



MARRIAGE EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

February, 2022

The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY'S) Newsletter



What is one of the silliest arguments you and your spouse have ever had? We recently had a good one. It was about the orange pen. My (Penny's) pen. The one I always kept in my purse. It was gone. I was sure David had it. I was sure I saw him with it. He denied it. He said he hadn't seen an orange pen. I don't know about you, but normally when one of us goes on the offense, the other one goes on the defense. Well, I pulled out a famous saying of my Mom's. "Well, it didn't grow legs and walk off." That wasn't helpful.

As of today, we still haven't found the orange pen. But more importantly, something we've learned is in trivial situations such as this, just let it go. It is not worth a full-blown fight.

Please know we are not talking about serious disputes that need to be resolved, but simply non-essential issues like the way the toilet paper should roll or who is responsible for the

Upcoming Marriage Events

Love and Respect - Thursdays,
February 17 - March 17
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Join Joe and Toni Rose, from Growing Your Marriage, as they walk through Love & Respect Building Blocks. This video series is based on Emerson Eggerichs' bestseller, "Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs."

Over five sessions, they will unpack why spouses react negatively to each other and how they can deal with such conflict quickly, easily, and Biblically.

Southeast Christian Church
Blankenbaker Campus
920 Blankenbaker Pkwy.
Louisville, KY 40243
WC 473

lost pen.

Grace and peace,

Penny and David

God Hates Divorce and So Should We
- by Bob Russell

We follow Bob Russell's blog. He has such wisdom. He recently wrote a segment called "God Hates Divorce and So Should We." Here is how he starts out:

"Not long ago, the wife of a preacher friend of mine shocked her husband, her family and her church when she filed for a divorce. She and her husband had been married for more than 45 years! But she decided to call it quits."

She had become romantically involved with a widower she met on Facebook. And no amount of pleading by her husband or family could dissuade her from getting a divorce.

Bob goes on to quote Malachi 2:16: *"The man who hates and divorces his wife, says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'does violence to the one he should protect,' says the Lord Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful."* Bob tells us the New American Standard translates that first phrase, *"'I hate divorce,' says the Lord, the God of Israel."*

Bob continues by saying, "Let's admit at the outset of this controversial and emotional topic that there are complex circumstances, and God can forgive any sin. The woman at the well had been divorced five times, but Jesus treated her with respect, forgave her, and welcomed her testimony. You can't go back and unscramble eggs. You can't undo your mistakes. If you have been through a divorce, please know Christ

To register, [click here](#) or contact Stephanie Clark sclark@secc.org or 502.253.8426.

Call Weekday Childcare at 502.253.8805 to check the availability for childcare.

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage with Mark Gungor
February 19 - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



This is one of the funniest and best marriage events available. Mark explores the differences between men and women, and he is one of the most sought after speakers on marriage and relationships.

Centenary United Methodist Church
2800 Bates Creek Road
Lexington, KY 40502

For more information and/or to register, [click here](#)

The Smart Stepfamily Workshop
Starting Sundays, February 20
10:45 a.m.

can forgive you and give you a fresh start. Receive His pardon and proceed to live for Him."

Bob says however, what concerns him is not those who have been divorced and have genuinely sought God's forgiveness, but married persons who call themselves Christians and imagine they can exploit God's grace. He said he hears believers say, "I know God hates divorce, but God wants me to be happy." Or, "God and I talked this over, and I'm at peace." Or "God will forgive me; that's His job. He understands."

Bob has more to say on this topic and if you are interested in reading the rest of his blog on this topic, please [click here](#).

Extroverts Who Marry Introverts or Visa Versa



An extrovert who marries an introvert or visa versa may seem like a mixture of oil and water, but often it can be a good thing. They can actually balance one another out once they learn to appreciate their differences. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Introverts like people, but being around them, can drain them as it takes a lot of emotional energy.
- When planning outings, talk about them ahead of time.



The Smart Step-Family Workshop includes eight sessions covering fundamental steps to blended family success. It features practical, realistic solutions to the issues you face as a step-family. Learn how to improve and enrich the quality of your marriage and family through Ron Deal's book "The Smart Step-Family".

Southeast Christian Church
Blankenbaker Campus
920 Blankenbaker Pkwy.
Louisville, KY 40243
WC 329

For more information, [click here](#).

Marriage on a Mission -
Free Workshop
Friday, February 25 or April 8 -
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Ben and Crystal Woods

This workshop will be a time leaning into the why behind the what of marriage. It will also offer some practical steps on how to run in rhythm together, moving forward on

Have a plan for perhaps how long you will stay, etc. Also, if you are the extrovert, keep in mind your introverted spouse may not want to be left alone.

- After being around a lot of people, the introvert may need some time alone to recharge.
- Most extroverts like being the life of the party. You may want to talk ahead of time what you need from one another at gatherings.
- Extroverts don't have a problem talking out their problems with others. Introverts are often more private.
- An extrovert can be more of a risk taker. Again, communication is key.

A great book we like is by Tim and Joy Downs called *One of Us Is Crazy and I'm Pretty Sure It is You*. They explore several differences that can trip us up including being married to someone quite opposite, such as an extrovert being married to an introvert.

The 'Success Sequence'

The 'success sequence,' a term coined by Ron Haskins and Isabel Sawhill, has three rules: graduate high school, get a job and get married before having a child. Of Americans who have followed this pattern, only 2% are in poverty. Recent survey results show that 76% of parents (across ethnicities, ages and political parties) support teaching this to children.

For Those in Troubled Marriages

If you are struggling in your marriage, please be sure to check out these two upcoming programs:

mission and creating family identity and culture of discipleship in your home.

Ben and Crystal have lived a shared mission to surrender their story for God's eternal purposes. Together, they lead "The Brave Way Home," an incredible ministry. If you would like to read more about their story and this ministry [click here](#).

This workshop will be at:
MERCY Barn
8510 Highway 111
Memphis, IN 47143

To register for this workshop, [click here](#).

10 Commandments of Marriage

Thursdays, March 10, 17 & 24
6:30 p.m.

A poster for a 3-week marriage enrichment program. The title "3 Weeks of Marriage Enrichment" is at the top in a mix of blue and gold fonts. Below it, the subtitle "Learning Biblical Principles that Help All Marriages" is in blue. A central photo shows a smiling couple, John and Louise Wences. To the right of the photo, the schedule "Thursday 6:30 PM March 10, 17, 24" is listed. Below the photo, it says "Biblical principles will be presented to foster whole, healthy and dynamic marriages." and "Utilizing Ed Young's book 10 Commandments of Marriage". At the bottom right, it says "Register Now At: www.secc.org" and "Childcare provided". The bottom left of the poster has the text "With John & Louise Wences" and a small logo for "SECC YOUR MARRIAGE". The poster has a blue and gold color scheme with decorative corner elements.

3 Weeks of Marriage Enrichment
Learning Biblical Principles that Help All Marriages

Thursday 6:30 PM
March 10, 17, 24

Biblical principles will be presented to foster whole, healthy and dynamic marriages.

Utilizing Ed Young's book
10 Commandments of Marriage

Register Now At:
www.secc.org
Childcare provided

With John & Louise Wences

At some point, every couple will experience disagreements, frustrations and stress that can easily erode good marriages. But when you use Biblical wisdom and principles, you can safeguard your marriage and have a marriage that thrives. This study will be utilizing the book, *The 10 Commandments of Marriage*, by Ed Young.

Retrouvaille - A Weekend for Troubled Marriages

Weekend of February 18-20 -
Louisville, KY

For more information, [click here](#)

Marriage Dynamics
INSTITUTE™

A New Beginning -

A counselor-led workshop for couples in crisis.

Weekend of February 18-20 -
Nashville, TN

Weekend of March 18-20 - Online Workshop

For more information, cost, etc. [click here](#)

Upcoming Focus on the Family
Broadcasts on Marriage



- February 14 - Showing True Love to Your Spouse
- February 22--23 - Friendship or Flirtation? Danger Signs for Couples I & II

Note: The broadcast schedule is subject to change. Listen to Focus on

Southeast Christian Church
LaGrange Campus
401 South 1st Street
LaGrange, KY 40031

John and Lorie Weires,
pictured above, will be
leading this program.

To register, [click here](#).
Childcare provided.

Let's Get Intimate -
Free Workshop
Friday, March 11
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Join John and Lorie Weires from "Growing Your Marriage," for an evening of 'real talk,' diving into one of the biggest hotspots in marriage - intimacy. They will dive into all areas of marital intimacy - spiritual, emotional and physical. When a couple develops a closeness in all three they will truly grow a stronger marriage.

This workshop will be at:
MERCI Barn
8510 Highway 111
Memphis, IN 47143

the Family Broadcast on your local radio station, your mobile device or online. If you miss one, you can listen by clicking on this link

To register for this workshop, click here.

Couplettime Activity

With February being a love month, we can't think of a better time to evaluate how we are doing in the love department as outlined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Therefore, please spend a few minutes reflecting on these characteristics of love and evaluate how well you demonstrate these in your life to your spouse.

Poor Excellent

Love is patient - 1 2 3 4 5

Love is kind - 1 2 3 4 5

Love isn't envious - 1 2 3 4 5

Love isn't boastful - 1 2 3 4 5

Love isn't full of pride - 1 2 3 4 5

Love isn't rude - 1 2 3 4 5

Love isn't self-centered - 1 2 3 4 5

Love isn't quick to get
angry - 1 2 3 4 5

Love doesn't keep
record of rights and
wrongs - 1 2 3 4 5

Love doesn't enjoy
evil - 1 2 3 4 5

Love rejoices in
truthfulness - 1 2 3 4 5

Love protects and
trusts - 1 2 3 4 5

Love always keeps hope
alive - 1 2 3 4 5

Love always endures - 1 2 3 4 5

Upon completion, share with your mate your area(s) of strengths and those where you want to improve.

Connect with us



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Crestwood, KY 40014

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