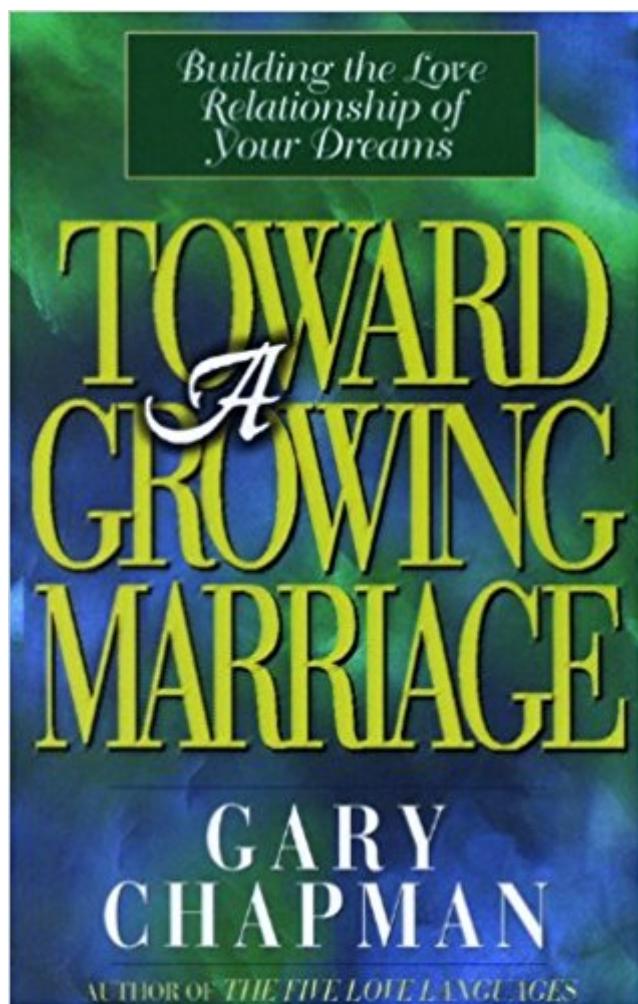


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Toward A Growing Marriage: Building The Love Relationship Of Your Dreams



Synopsis

Marital Bliss?'My wife is a nag!' 'My husband thinks I'm his slave!' 'We just don't love each other anymore.' Common phrases in an all too common world of marital failure. We hear them everyday from our co-workers, our friends, and even ourselves. The separation and divorce rate among Christian couples continues to rise while thousands of other Christian couples continue to live together in something far less than the 'abundant life' that Jesus promised. Is your marriage turning out differently than you expected? Are all of today's alarming statistics making you wary of ever getting married? Well you are not alone. In *Toward a Growing Marriage*, Dr. Chapman offers the hope you've been looking for. The author of the best-selling book *The Five Love Languages*, will help you get your marriage off to a good start or back on the right track with advice that is both biblical and practical. Part of the problem, according to Dr. Chapman, is that too many times our churches have focused on the negative biblical directives when teaching about marriage. We need to know more than to not marry a non-believer and to save sex for marriage. We need to know how to succeed. *Toward a Growing Marriage* is divided into two sections in order to help two different audiences succeed: those who are in the process of finding a spouse who will be a 'fitting' or 'suitable' marriage partner those who have already said 'I do' and are trying to fulfill that commitment. Marital happiness is not automatic, but the practical application of Dr. Chapman's helpful information will put couples well on their way to successful and fulfilling marriages.

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Customer Reviews

GARY CHAPMAN, PhD, is the author of the #1 New York Times bestselling *The 5 Love Languages*. With over 30 years of counseling experience, he has the uncanny ability to hold a mirror up to human behavior, showing readers not just where they go wrong, but also how to grow and move forward. Dr. Chapman holds BA and MA degrees in anthropology from Wheaton College and Wake Forest University, respectively, MRE and PhD degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has completed postgraduate work at the University of North Carolina and Duke University. For more information visit his website at www.5lovelanguages.com.

The biblical picture of marriage is the blending of two lives in the deepest possible way into a new unit that will both satisfy the individuals involved and serve the purposes of God in the highest possible manner. The heart of mankind cries out for unity. We are social creatures. God Himself said of Adam, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). I would remind you that this analysis was before the Fall of man, and that this man already had the warm, personal fellowship of God. Yet God said, "That is not enough!" God's answer to man's need was to create woman, one who could be a suitable helper (Genesis 2:18). The Hebrew word used here is one that literally means "face to face." That is, God created one with whom man could have a face-to-face relationship. It speaks of that kind of in-depth personal relationship whereby the two are united in an unbreakable union that satisfies the deepest longings of the human heart. Marriage was God's answer for man's deepest human need - union of life with another.

This is a life changing book. I highly recommend it to anyone who is married or thinking about getting married.

I wish I would have read this book before my first marriage. There is so much good information in here for people who are dating seriously, but there is also plenty of great advice for married couples as well.

this book was awesome

Given as a gift. I didn't read the book

I liked it very much. I don't like the requirement that I need to have a number of words to complete this review. Pain in the but.

I would recommend this book for anyone who thinks they'll never get married. Mr. Chapman gives some really practical advice that applies to new and old marriages

A great annoyance that I had with the beginning of this book was the concept of "ministry dating", a Christian dating a non-Christian. Chapman points to 2 Corinthians 6:14 as a reason that marrying is not a good idea. He also said that there is a lack of commitment in a Christian/non-Christian relationship. Honestly, the whole thing could backfire and the "unsaved" may be very jaded toward religion if the relationship does not work out. Also, the Christian may be drawn into sin by the non-Christian, after all, sin loves company (see Genesis 3). I still think that this book is worthy of a 4 star rating. There is a lot of practical advice with Biblical back-up. It has really caused me to re-think the role of a wife, but at the same time, it doesn't say that the wife is inferior to the husband, she is his partner, his teammate. The sections of the book that I think I learned the most from were the chapters on sex and money. Both have been perverted by modern day society. Chapman gives practical and Biblical advice in this area. The chapter dealing with in-laws was very eye-opening. I never really considered "Honor thy father and thy mother" when thinking about in-laws. However, it does make sense that if you are talking bad about your MIL, you may cause your husband to dishonor his mother. "Who Will Clean the Commode?" - I didn't really give a lot of thought to the duties that each marriage partner would perform, whether it be cleaning the toilet, or paying the bills. I just thought that those things would work themselves out, and perhaps they might have. However, a much better solution would be to assign responsibilities before marriage so each partner knows what the other expects of them. One of the great things about this book is that the "Growth Assignments" at the end of each chapter offer a section for the married and the unmarried. I thought this was very helpful. The last chapter had a couple of annoying spelling errors (I am an editor, I pick up that kind of thing), but not so many that it makes the text difficult to read or understand.

My husband and I have been married for 9 years and had to read this book for an assignment in our training at Rhema Bible Training Center. My husband began to read his book first and would constantly ask me "When are you going to read your book?" To be honest, at first I thought I did not need this book BUT NOW I wish I read it before discussing marriage. This book brings out issues that my husband and I after 6 yrs of dating and a year and a half engagement plus nine years of marriage have never thought to discuss. These vary issues were building blocks that formed an invisible wall we could not see each other over. We had valuable parts of our lives that were

effecting us that we were not sharing with one another because we did not know quit what they were or even how to communicate them. I am so thankful for the open communication we gained through this valuable tool. We both kept telling each other, "If we had read this book before marriage we would have saved much heartache and frustration." GLORY! The invisible wall is down and communication has entered such a more intimate and spiritually awakened level. This book is a MUST READ before even getting serious in dating! It helps you to look deep in yourself and see your heart and motives in a relationship as well as what you have to offer to someone else. Before getting engaged, I believe to be 100% effective both people should read and do the assignments in the book. BUT if like my husband and I you did not read this book and had limited communication THIS BOOK is the tool you need to help open you both to a new level of understanding and relating to one another. This book was our highway to a path we had never traveled with one another. I am very thankful this book is available and pray that everyone learns from it. A Happy Healthy relationship is worth everything you put in to it! This book is worth reviewing every 6 months and is fast and easy understanding with wonderful Assignments to encourage open two way bridge of communication that leads you both on the same path to a Loving Relationship of your dreams! Be blessed and encouraged. This book is a gentle tool to open doors to rooms and closets that you did not even know you housed. What a wonderful way to explore your own heart and motives as well as discuss those of your love one.

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