



MARRIAGE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

February, 2021

## Newsletter from The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY)



As I (Penny) was preparing for one of our online Couplettime sessions, I came across a chapter from Dr. Henry Cloud, Christian psychologist, author and leadership expert, on compassion and forgiveness. The following two comments stood out to me:

1) "We can expect failure from even the best people in our lives. . .No failure is larger than grace."

2) "Hardness of heart, much more than failure is the true relationship killer. Jesus pointed this out in Matthew 19:8"

We think there's truth in Cloud's comments. How about you?

Grace and peace,  
Penny and David

[Ten Realities of Divorce  
- 10 Secrets Your](#)

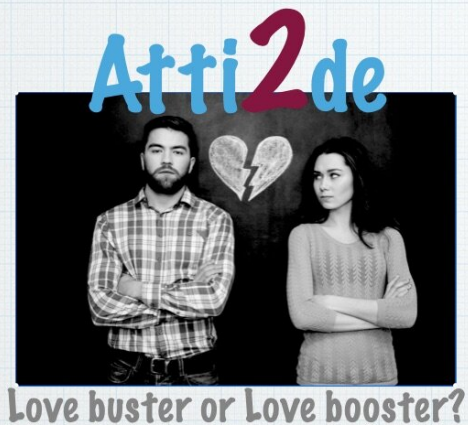
### [Upcoming Marriage Events](#)

#### Attit2de

Friday, February 26  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

MERCI Barn

8510 Hwy. 111 - Memphis, IN  
(Note: Close to Sellersburg near  
Intersection of Hwys. 111 & 60)



What does your attitude say  
about your marriage?  
Everything!

Join Bob and Carol Esham, of  
MERCY, as they share how  
crucial that husbands and  
wives learn to exhibit attitudes  
of grace and thankfulness. For  
more information and/or to  
register, [click here](#)



## [Divorce Attorney May Never Tell You](#)

Are you, or someone you know, thinking of divorce? If so, please watch a video by Brad

Rhoads and read his article. Brad practiced family law for several years and now heads up Grace Marriage.

Here are a few things he addresses:

- Secret 1. Divorce is expensive.
- Secret 2. You better like your lawyer.
- Secret 3. Frustration of the next spouse.
- Secret 4. Sharing your kids with a stranger.
- Secret 5. Loss of time with your children.
- Secret 6. Increased child challenges.
- Secret 7. Your kids might blame themselves.
- Secret 8. The consequences of divorce are long-term.
- Secret 9. You might regret it.
- Secret 10. It may not be necessary.

[click on this link to take you to Brad's video and article](#)

We realize there are situations where divorce is necessary and unavoidable; however, please pray and seek the Lord and wise counsel before you make this life-altering decision.



With February being the love month, why not check out how well you are doing in loving Christian style. Take our quiz [click here](#)

## Fruit of the Spirit



God longs for you and your spouse to experience a Spirit-led life. The "Fruit of the Spirit Devotional" is a free series of 9 short videos that was created to get you into God's Word and inspire you to seek the Holy Spirit's help in loving your spouse.

For more information [click here](#)

## Marriage Dynamics INSTITUTE™

A New Beginning is a turn-around weekend designed to help couples who feel stuck in an unhealthy marriage, couples who are frustrated and unhappy, and couples considering divorce.

03/19 - 03/21 A New Beginning Live Online Workshop (Registration OPEN until March 11)

04/23 - 04/25 A New Beginning Workshop – Nashville, TN (Registration OPEN until April 16)

For more information, [click here](#)

## New Books at MERCY

Did you know that MERCY has a complete library where you can check out books? We do ask for a refundable deposit, but when you return the resource your deposit is returned.



Shaunti Feldhahn, a ground-breaking social researcher, best-selling author and popular speaker, recently shared a story about a friend who was so delighted with something her husband

of 35 years did, she couldn't wait to share it with Shaunti.

So what action made him such a champ in her eyes?

As they got ready for dinner, she mentioned a conversation she had with a prickly co-worker that day, and her husband responded with a simple five-word sentence.

So what was the unexpected sentence?

"Tell me all about it!"

To her, and most women, these are magical words.

To see a complete list of resources [click here](#)

Here are a few new books we just purchased:

- 52 Uncommon Dates by Randy Southern
- You Get Me - Simple romantic ways to speak the 5 Love Languages by Gary Chapman
- Ruined to Recovery by Brad and Heidi Mitchell

Know a couple rocked by an affair?

I (Penny) recently read this book and it is one of the most practical and helpful books I've read on what to do if a couple is dealing with an affair. When you are in crisis, you need immediate help on what to do next and this book does just that.

## 10 Ideas to Give Your Marriage a Fresh Start -

Excerpts from Family Life

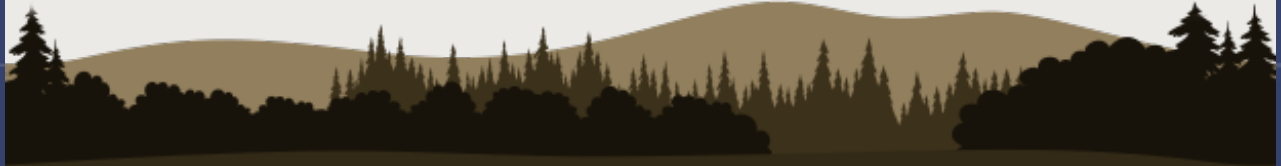
If you are wading through a down season, these suggestions may help.

1. First things first - A fresh start in our marriage requires a fresh start within us, a realigning to how God loves us. Paul David Tripp explains "relationships are first fixed vertically before they are ever fixed horizontally. . ."
2. Ruthlessly hunt gratitude - In studies and brain scans, gratitude has been linked so closely to happiness, scientists find them hard to differentiate. Comb through your day to find the ways God's handed you gifts small and large through your mate.
3. Figure out what's eating your grapes - Song of Solomon speaks of chasing out the "foxes" in the lovers' vineyard. What's gnawing at their sex life and general closeness.
4. Set guardrails on your thoughts - As you think about your marriage and the partner God's given you as a gift- not an enemy - use verses like 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Philippians 4:8 as the standards for your mind, taking "every thought captive to obey Christ."

5. Go against the grain - Create the romance you long to see, even though your feelings aren't in it just yet.
6. Own up - Paul himself notes in Corinthians 4:4 that though his conscience is clear, that doesn't make him innocent. And you've heard the 1% rule: Even if you're only responsible for 1% of a conflict, you're still 100% responsible for your 1%. So take time to pray through what you're contributing to the rift.
7. Spend what's precious on your mate - If it's time, energy, cash, or attention, make as much space as you can for one of the top-priority relationships in your life. This could mean surprising your mate with a night away, or a "date in" after a week of working up till bedtime. Or finding friends to watch the kids.
8. For a fresh start, get together about getting together - Gently talk with your spouse about the distance you're feeling - not accusing, but rather as a mutual goal.
9. Study hard - So much of love is truly seeing our spouse and their world in all its intricacies and complexities. Understanding them when you met. . .or even last month. . .doesn't mean you see from their eyes now.
10. Get down, get down - Get on your knees about your marriage; consider fasting on a regular basis. Beg God for oneness, passion, enduring love, and the grace to love your mate the way He's called you to.

To read the entire article, [click here](#)

Well that's all from us this month. Love well and remember, "A successful marriage requires a man and wife, with God at the center."



Connect with us

