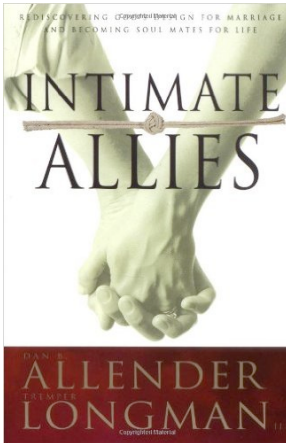


Marriage Resources

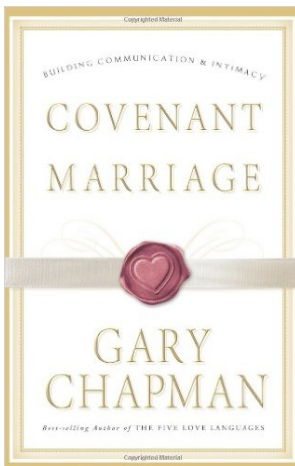
General

» Allendar, Dan B. and Tremper Longman III. *Intimate Allies: Rediscovering God's Design for Marriage and Becoming Soul Mates for Life*



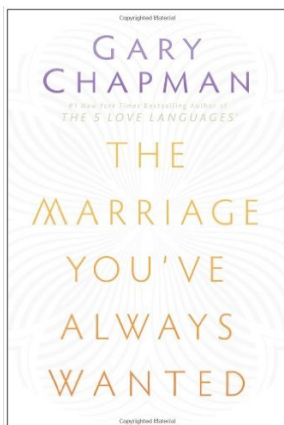
Intimate Allies strips away cultural expectations and takes a fresh look at God's design for the marriage relationship. The authors focus on five foundations taken from Genesis 1-3 and include an extensive review of other biblical passages on marriage. Each section begins with a real-life story concerning an unresolved marriage issue and concludes with the same story built on the "foundation" of a godly marriage. With eloquence and wisdom, this book will challenge readers to move their marriages out of the mundane and into the fulfilling and enriching experiences God intended.

» Chapman, Gary. *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication & Intimacy*



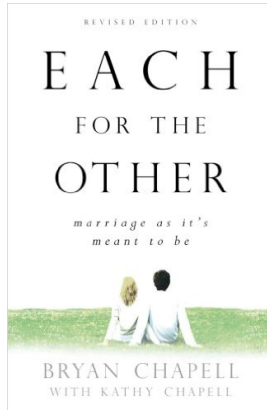
The Covenant Marriage program encourages Christians to exercise the promises and expectations of God's covenant love in marriage. Practicing Covenant Marriage means couples must offer each other steadfast loyalty, forgiveness, empathy, and commitment to resolving conflict so as to encourage each other in spiritual growth. Dr. Chapman shows how communication and intimacy are two of the most important aspects in developing a successful Covenant Marriage. At the heart of it all are the principles that lasting answers to marital growth are found in the Bible, your relationship with God enhances your marriage relationship, communication is the primary vehicle by which two persons become one in the marriage relationship, and the idea of biblical oneness involves not only sex, but intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and social oneness.

» Chapman, Gary. *The Marriage You've Always Wanted*



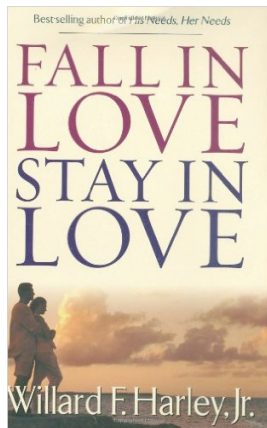
Marriage is God's answer for our deepest human need—companionship. And that is to have deep and lasting union with another, and to truly become one. But how can you build that oneness from the beginning? Dr. Chapman helps couples with such questions as: Why won't my spouse change? What does it really mean to love someone else? How do I get him to listen to me? What if I'm the only one working at the marriage?

» Chapell, Bryan. *Each for the Other: Marriage as It's Meant to Be*



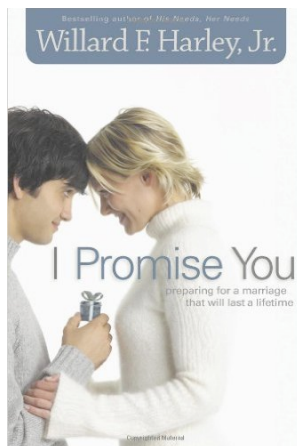
Marriage requires not just love, but sacrificial love, says Bryan Chapell. In his newly revised and updated book, *Each for the Other*, he shows married couples how to emulate the unselfish, sacrificial love of Christ. While imparting invaluable instruction grounded in Scripture, Chapell not only helps husbands and wives understand the nature of God's care but also affirms the importance of building a spiritual foundation that binds them together as one. By presenting a biblical model of marriage, Chapell encourages couples to dive into the deeper dimensions of their relationship. The result, he says, is a Christ-centered marriage and a grace-filled family. Refreshing and honest, *Each for the Other* is a perfect guide to show spouses, engaged couples, and marriage counselors what marriage is meant to be.

» Harley, Willard F. Jr. *Fall in Love, Stay in Love*



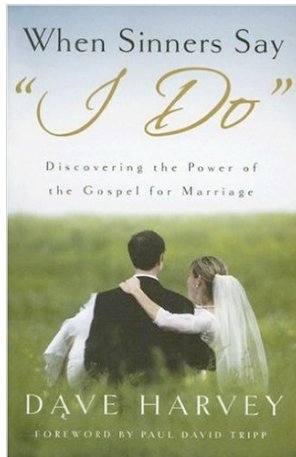
In *Fall in Love, Stay in Love*, Dr. Harley weaves together the insights and techniques he has collected over the years into one comprehensive plan for building and sustaining romantic love. In seventeen brief sessions he equips you with the tools you need for a happy, successful marriage. Discover how to fall in love by meeting each other's needs. Then learn how to stay in love by avoiding habits that chip away at your love for each other. And don't forget to master the art of negotiating in marriage along the way. With these vital steps in place, you and your spouse will enjoy a romantic, passionate, life-long love for each other.

» Harley, Willard F. Jr. *I Promise You: Preparing for a Marriage That Will Last a Lifetime*



Marriage is a truly unique commitment that requires more than just love to keep it together. And those considering marriage today know too well the frightening divorce statistics--many come from divorced families themselves. So where can an engaged couple turn for help strengthening their marriage before it starts? *I Promise You* offers couples four ways to create a healthy and vibrant marriage: care, protection, honesty, and time. Each chapter contains useful and practical exercises to help readers make each of these four keys second nature in their relationships. Engaged couples will find this book an invaluable tool in evaluating and improving their relationships. Additionally, pastors and counselors will find *I Promise You* an excellent source of information and advice.

» Harvey, Dave. *When Sinners Say "I Do": Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage*

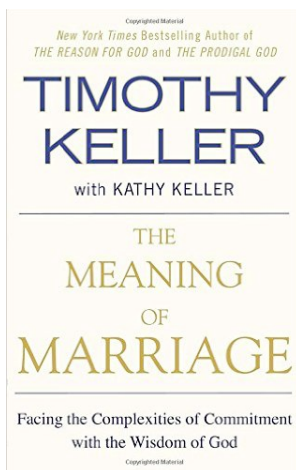


“Dave Harvey not only offers a biblical diagnosis of marital strife, but prescribes the cure as well - the gospel. When Sinners Say "I Do" provides clarity in conflict, hope in despair, and points the way to a joy-filled, God glorifying marriage.” – C.J. Mahaney

“This is a wonderful book. It is honest, refreshing, practical, and above all biblical. These carefully written pages spill over with truth and grace. This book is liberating, Christ-centered and hope-filled, pointing the way to God-empowered marriage.” – Randy Alcorn

Marriage is the union of two people who arrive at the altar toting some surprisingly large luggage. Often it gets opened right there on the honeymoon, sometimes it waits for the week after. The Bible calls it sin and understanding its influence can make all the difference for a man and woman who are building a life together. *When Sinners Say "I Do"* is about encountering the life-transforming power of the gospel in the unpredictable journey of marriage. Dave's writing style embraces the reader as he speaks honestly, and sometimes humorously, about sin and the power of the gospel to overcome it. He opens the delightful truth of God's word and encourages the reader to see more clearly the glorious picture of what God does when sinners say 'I do'.

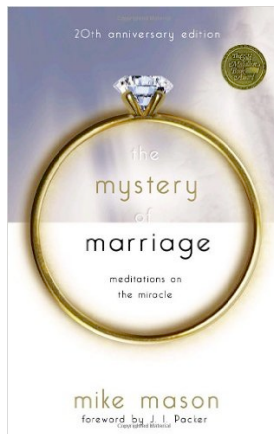
» Keller, Timothy. *The Meaning of Marriage*



Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul-mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that marriage does not mean til death do us part, but merely for as long as my needs are being met; and that when serious differences arise, divorce is the best solution.

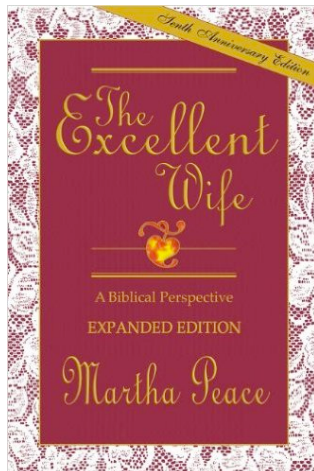
According to the bible, all of these modern-day assumptions miss what marriage is all about. In *The Meaning of Marriage*, Timothy Keller, along with Kathy, his wife of thirty-six years, draws a profound portrait of marriage from the pages of Scripture that neither idealizes nor rejects the institution but points us back to the relationship between God and man. The result is a vision for marriage that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful. This book is for anyone from singles, to couples considering marriage, to those who have been married recently or for a long time.

» Mason, Mike. *The Mystery of Marriage 20th Anniversary Edition: Meditations on the Miracle*



In the 20th Anniversary Edition of this Gold Medallion Award winner, Mike Mason goes on a poetic search to understand the wondrous dynamics of committed love. In highly readable, first-person style, Mason's writing stimulates readers' thoughts and prayers and propels couples to deeper intimacy. "A marriage is not a joining of two worlds," says the author, "but an abandoning of two worlds in order that one new one might be formed." Rich chapters on "Otherness," "Vows," "Intimacy," "Sex," "Submission," and an all-new chapter on "Oneness" lift readers to view the eternal, spiritual nature of this faith-filled, "impossible," wild—yet wonderful—frontier.

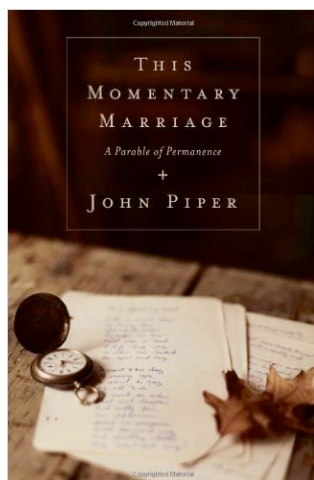
» Peace, Martha. *The Excellent Wife: A Biblical Perspective*



Here is a scripturally based blueprint for the woman who truly desires to be the wife God intended her to be. This book is based on Proverbs 31:10: An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. Thousands of women have already discovered the worth of this volume and testify to lives and marriages changed because of a commitment to the principles presented here. If this is a commitment you have made, or want to make, *The Excellent Wife* answers the difficult questions facing you today.

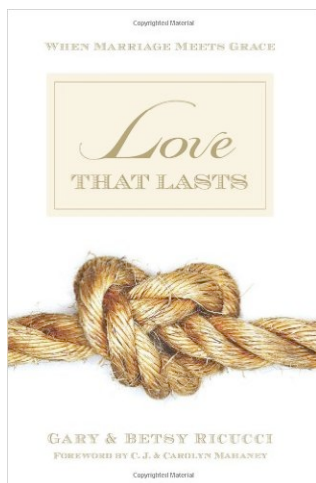
This is a companion book to Stuart Scott's *The Exemplary Husband: A Biblical Perspective* listed below.

» Piper, John. *This Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence*



A theological study of marriage. In *This Momentary Marriage* John Piper reflects on his forty years of marriage, exhorting couples to keep their covenant as a display of Christ's covenant-keeping love for the church.

» Ricucci, Gary and Betsy Ricucci. *Love That Lasts: When Marriage Meets Grace*



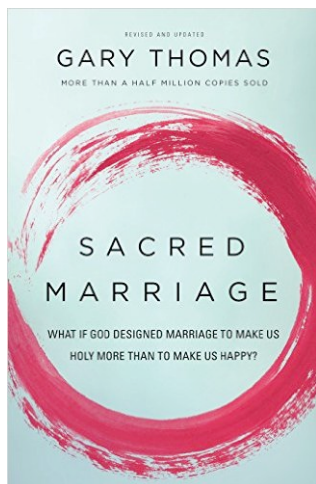
Love That Lasts is thoroughly biblical, very practical, and quite convicting. The Ricuccis do not write from an ivory-tower mind-set but from the experience of working through to a successful marriage in their own lives. Every Christian couple should benefit from this book.

- Jerry Bridges, Author, *The Pursuit of Holiness*

If you knew Gary and Betsy like I do, if you could see them together and feel the warmth, respect, and deep romantic love that they have for one another, you would snatch up this book and read it just to learn all you could from them. I recommend that you do so! They live what they write about, and that's what makes their book so compelling.

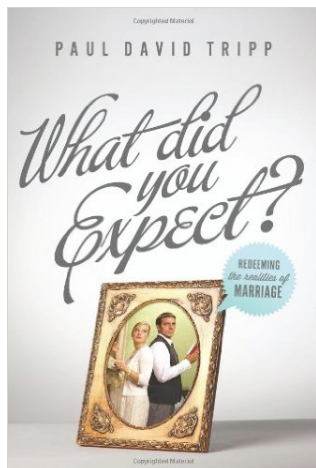
- Joshua Harris, Senior Pastor, Covenant Life Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland

» Thomas, Gary L. *Sacred Marriage: What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy*



The title expresses a radical thought for today's marriages! Chapter by chapter, discover how marriage works to develop Christlike character - forgiveness, love, respect, perseverance - in each of you. This book will enrich your marriage in unexpected ways.

» Tripp, Paul David, *What Did You Expect?*

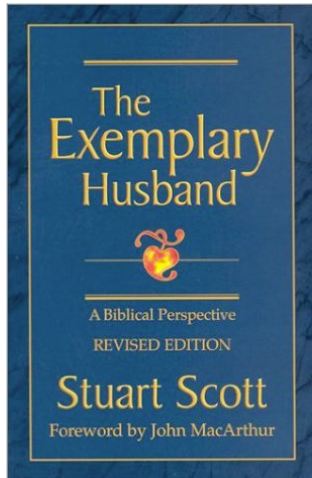


From Amazon: This book introduces a biblical and practical approach to those realities that is rooted in God's faithfulness and Scripture's teaching on sin and grace. "Spouses need to be reconciled to each other and to God on a daily basis," Tripp declares. "Since we're always sinners married to sinners, reconciliation isn't just the right response in moments of failure. It must be the lifestyle of any healthy marriage."

What Did You Expect? presents six practical commitments that give shape and momentum to such a lifestyle. These commitments—ranging from "We will honestly face our sin, weakness, and failure" to

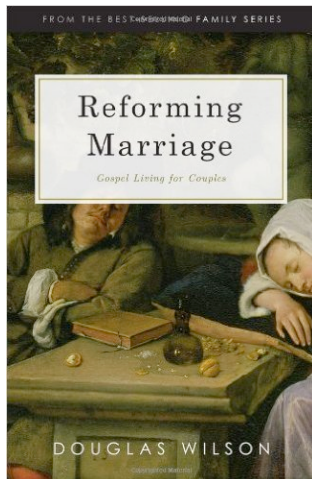
“We will change our agenda” and “We will protect our relationship”—will equip couples to develop a thriving, grace-based marriage in all circumstances and seasons of their relationship.

» Scott, Stuart. *The Exemplary Husband: A Biblical Perspective*



The Exemplary Husband is a biblical blueprint for the mandate God has given to husbands in the covenant of marriage to love their wives, even as Christ loved the church. Written to be a companion book to *The Excellent Wife* by Martha Peace, its goal is to assist husbands toward purposeful and lasting Christlikeness for the glory of God. It is suitable for men's small group Bible studies, or for couples prayerfully seeking God's very best in marriage.

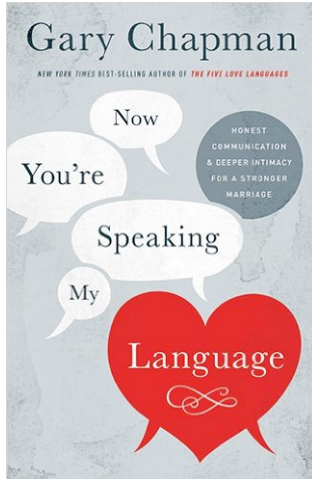
» Wilson, Douglas. *Reforming Marriage*



How would you describe the spiritual aroma of your home? The source of this aroma is the relationship between husband and wife. Many can fake an attempt at keeping God's standards in some external way. What we cannot fake is the resulting, distinctive aroma of pleasure to God. Most marriage books address the mere externals of marriage, without seeking to understand the heart issues. Godly marriages proceed from an obedient heart, and the greatest desire of an obedient heart is the glory of God, not the happiness of the household.

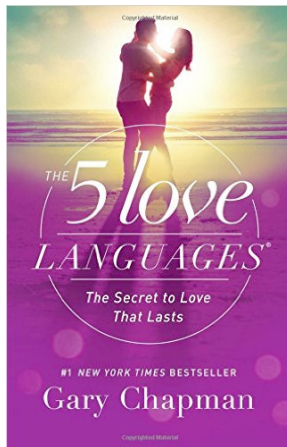
Communication/Practical Issues

» Chapman, Gary. *Now You're Speaking My Language: Honest Communication and Deeper Intimacy for a Stronger Marriage*



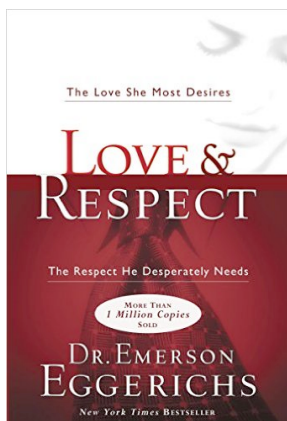
Now You're Speaking My Language encourages husbands and wives to offer steadfast loyalty, forgiveness, empathy, and commitment to resolving conflict, thus encouraging each other in spiritual growth. Dr. Chapman shows how communication and intimacy are key points in developing a successful marriage by focusing on these principles: * Lasting answers to marital growth are found in the Bible. * Your relationship with God enhances your marriage relationship. * Communication is the main way two become one in a marriage. * Biblical oneness involves sex, but also intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and social oneness.

» Chapman, Gary. *The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love That Lasts*



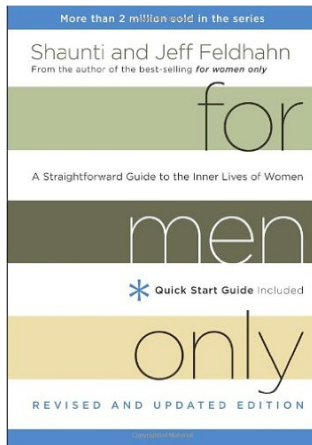
The Five Love Languages, explains how people communicate love in different ways, and shares the wonderful things that happen when men and women learn to speak each other's language. Chapters are categorized by love language and each one ends with simple steps to express a specific language to your spouse and guide your marriage in the right direction.

» Eggerichs, Emerson. *Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, the Respect He Desperately Needs*



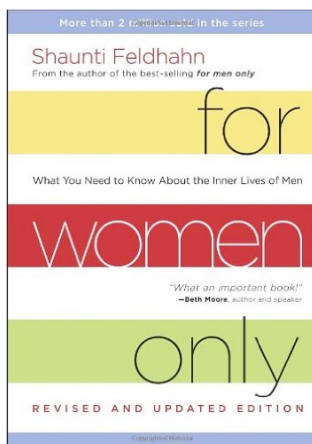
From Christianbook.com: Dr. Emerson Eggerichs' book, *Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, the Respect He Desperately Needs*, is based on the biblical passage from Ephesians 5:33 (But every husband must love his wife as he loves himself, and wives should respect their husbands). His premise is that communication between a husband and wife is often frustrated because of the vastly different ways in which men and women perceive love. Women are wired to need unconditional love and men need to feel unconditionally respected. Revitalize the love in your marriage!

» Feldhahn, Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn. *For Men Only: A Straightforward Guide to the Inner Lives of Women*



Women: complicated and impossible to understand? Do you love and want to please the woman in your life, but just can't seem to figure her out? That was before *For Men Only*. Now at your fingertips is the tool that will unlock the secret to her mysterious ways. Through hundreds of interviews and the results of a scientific national survey of women, this book demonstrates that women are actually not random and that they really can be systematized and "mapped." In fact, much to men's delight, this book shows that women are actually quite easy to understand and please—as long as you know what it is they need. This simple map will guide you to loving your wife or girlfriend in the way she needs to be loved.

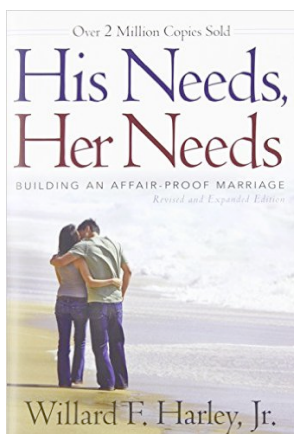
» Feldhahn, Shaunti. *For Women Only: What You Need to Know about the Inner Lives of Men*



"Ready for an eye-opener? A mountain of meaningful information for any woman wanting to understand men at a profound level."

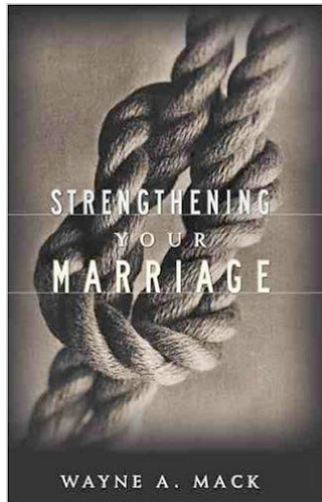
-- Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, Seattle Pacific University, authors of *Love Talk*

» Harley, Willard F. Jr. *His Needs, Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage*



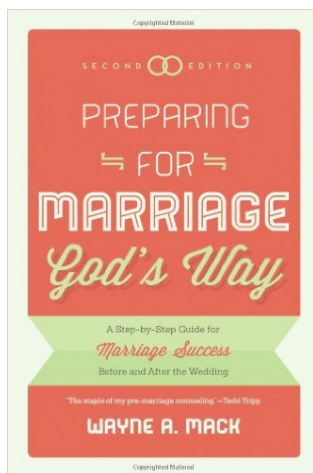
Marriage works only when each spouse takes the time to consider the other's needs and strives to meet them. In *His Needs, Her Needs*, Willard Harley identifies the ten most vital needs of men and women and shows husbands and wives how to satisfy those needs in their spouses. He provides guidance for becoming irresistible to your spouse and for loving more creatively and sensitively, thereby eliminating the problems that often lead to extramarital affairs. This best-seller identifies the causes of marital difficulties and instructs couples on how to prevent them, guiding them to build a relationship that sustains romance and increases intimacy. With today's soaring divorce rate and prevalence of affairs, Harley's insights are needed more than ever before.

» Mack, Wayne A. *Strengthening Your Marriage*



Wayne Mack recognizes the challenges involved in building a strong marriage. He also knows that Scripture provides the method and means for meeting those challenges with growing success. In this volume Dr. Mack has gathered a wealth of practical information on marital roles, communication, finances, sex, child raising, and family religion. This valuable counseling aid for pastors can also be used with great benefit by couples on their own.

» Mack, Wayne A. *Preparing for Marriage God's Way*



This book is an excellent resource for several reasons. I'll list just a few that were helpful for us: 1) It discusses numerous common areas of unmet expectations. 2) It helps you compare your interests on a wide variety of things that you wouldn't normally think about. 3) It helps you compare your priorities and commitment level on things like work, hobbies, family life, raising children, how you spend your time, spiritual beliefs and convictions, etc. 4) It has advice on how to handle practical things like in-laws, sexual differences, finances, etc.