

# Marriage...

Made in Heaven. Lived on Earth.

## Message 4 Perseverance in Marriage

Perry Duggar  
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### ► Outline

*May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression  
of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NLT)**

### Essentials for an enduring marriage: (Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:8-9)

1. Express \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ephesians 4:2-3,25-27,29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11;  
James 1:19-20)

2. Embrace \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Romans 5:3-5; 12:12; 2 Corinthians 4:17;  
Galatians 6:9-10; James 1:2-8)

3. Extend \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Luke 17:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:5-6; Ephesians 4:31-32;  
Colossians 3:13)

**Answers:** 1. communication 2. difficulties 3. forgiveness

**Resource Information:** Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

## ► Discussion Guide

Whether young or old, married or single, we can all benefit from exploring God's design for relationships. Use this guide with your spouse, with friends or on your own to develop healthy connections with others and a deeper relationship with Jesus.

**For additional resources** visit [brookwoodchurch.org/marriage](http://brookwoodchurch.org/marriage).

### Conversation Starter

Everyone who knows me knows I love \_\_\_\_\_.

### Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

#### Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

1. What does it mean to live with an eternal perspective? How might this help you persevere in your marriage, and in life in general?  
See also Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:2.
2. What's the difference between a *covenant* relationship and a *contract*?  
See also Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:3-9.
3. What does good communication between two people look like?  
See also James 1:19-20.

#### Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5.

4. How can you allow God to direct your heart and guide your thoughts into His love and perseverance?
5. How does knowing God more intimately strengthen your relationships?

#### Read Ephesians 4:21-32.

6. Make a list of relationship principles you see in this passage.
7. Which of these will you put into action this week?

#### Read James 1:2-4.

8. How does James 1:2-4 help you reframe your relationship struggles?  
See also Romans 5:3-5; 12:12.
9. What aspect of your character do you feel is the greatest stumbling block to persevering in your marriage or other close relationships?
10. How does marriage prepare us for heaven?
11. How can being honest with your spouse (confessing your own sin or sharing how they hurt you) bring you closer together?
12. How does giving and receiving forgiveness with others affect your relationship with God?

### Soul Training

Be purposeful about saying something kind or uplifting to your spouse or a close friend each day this week. Ask God to help you grow in the area of communication.

### Memory Verse

*May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ.*

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### Daily Reading

Day 1: James 1:19-20

Day 4: Ephesians 4:28-32

Day 2: 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

Day 5: James 1:2-4

Day 3: Ephesians 4:21-27

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, October 21, we'll continue our marriage series with a closer look at passion, beauty and intimacy. To prepare read Song of Songs 4:1-16.

