

The Marriage Partnership

Here are some helpful thoughts on developing your marriage as a partnership.

What are your individual goals for your marriage? In what ways do they overlap?

How would you rate your mutual respect for one another?

How would you rate your shared compassion for one another?

The overall focus of your marriage:

- ___ Build it on Empathy...this is the ability to put yourself in your spouse's place and to truly search after his or her best interests.
- ___ Enemies of empathy: A driving or intolerant personality, an uninvolved or aloof partner, and a non-reflective or overly busy lifestyle.
- ___ Build it on Maturity...this is the learned wisdom of acting responsibly and unselfishly toward your spouse.
- ___ Enemies of maturity: Unrealistic views of life and marriage, uncontrolled anger or temper, uncontrolled lust or jealousy, and baggage from my family of origin.
- ___ Build it on Dignity...dignity is the ability to be gracious, thoughtful, and measured about our responses to life's challenges.
- ___ Enemies of dignity: An unrestrained tongue, wandering affections, or a scoffing heart.

An overall principled understanding on a marriage partnership includes:

What are the attractive qualities in any man or woman?

How is a spouse to deal with what he or she feels is unacceptable in their spouse?

What is the root of most women's anger? Most men's anger?

How are respect and trust established in the arena of a marriage relationship?

What does it mean to "live with your spouse in an understanding way?"

How do we give honor to someone as a partner in life?
