And we already know sexual appetites between men and women vary. Making love doesn't have to include candles every time – let alone sparks and fireworks. Sometimes, one of you just needs a quickie. But even if you weren't keen about the idea initially, don't engage grudgingly. Remember, God loves a cheerful giver!



*“Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent
and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer.
Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you
because of your lack of self-control.”*

—I Corinthians 7:5

16. Speak well of your spouse.

Don't speak ill of one another. No matter how much anger or disappointment you might feel toward your spouse, resist the urge to spread that negativity when speaking with family and friends. There's a way to confide in a sibling or best friend without engaging in character assassination.



*“Brothers, do not slander one another.
Anyone who speaks against his brother
or judges him speaks against the law and judges it.
When you judge the law, you are not keeping it,
but sitting in judgment on it.”*

—James 4:11

17. Don't argue over money.

We all want it, need it and work hard to get it, but it's important to keep perspective about it. Money doesn't buy or sustain happiness. Just look at the celebrity magazines. Use God's Word and the plethora of Christian financial books to help you deal with money from a biblical perspective.



***“Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.
This too is meaningless.”***

—Ecclesiastes 5:10

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