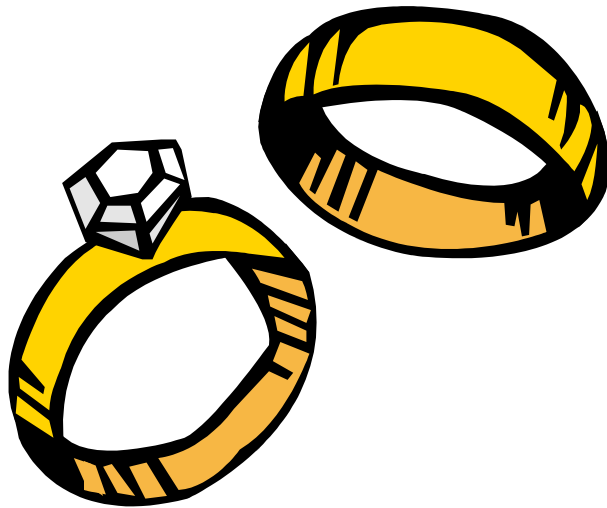


The Marriage Playbook

By Christopher Gallagher



The Marriage Playbook

The Introduction

“Success in marriage is not so much a matter of finding the right person as it is being the right person.” (Unknown)

Every couple I have met desires to have a successful marriage. Not one has said, “We hope our marriage fails and we have a horrible existence.” The desire for marital success is in each couple and each couple needs to harness the power of a great marriage and live in it each day.

When God instituted marriage between a man and a woman, He created a bond which will hold through the storms of life. There will be no greater earthly bond between two people if god’s word is followed. Couples will have their ups and downs on the rollercoaster of life, yet their marriage will grow in strength and power.

Someone has said, ‘Even when a marriage is made in heaven, the maintenance work has to be done here on earth.’ (Unknown) This workbook is designed for the “Stronger, Better Marriages” event as well as private marriage coaching sessions. Each page holds value in the lives of the participants if they are willing to approach the material with a proper attitude, a willingness to succeed and a desire to work on themselves first.

After using this workbook to strengthen your marriage I would be delighted to hear from you. Your comments assist in presenting this material each year. Feel free to contact me using the information below.

Have a great marriage and begin living success!



Office Phone; 843.608.8255

<http://www.preacherspen.org>

Where Do You Want to Go?

The Marriage Playbook

Before using the Marriage Playbook, begin by stating where you envision your marriage using the timeframe below.

Creating a marriage vision is vital to seeing the future of your marriage and your family.

- **Where do you want your marriage to be in 1 year?**

- **Where do you want your marriage to be in 5 years?**

- **Where do you want your marriage to be in 10 years?**

- **Where do you want your marriage to be in 20 years?**

The Commitment Agreement

The Marriage Playbook

By reading and signing the agreement below

- I acknowledge my marriage is not a 50/50 commitment, but a 100/100 commitment.
- I acknowledge I have responsibilities in my marriage.
- I acknowledge I am an active participant in my marriage.
- I acknowledge I am not perfect and my spouse is not perfect, but we will seek to complete each other.
- I acknowledge my mistakes in the past and from this point forward will see to resolve or make reconciliation for my past mistakes.
- I acknowledge my relationship with my spouse influences my relationship with my/our children.
- I acknowledge the health of my marriage influences many other parts of my life (*work, children, friends, television, radio, books, etc.*).
- I acknowledge I can have the best marriage possible with work, sacrifice, communication, servant hood and love.

(Signed)

(Date)

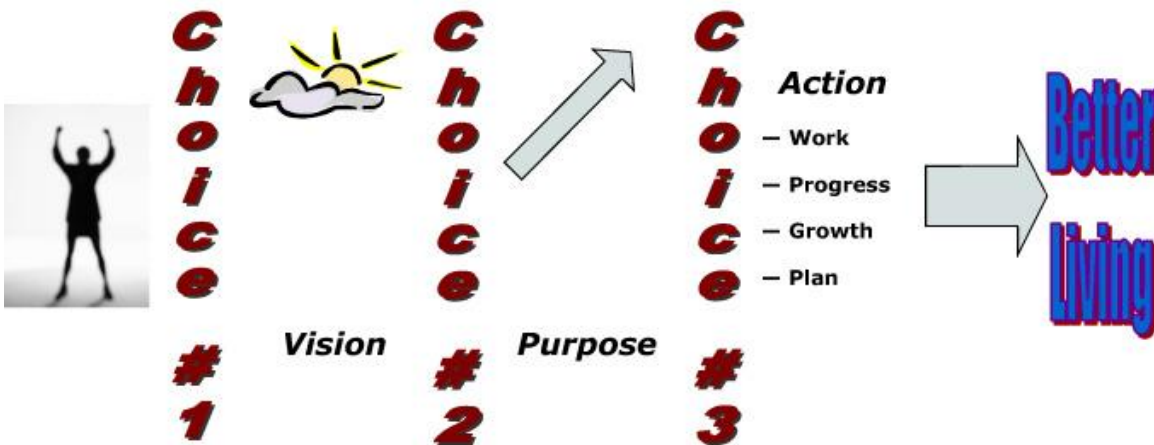
Purpose of Marriage Coaching

The Marriage Playbook

As your marriage coach, my purpose is not to make decisions for you, but to...

- ...assist you and your spouse in your decisions to achieve a better, stronger marriage.
- ...challenge your thinking regarding your current marriage situation.
- ...assist you in creating a vision for a better, stronger marriage by walking you through this Marriage Playbook.

The Road to Better Living



The road to better living begins with you and it begins now!

My Marriage Background

The Marriage Playbook

Describe your parent's marriage:

Describe your parent's "intense moments of fellowship":

Describe how you feel about your parent's marriage:

My Marriage Expectations

The Marriage Playbook

List your marriage expectations:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Why do you have these expectations?

Strong Marriages Lead to...

The Marriage Playbook

Strong marriages defined...

What defines a strong marriage?

The World	Your Thoughts	Realistic

The “We” Factor

The Marriage Playbook

Remove “I” from your vocabulary!

- **The Benefits of Removing the word “I”**

- **Why Should I Remove “I”?**

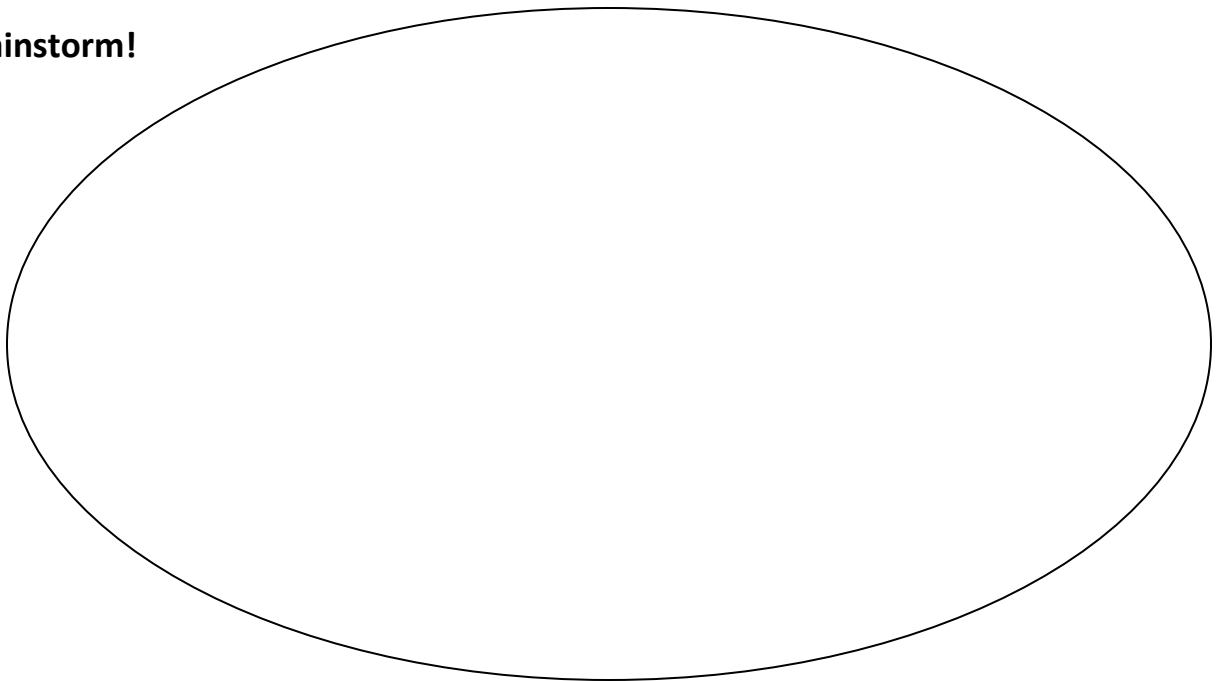
Your Marriage Purpose

The Marriage Playbook

*****Work Together on this Page*****

The purpose of statement is...

Brainstorm!



Steps to Your Marriage Purpose

The Marriage Playbook

How will you achieve your marriage purpose?

1 Week Marriage Plan

The Marriage Playbook

Sunday:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

1 Month Marriage Plan

The Marriage Playbook

1 Month Marriage Goals:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Planned Time Together:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

3 Month Marriage Plan

The Marriage Playbook

3 Month Marriage Goals:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Planned Time Together:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

6 Month Marriage Plan

The Marriage Playbook

6 Month Marriage Goals:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Planned Time Together:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Money, Money, Money

Current Budget Needs:

- Tithe: _____
- House Payment: _____
- Food: _____
- Savings: _____
- Emergency Fund: _____
- Car Payment: _____
- Taxes: _____
- Insurance: _____
- Utilities (Gas/Electric): _____
- Phone: _____
- Cable: _____
- Cell Phone: _____
- Recreation: _____
- Vacation Fund: _____

Extra Resources

The Marriage Playbook

Recommended Books on Marriage:

- **Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts:** Seven Questions to Ask Before and After You Marry by Les Parrott
- **Love Talk Starters:** 275 Questions to Get Your Conversations Going by Les Parrott
- **Love Talk:** Speak Each Other's Language Like You Never Have Before by Les Parrott
- **7 Things He'll Never Tell You ...But You need to Know** by Kevin Leman

Recommended Books on Budgeting:

- **The Total Money Makeover:** A Plan for Financial Fitness by Dave Ramsey
- **Financial Peace Revisited** by Dave Ramsey
- **Debt-Free Living** by Larry Burkett
- **Complete Financial Guide for Young Couples:** A Lifetime Approach to Spending, Saving and Investing by Larry Burkett
- **How to Manage Your Money** by Larry Burkett