



MARRIAGE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

December, 2020 Newsletter from The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY)



This will certainly be a Christmas we will all remember. Some of us will gather with family while many others will not be able to. Wherever you celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and whatever you have to be grateful for, we send you warm wishes for a Merry Christmas.

We are thankful for all of you, whether you have been with MERCY for years or you are new to our organization. We value each and every one of you.

Grace and peace,

Penny and David

Making Your Marriage Work

Local Marriage Events

Dealing with Stress: Building a Stronger Marital Relationship - Friday, January 22 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.) or Tuesday, January 26, 2021 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)



With the Bible as a foundation, couples will examine what causes stress in their marriage and will learn valuable skills to navigate stressful situations within their relationship.

MERCI Indiana
8510 Highway 111
Memphis, IN 47143

For more information and/or to register [click on this link](#) or call
502-387-0645 Bob
502-767-3918 Carol

Choices for a Successful



Marriage

January 29, 2021 -January 31, 2021

Joyce Meyer recently wrote an article about the three-strand cord (husband, wife and God). She said, "It is a picture of the power that takes place when two people agree for something in line with God's will for them.

But how do people who are not of one mind learn to agree? Meyers, says, "Agreement comes when the people involved stop being selfish. All that selfishness amounts to is, 'I want what I want when I want it, and I don't really care what you want because I want what I want.' Selfishness is an immature, inward focus. If each one of us will learn to voice our wants, but choose what best serves everybody in the family, then we will find peace. The key is to care about what the other person needs, be willing to humble ourselves, and do what we can to meet those needs in a loving way."

To read more, [click here](#)

Do "Church Ladies" Really Have Better Sex?



The Institute for Family Studies recently issued the following information:

- Per a new study, women in highly religious relationships

CHOICES



FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Join Mark and Susan Smithson and explore how to make choices everyday to enhance your marriage and make it so much more than long lasting. Daily choices for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control will give you a partnership that will lead you to a truly successful marriage where two become one flesh.

Cost: \$300 per couple. This fee includes overnight accommodations, five delicious meals and a beautiful peaceful setting and your workbook .

Location: Agape Wilderness Retreat Center
831 Barebone Road
Bedford, KY 40006

Limited to 10 couples. Call (502) 255-7677, email: susan@agapewilderness.com to register or [visit here for more information](#)

Retrouvaille - Help for Troubled Marriages

were twice as likely as their secular peers to say they were satisfied with their sexual relationship.

- United religious couples in the Wheatley analysis reported higher emotional closeness, commitment, and partner virtues.

To read more, [click here](#)

How do you love?



How do you love? What do you think of when you think of the word love? As Jimmy Evans recently stated, "Our culture has cheapened love."

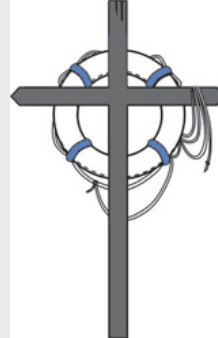
But one kind of love that isn't cheap is agape. Agape love is unconditional. As the theology books say, "It will never seek anything but the highest good for another person."

Evans uses this acrostic to describe agape love.

A = Always gracious and faithful
G = Generous and sacrificial
A = About others first
P = Positive and faith-filled
E = Expressed openly and often

To read his entire message, [click here](#)

Authority of Love by our friend Greg Williams (author) and Ami Williams (editor)



Retrouvaille is a program to help couples heal and renew their hurting marriages.

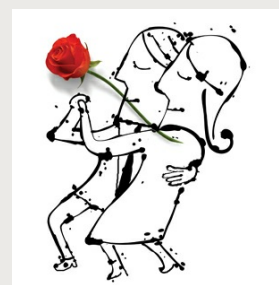
If you are struggling in your marriage, it is our prayer you will consider attending this weekend program. It is only in our area once or twice a year. The next nearest one is in Cincinnati, Ohio the weekend of January 8 and in Owensboro, KY the weekend of January 29, 2021.

For more [click here](#) or call 1-800-470-2230.

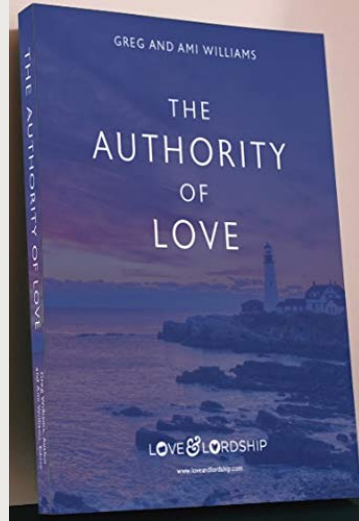
Online Marriage Events

Next Online Couplettime Meeting

Friday, January 29 - 8:30 p.m. 2021



We are so enjoying meeting with couples on our online Zoom meetings. So we hope you will mark your calendar and plan on joining us. More details will be coming soon.



Love and Lordship, from which this book springs, is a ministry and message that calls those who claim Christ as Savior and Lord to display the image of God in these four areas in their life and relationships:

- 1) Christ as Lord in all things reflected . . .
- 2) Loving Marriages/Families/Relationships that leads to. . .
- 3) Relational Servant-leadership first in marriages and families and develops. . .
- 4) Generational Discipleship in personal life, family, The Church and culture.

Available on [Amazon \(Kindle - available now and Paperback available any day now\)](#), [Google Books \(eBook\)](#) – great for CHRISTmas and/or wedding gift!
20% of book profits to support other missions and ministries!

Contact Greg Williams to learn more...

[**\(greg@kentuckyfamily.org;**](mailto:greg@kentuckyfamily.org)

859.229.6504). **Order here**

Love and Respect Online Academy

The Love and Respect Academy, by Joy and Emerson Eggerich, offers many courses on how to enhance your marriage. Here are a few topics that are available for purchase:

- Conference Study
- 15-Day Plan
- Building Blocks
- Respectfully Yours
- Illumination Project
- Crazy Cycle and others.

In addition, they have some free resources on the website. [Check out more details here](#)

Dating Divas

The Hope of Christmas -
Friday, December 18 - 7:00 p.m. ET
and Saturday, December 19 at
10:00 p.m. (ET)



Matthew West is throwing an at-



home festival to spread some holiday cheer and to remind us all that Jesus is our hope in this and every season. Join Matthew, his band and the whole West family for a virtual Christmas festival, including wonderful music, fun holiday skits and a few surprises along the way.

If you haven't yet checked out the Dating Divas web site, you might want to give it a click. They have great marriage tips and free printables for you. For example, here are some Christ-centered printables. [click here](#)

For ticket information, [go here](#)

8 Ideas to help settle disagreements in marriage



Ken and Janie Kessler, advocates for helping couples improve their relationship, recently posted 8 ideas to help settle disagreements in marriage. These are similar techniques we use with couples we mentor and thought you would find them helpful.

1. Set the tone with a calm demeanor. This may mean taking a few minutes to gather your thoughts or calm down.
2. Ask yourself: "Am I seeking a solution, or am I trying to 'win' the argument?"
3. Keep perspective: Our relationship is more important than any issue.
4. Seek first to understand: Ask questions, trying to understand your spouse's point of view *before* you make any statement.
5. Restate what your spouse is saying to show that you 'hear' them.'
6. Find common ground: Look for parts of the issue on which you can agree.
7. Attack the issue, not the person: Remember, it's NOT you vs. me. It's you AND me vs. the problem. Picture the issue as an object sitting on the floor between the two of you, and remember, you're on the **same team**, as you work on this issue.
8. Seek a Win-Win solution



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