



THE INSIDE RUNNING

Marriage helps me to understand how much I don't know.

The way we relate to each other can change frequently as we are faced with different circumstances, health, emotions, and finances, as well as the effects of our entire family history.

Being able to think through and talk about our relationship is a step forward. This month's featured speaker, Bill Farrel, helps us do that. Recently I have been thinking that the best time to start reading marriage books is before you get married. If you are single, look at how you communicate with others. Are you a trustworthy and reliable friend? That is a quality we all need to bring into marriage.

In the lead article Mark Beale says the primary purpose God designed marriage for is companionship. Isn't that the picture of what God wants in His relationship with us? Perhaps that is part of the challenge for us as men in marriage – developing great and lasting friendships does not always come naturally to us. The challenge of becoming a soul mate with one's spouse is an exciting goal.

The mystery of growing into a deeper relationship with God also makes me want to know Him more.

John

John Subritzky



Marriage & Communication

By Mark Beale

As we navigate through life, we are confronted by many obstacles. If we do not have a destination or goal in life, these obstacles will trip us up and even destroy what we want to achieve.

Our destination and goal is often determined by our understanding of the purpose of life. A wrong understanding leads to a wrong destination. As Christian men our understanding should be determined by a clear knowledge of Scripture as this is God's Word to us; *this is God's GPS system that helps us navigate through life.*

When looking at marriage, we begin by examining some of the things that the Bible says about marriage. The Bible sees marriage as being ordained by God, and the first purpose of marriage was for companionship. ***"And God said, 'it is not good that man should be alone, I will make him a helpmate'."*** Gen 2:18

A Rabbinic commentary on this passage says that God knew Adam needed a companion. Her purpose was not for reproduction. God wanted Adam to have the companionship, support, and challenge that is present in good marriages, and he wanted the children who would be born to Adam and his future mate to be reared by both a father and a mother. Before creating Adam's helpmate, God brought all the creatures to him so that he could see for himself that none was suited to his needs, and he would ask for a helpmate. This way man would appreciate his newly-fashioned mate and not take her for granted.

The Rabbis taught that God had embedded His own image in the two sexes and when they came together they would become one. This is why it says in Genesis 2:24 ***"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and cling to his wife and they shall become one flesh."***

God ordained marriage and God must be at the centre of the relationship. When two pieces of twine are wound together they fall apart when let go, but when we use three they stay together. In the Christian marriage ceremony a man and a woman make a commitment in the presence of God, and Jesus Christ becomes the third strand that holds the marriage together.

When two people are joined together in a Christian ceremony there should be a sense of calling, that is, an understanding that it is God that has called them to be together as husband and wife. This is why in the old marriage ceremony it stated that marriage should not be entered into unadvisedly or wantonly.



One of the central themes of the Christian faith is that through Christ we have been made into a new person. When as Christians we enter into marriage there is also a sense that a new person has been created. A husband and wife are formed as one, a new being. This new life that we have in Christ is empowered by God's Holy Spirit. And in the same way our marriages are empowered by God's Holy Spirit. Christian marriage has a special quality about it, as it is nurtured by the Holy Spirit.

As Christians we must understand marriage is a special gift from God. We must resist the temptation of lowering the true depth of marriage to that of the secular world. The greatest misunderstanding of the true depth of God's call to marriage has come from a misunderstanding of two powerful words: love and heart. The word love is often associated with the heart, both in the secular world and in a Christian understanding, but what these words mean and their association is quite different.

The world talks about two people falling in love. A more accurate description of what is

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WHAT'S ON THE DVD

Featured Speaker

Bill Farrel talks about effective communication to the men at Promise Keepers Canada. Well-known as an author, Bill with his wife Pam has written "Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti" and "Red Hot Monogamy". They are currently releasing "The Marriage Code". This humorous and insightful message will bless many. 43 min.

Bonus Features

- **Valiant Man** – Dr Allan Meyer talks about some of the key issues men face as they disciple their sexuality. 9 min.
- **I Exalt Thee** – Music from the Wellington Event. 5 min.
- **Family Transformed** – Nick's story about how he opposed God then became a Christian and now he is on fire for God! 5 min.
- **Fireproof** – Movie trailer about saving a marriage. See also "The Love Dare" sample chapter. 2 min.
- **Noelle's Story** – How porn affected the life of a pastor's daughter from a young age. 5 min.
- **Claymore Forge** – Blacksmith Simon C Bardon shows how it's done at Promise Keepers Christchurch. 3 min.

Humour

- **Funny adverts** we have enjoyed. 2 min.

Resources

- **Friendships for Life** – Ivan Bezzant describes the vision that should be the driving force behind Men's Small Groups. 2 min.
- **Men's Team Ministry** to Widows & Solos – This promo from Harbourside Church gives a great outline of the impact of the ministry. 3 min.

Promo

- Get ready for Promise Keepers 2010 with the GPS promo. 2 min.

DVD ROM

Weekly Studies – A brand new series of Men's Small Group studies based on stories from *Leave No Man Behind* 2008 Events.

Study Questions relating to Bill Farrel's message. Use the video in your Men's Small Group and then discuss these questions.

Books

Sample chapters:

- **Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti** and **Red Hot Monogamy**. After you have viewed the Bill Farrel message, take a look at the books. Go deeper into marriage communication and intimacy.
- **The Love Dare** – the 40 day marriage challenge that is at the centre of the Fireproof movie story.
- **The Marriage Prayer** – A book written for men. Extensive graphics and next steps. Also includes a PDF of a prayer that you can print out and pray daily.
- **Created for Intimacy** – Chapter on intimacy and singleness by kiwi authors and counsellors John and Agnes Sturt. See also three articles relating to single people.

Full book:

- **Why I am a Christian** by Bill Subritzky. A great testimony and biography.

Articles

- Three extensive articles provided by Focus on the Family relating to marriage, communication, conflict and money.

Photos

- Selected photos from Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Tauranga Events 2009.

MP3 and iPod Videos

- Versions of the main videos formatted for portable listening or viewing.



Marriage & Communication continued

happening is that two people are falling in lust. A person cannot fall in love, because biblically, love is the way that we respond to and treat another person.

Jesus tells us that we must love our enemies as we love ourselves. Jesus is not saying that we must have feelings of passion towards our enemies, because that would be impossible. What He is saying is that we should love them as we love ourselves. How do we love ourselves? Not through having passionate feelings towards ourselves, that would be revolting. We love ourselves by looking after ourselves, making sure that we are fed, that we have shelter, that we clean ourselves etc. When we are called to love our enemies that is what we are to do for them. Care for them, feed them, and make sure that they have the basic needs of life.

Paul talks about love in this way in the well-known passage that is so often used at weddings, 1 Corinthians 13: **"Love is always patient and kind, it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited,**

it is never rude or selfish, it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; and is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes".

Love is the way we treat another person. A man doesn't fall into this. The problem with people who fall into lust is that they just as readily fall out of it. A couple cannot fall out of love. What they do is stop loving each other.

We are told in Scripture that we are to love our wives as Christ loves the Church. To love with our hearts is to love with our whole being. That is, we are to love our wives with our reason, with our wills, with our understanding and with our faith.

This love is a conscious act; a deliberate decision - it is a choice. We choose to love our wives. When we make this choice God blesses us with the gift of love.

Workshops for Men's Ministry 2010



Invercargill	Mon 1 March
Dunedin	Tue 2 March
Christchurch	Wed 3 March
Nelson	Thu 4 March
Wellington	Mon 15 March
Palmerston Nth	Tue 16 March
Tauranga	Wed 17 March
Hamilton	Thu 18 March
Auckland	Fri 19 March

