



## Investing in a Strong Marriage (for Husbands)

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No one plans on having a miserable marriage. Couples decide to get married because they love each other and desire a life-long, thriving relationship. So, how can we build a God-honoring marriage that will last? Consider these seven investments that will bring a healthy return.

#### INVESTMENT ONE – Discover God’s Design for Marriage

God’s design for marriage has always been: one man and one woman for life! (Matthew 19:4-6) God’s math for marriage is 1+1=1. A healthy marriage has *oneness* written all over it! They will be *one* in heart, mind, direction, finances, physical intimacy, and commitment. (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:14-15)

#### INVESTMENT TWO – Commit to a Covenant Marriage

God is a Covenant God. Scripture shows us the covenants God made with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and His Church. A covenant means – *to bind together*. Read Malachi 2:13-16 to see God’s expectations. Marriage is NOT a 2-way contract between a husband and wife. It is a 3-way COVENANT between a husband, a wife, and God. God will hold you to the vows you made on your wedding day. A healthy marriage maintains those vows!

#### INVESTMENT THREE – Lead Your Heart

Following Proverbs 4:23 and Malachi 2:15-16 will save your marriage from destruction. Don’t follow your heart...LEAD your heart! Our heart can be so easily deceived. It needs to be lead into truth by the choices you make. Choose to pursue your wife. Choose to love her and adore her. Choose to give her your time and heart. Do this and your “feelings” for her will follow and grow.

#### INVESTMENT FOUR – Be the Man!

Too many husbands act more like boys than men. Paul says, “When I became a man, I put childish things behind me.” (I Corinthians 13:11) A man leads. A man provides. A man serves his wife and family. A man does the hard things that make a marriage work. Ephesians 5:21, 25-33 tell us how to do this. Love is hard work. Love is a choice we make. This is the work of a man!

#### INVESTMENT FIVE – Be the Warrior!

The #1 need of a wife is security. She needs to know and feel like she is secure in your love for her. Be the warrior by protecting her security. Fight against anything that draws your love and attention away from her. Be willing to “die” to self in order to “win”. If she knows and feels like she is #1 in your life...it will come back to you many times over.

#### INVESTMENT SIX – Pursue the Girl!

Many men chase the girl, get the girl, and then drop the girl! How foolish! There is nothing more vibrant or energizing than a woman being pursued by her man. Pursue her with conversation, time, loving touch, and by taking initiative. This communicates to her that you are still attracted to her and that she is still important to you. All this fills her #1 need of security.

#### INVESTMENT SEVEN – Be the Spiritual Leader!

Most women who have a heart for God have a longing for their husband to be the spiritual leader in the home. This doesn’t require a Bible College degree or Seminary training. It involves the little things: change the channel when something inappropriate comes on, take the lead in going to church on a regular basis, initiate prayer on a regular basis, etc. She may know more scripture than you do but leadership is not about knowledge, it’s about taking initiative. If you want to seal your marriage – pray with her at least 2 times a week before you go to bed. Marriages that do this have a success rate of 96%!

## Going Further – Resources

### Recommended Books:

- *Love and Respect* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs
- *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman
- *Four Pillars of a Man's Heart* by Stu Weber

### Recommended Video Series:

- *Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage* by Mark Gungor

### Recommended Websites:

- Both [www.family.org](http://www.family.org) and [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com) provide online collections of marriage articles, resources, assessments, and referrals representing the best of Christian marriage support.

### Recommended Conference:

- *Family Life Weekend to Remember* – go to [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com) for dates, costs, and locations.

### Recommended Audio:

- *Fire Retardant for Husbands* (Fireproof Series) February 2, 2009 can be listened to or downloaded on audio page at [www.silverdalebaptist.com](http://www.silverdalebaptist.com)

### Recommended Movie:

- *Fireproof (2008)*