

A Challenge for the New Year

One of the most beautiful things Jesus ever said was, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31). Known as The Golden Rule, this statement from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount embodies the call to love in the most simple terms possible. It also puts the emphasis on a simple “do.” But wanting to do what’s right and knowing how to do it are two different things.

We take issue with the common belief among Christians – the belief that if your heart and soul are in harmony with God, you’ll somehow automatically know just what to do in your marriage. We don’t buy that.

Prospering spiritually does not mean that you know how to do the things that nurture a marriage. For example, do you know how to really listen to your mate, even when tensions are high or you disagree? More important, can you stop an argument before damaging things are said? Do you know how to problem solve as a team, how to work through the process of forgiveness together, how to clarify your deepest expectations, how to enhance and deepen commitment?

These are things you can learn, and when learned well, they can help you develop and keep the kind of marriage you want most. They are ways to put your love in action.

– Dr Scott Stanley, et al, in the book
A Lasting Promise

Great marriages take work. Commit in 2018 to take a relationship class or seminar and/or read a good book together, to date more often, to take time daily to share a cup of coffee together. Go for the gusto!

An excellent book on relationships is Dr Scott Stanley’s *A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage*



RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

Your marriage can be one of your life’s most rewarding relationships!

It’s a challenge to build a strong, God-honoring relationship. But so worthwhile! Whatever your age, whether dating, engaged, or married, there’s a class or seminar for you.

Retrouvaille provides the tools to help put your marriage in order again. The main emphasis of the program is on communication in marriage between husband and wife. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. January 19-21 in Portland. Details at www.HelpOurMarriage.org

Engaged Encounter Lay and clergy couples share the joys, troubles, and victories that they have encountered in their marriages. Engaged couples then have opportunities, alone as a couple, to discuss the challenges they will face: such as maintaining open communication and resolving conflicts on issues such as religious differences, money, planning and sex. January 19-21 in Portland. Details at OregonEngagedEncounter.org

Northwest Marriage Conference Strengthen, enrich, and renew your marriage in this one day conference. Speakers include: Mike and Laurie Sheffield, Hosts of Agape Marriage Connection and facilitators of Re-Engage; Scott LaPierre Pastor of Woodland Christian Church in Woodland, WA and Marriage God’s Way; and Dr Steve Stephens, Psychologist and President of Every Marriage Matters. Presented by WAY-FM on February 17, 2018 at Living Hope Church, Vancouver.

January 2018
Every Marriage Matters

Helping Marriages Become All God Intended
Check out additional resources at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org