

MARRIAGE

MADE EZ

VOLUME II - ISSUE II

Life Begins
WITH SERVING

I Love You
But..
I'm Not
In Love
With You

The Sanctity of the Marriage Bed

Keeping Your Sex Life Honorable in the Covenant of Marriage



Spirit of Faith Christian Center

Corporate Office
2261 Oxon Run Drive
Temple Hills, MD 20748
301-630-3733
Tuesday - Friday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST

Three Locations:

North Location
2261 Oxon Run Dr.
Temple Hills, MD 20748

South Location
14107 Gibbons Church Rd.
Brandywine, MD 20613

Howard County
8430 Glen Mar Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

2012 MMEZ Schedule

Please visit us online at www.marriagemadeez.com for more information about meetings in your area.



APRIL 20, 2012
CHERRY HILL, NJ

JULY 6, 2012
TEMPLE HILLS, MD

OCTOBER 12, 2012
ATLANTA, GA

MAY 4, 2012
ELLICOTT CITY, MD

AUGUST 10, 2012
KNOXVILLE, TN

NOVEMBER 2, 2012
ELLICOTT CITY, MD

JUNE 1, 2012
ROCKY MOUNT, NC

SEPTEMBER 7, 2012
BRANDYWINE, MD

DECEMBER 14, 2012
AUSTIN, TX

ALL DATES AND LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Broadcast Schedule

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:30 A.M.
The Word Network

SUNDAYS, 8:30 A.M.
KAZQ TV 32/ KTVS 36-

SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.
WHNO 20

SUNDAYS, 11:30 P.M.
WBFF FOX 45

Look for us on
The Church Channel



COVERSTORY

The Sanctity of the Marriage Bed

We live in a sex driven society where marriage is no longer considered sacred. The dishonor in marriages, concerning sex, has been destructive and disruptive in the lives of many marriages. You should be the only one enjoying your spouse. In the covenant of marriage, it is your responsibility to make sure you keep your sex life with your spouse honorable.

page 5

INTHISISSUE

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------|
| 2 | MMEZ Schedule | 19 | Pastor Mike's Guide to Success in Marriage |
| 4 | Publishers' Page | 23 | Invest In Yourself at the SOFCC Bookstore |
| 9 | God's Glamorous Girls Conference | 24 | Partner with Purpose: monthly memberships |
| 12 | Testimonials from our Broadcast | 25 | MMEZ App: Connect Like Never Before |
| 13 | 2012 FICWFM Convention | 27 | Breezy's Accessoriez |

CONTENTS



FEATURES

10 Why People Get Divorced
How can two people who could not live without one another, are now against each other? What happened to the excitement and loving feeling that you once had?

16 I Love You ...But I'm Not
When the words "in love" are mentioned, most people are describing a depth of feeling or a certain level of commitment. Eros~Philos~Agape. Which type of love are you exercising in your marriage?

20 Transitioning: Single to Married
What are the steps to making the transition from single to married? How do two people who are preparing to enter into a life-long covenant partnership make their union divorce-proof?

26 Groundwork as it Relates to the Heart
In order to maintain what God has given to you, as a believer, you must keep your Heart right. Here are 5 things to help you guard your heart and to keep you in His presence.

LIFE BEGINS

with Serving



When God calls you to do something, you really don't have an idea of the magnitude of it; you just obey what He's called you to do. God has a perfect plan for your life, and He is committed to your success. But how do you get there? What is the key to success for your life?

Matthew 23:11 says *"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant."* He said, *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"* (**Mark 10:45**). Too many people in the body of Christ are missing this ingredient for their success. Giving and serving people is the key because your seed alone won't do what you need it to do. You're trying to substitute with the seed, that which cannot be substituted with any other thing. You've got to give of your heart and serve.

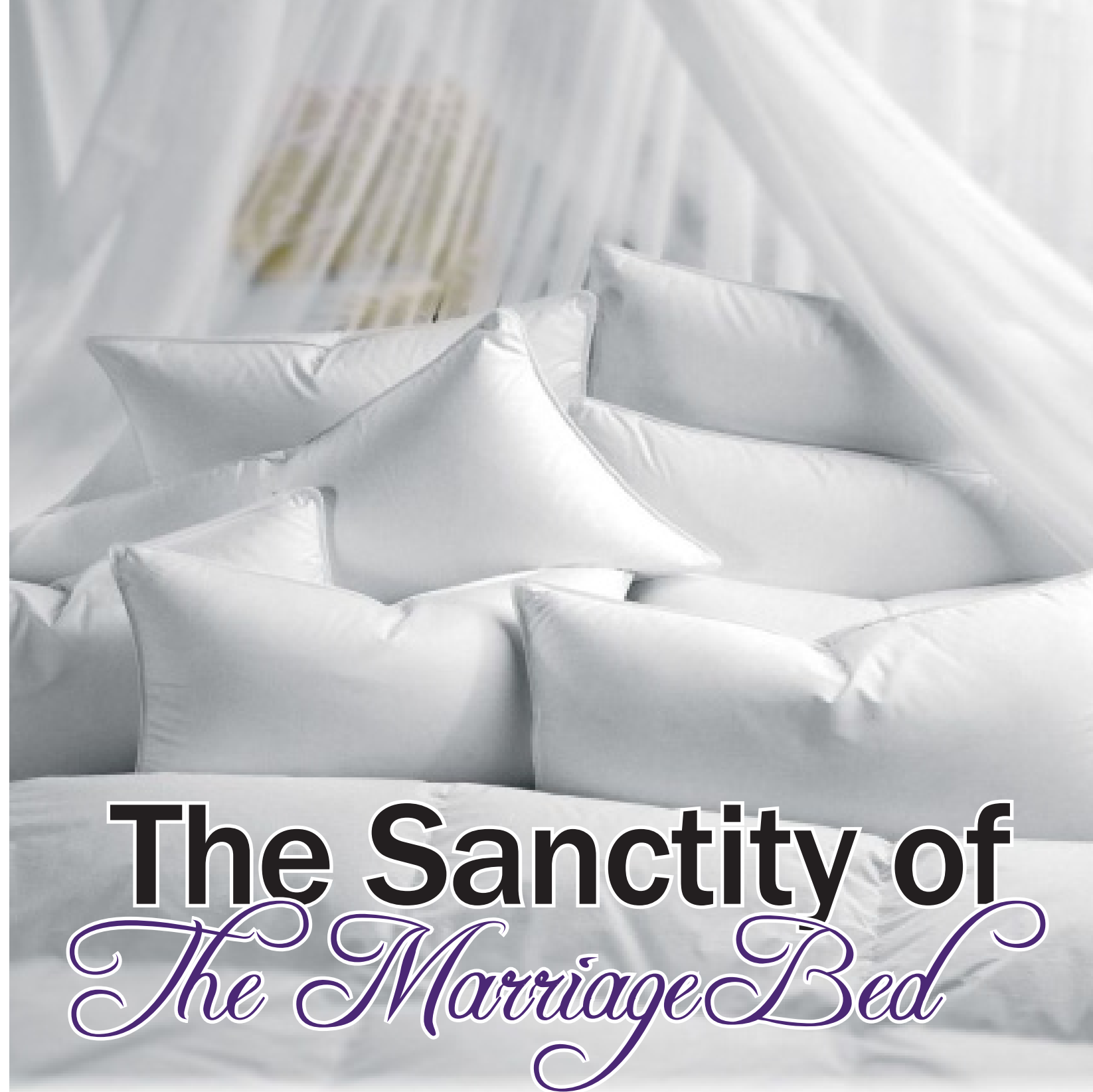
There's this show I used to watch, called Undercover Boss, where the CEO is disguised and comes down from the corporate office to work among the employees. At the end of the show he reveals himself and the employees are astonished that they have been working with the CEO. There is coming a day when the 'undercover boss' you've been working for is going to reveal Himself to you.

Some of you are trying to get results from your spouse that you'll never be able to get, because you're not serving him or her. You've got to learn how to serve your spouse. You've got your thoughts on you and you alone. Everything revolves around you, and until you become 'others driven' and go to someone's home, the grocery store, the community center, or the hospital and change somebody's bed pan, or cut their grass, or clean their house – in other words, serve somebody – your life will lack the key ingredient to your success.

So let's take this to another level. You are the light of the world; you're the salt. He says, *"Let your light so shine"* (**Matthew 5:16**); He didn't say "His" light. He said let "Your" light so shine. Keep your heart where it's able to hear, and is pliable, so that God can do something with you. If you want to see great joy and peace to come up on your life, then set yourself to serve someone. So, here's some homework – go out and serve someone. Forget about yourself and find somebody to serve, and always remember to serve your spouse!

Creating Transformed Lives

Pastors Michael & DeeDee Freeman



The Sanctity of *The Marriage Bed*

God intended for sex to have tremendous benefits to those who would comply with the covenant agreement that He has arranged and established through marriage. There are so many benefits to having a proper and sound sexual relationship with your spouse. In the covenant of marriage, it is your responsibility to make sure you keep your sex life with each other honorable. God has given you a mate to be in covenant marriage for the rest of your lives and the two of you should be the only ones enjoying each other. Because we live in a sex driven society, marriage is no longer considered sacred or sterile. The dishonor in marriages, concerning sex, has been destructive and disruptive in the lives of many marriages. There have been so many emotional and psychological challenges caused by sexual violations that led to bitterness, unforgiveness and even divorce. Many couples have forfeited having a blessed and wonderful relationship because of sexual offense.

“The Two become One.”



Hebrews 13:4 says “*Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband.*” God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex (MSG). **Hebrews 13:4** in the NKJV says “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the marriage bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*” The marital bed is dishonored when the husband or wife allow infidelity to creep in, in any capacity. You may think this means just the physical act; but you can yield your soul to someone intimately by looking at someone lustfully and still be in violation of the scripture because adultery starts in the heart. The Bible says if you lust after a man or woman in your heart, you are guilty of committing adultery (**Matthew 5:28**).

The sexual relationship within the covenant of marriage is sacred and sterile. If you have sexual relations or intimacy

with someone outside your marriage, you infect your relationship and bring that person into your marital bed, which defiles it. **1 Corinthians 6:15** says in the Message Bible “*There is more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact.*” As written in scripture, “*The two become One.*” When you yield your souls intimately to another person, you are then joined together with that person which results in a soul tie. A soul tie is when two souls are tied together in the spirit realm becoming one flesh. Your soul should only be tied to your husband or wife. God intended for sex to join the husband and wife together, in a covenant marriage, for a very healthy, strong and close relationship. Thus, becoming one and consummating the marriage. In **Genesis 2:24** God said “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his*

wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Pornography will also join your soul to someone other than your spouse. Likewise with masturbation, because you have to have an image in your mind to kick off the libido, thus yielding your spirit to the image which in most cases is not your spouse. It’s difficult to disconnect from the person or image because the act tied your souls together. This explains why people continue to be drawn to the person with whom they committed the sexual act. When you commit an act of infidelity, you activate something in the soul that fuses the souls together because it’s a spiritual act. If you are experiencing the effects of a soul tie, then you must battle it in the spirit and not in the flesh according to **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**.

When you get married your body belongs to your spouse. It is very impor-

tant for the husband and wife to make sure they’re taking care of the needs of their spouse and not someone else’s (**1 Corinthians 7:3-4**). Spouses are depriving each other sexually and if you are being deprived it does not justify your “stepping out” of your relationship for fulfillment. **Proverbs 4:15-20** says Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well... Let your fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of your youth... **1 Corinthians 7:5** says “*Do not deprive another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*” Wives, the Bible does not say you are to withhold from your husband until he starts acting right and that is because your body is not your own. Husbands, you must be diligent in what you are supposed to be doing for and to your wife; you cannot take from your neighbor as you must make sure you have your own supply. Why go out and eat off the floor when you can eat at home at the table?

We use the term “The grass is greener on the other side of the fence.” The only

reason why we use that term is because the people on the other side are watering their grass more than you. The neighbors are diligent in doing what they are supposed to do in their marriage for fulfillment and if you watered your grass it will be just as green. A lot of relationships are deprived in the area of sex because the husband and wife do not understand the needs and likes of their spouse. The marriage bed should be a place of mutuality where couples come together to discuss these issues. Since you know your body and what you like, you must discuss this with your spouse so you won’t be deprived and your next sexual encounter can be fulfilling. Remember, the whole sexual connection is not complete if the woman is not satisfied first.

Sex does the body good. There are 10 health benefits when husband and wife have a healthy sexual relationship within the marriage:

1. Relieves stress by lowering the blood pressure
2. Boosts the immune system: Having sex once or twice a week has been linked to higher levels of immunoglobulin which is

an antibody that protects you from colds and other infections.

3. Burns calories: 30 minutes of sex burns 85 or more calories
4. Great cardiovascular health
5. Boosts self-esteem
6. Improves intimacy
7. Reduces pain
8. Reduces risk of prostate cancer in men
9. Strengthens pelvic floor muscle for women
10. Sleep aid: Oxytocin is released during orgasm which helps you sleep better.

Keep your marriage bed sanctified and un-defiled by exercising sexual purity in your marriage. Render to each the affection that is due by training each other for satisfaction. Good sex, with your spouse, creates a healthy and strong environment in the home and with the family. Protect what belongs to both of you which are the covenant of your marriage and your body which belongs to God. **EZ**





MarriageMade *Ez*

VOLUME II-ISSUE II

- PUBLISHERS** Drs. Michael & Delores Freeman
- EDITORIAL DIRECTOR** Dewayne Freeman
- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Shirley Schreffler
- CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Olivia Garrett
- EDITORS** Miriam Capers
Donna Duncan
Alana Hilliard
Joyce Jolly
Sean Joyner
Chaleta Lowery
Nancy Salmon
- GRAPHICS** Patience Butler
- MARKETING DIRECTOR** Robert Dawson
- MMEZ MINISTRY DIRECTORS** Richard Smith, Esq
Dr. Sophia Smith
- PHOTOGRAPHY** Troy Woods
Robert Bailey
Tracey Booker
Joshua Freeman
Maceo Jones
- PROOFREADER** Angie Freeman
- TECHNOLOGY** Rick Thomas
- TNT DIRECTOR** Charles Barley
- TRANSCRIPTION** Trina Thomas
- WRITERS** Lisa Brown
Vielka Brown
Daniel Peabody

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
We love to hear from our partners of purpose, and broadcast viewers. Send your Testimonials, Comments or Suggestions to magazine@marriagemadeez.com; or Letters to the Editor - MMEZ Magazine, 2261 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD 20748.

Include your name, address and phone number. All submissions become property of MMEZ Magazine. Letters selected for publication may be edited for style, space and clarity.

GOD'S GLAMOROUS GIRLS 2012

TRANSFORMATION

JULY 11-13, 2012

Register now @ www.godsglamorousgirls.com

godsglamorousgirls @gods_glamorous



Hosted By
DeeDee Freeman

Bishop T.D. Jakes

Dr. Mike Freeman

Donna Pisani

Evangelist
Susie C.
Owens

Wendy Treat

Canton Jones

Vicki Yohe

Soulful
Symphony with
Darin Atwater

Erica Berry
Lauren Lyric

Vickie Winans

2012 Marriage Made Ez Magazine all rights reserved.
May not be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.
Printed in the USA. Volume II, Issue II.



Why People Get DIVORCED

When you first met your spouse you did the work to get into a relationship. While working on your catch you were inseparable and so “in love.” You went on dates, you took time to learn each other, you respected each other, you communicated, you were affectionate and you could not live without each other. Now that you are married, you stopped doing the things you used to do to win each other. Your hearts are hardened and the relationship goes sour. How can two people who could not live without one another are now against each other? You want out. You want a divorce. What happened in the relationship that caused this? How is it that you cannot maintain that same kind of excitement and that loving feeling? These turn of events are not just happening in the world it’s happening in the body of Christ!

Marriage is analogous to purchasing a luxury car you’ve always wanted. When you first saw the car in the showroom it

was very attractive and it had all the features you wanted in a car. Prior to purchasing the car, you researched the best price and what was required for maintaining the car. You are now the owner of the car and you take great care of the car, inside and out, for a year or two. After you’ve owned the car a few years, you begin to neglect the maintenance and the warning lights. Since you’ve neglected the maintenance and warnings, the car breaks down. You take the car to the repair shop and the mechanic tells you everything that needs to be done to get the car working but, because it will cost too much you decide to junk it. You junked your marriage because you’ve neglected the preventive maintenance and you don’t want to pay the price of dying to your selfish ways to repair your marriage. When you decided to ignore the signs you were communicating to your spouse, by your actions, that something else is more important. Many marriages

are at this stage because one or both, in the marriage, does not want to die to their own selfish ways.

When you go to the junk yard you’ll see cars that were junked but, you can’t help but wonder how the car looked when it was on the showroom floor. When that junked car was new it was attractive and you did whatever you could to get that car. How did that car get from the showroom floor to the junk yard? One neglect after another. Thus, is a marriage when both spouses are neglected. When you first got married it was all about the other person by meeting their needs. After you are married for some time you get into a mode where you stop giving and the love begins to die.

A car will let you know when it is in need of gas, oil or any maintenance because you will see and hear warnings. In your marriage you have to be able to hear what your spouse is saying. The neglect

will be communicated in their actions and words so you should be paying attention to the warning signs or your marriage will die. A major hindrance to relationships that can lead to a dying marriage or divorce is selfish familiarity. This means you get so familiar with your spouse that everything becomes routine and you begin to take them for granted which is a form of neglect. Neglect keeps you from paying attention to the point where you’ll stop appreciating your spouse. Men and

Thus, you’ll need to know your spouse’s love language so you’ll know what to deposit. Most men need affirmation from their wives, not criticism. Wives you must build up your husband with words that encourage him because words are seeds and if you speak against him this will be damaging to his spirit and you will tear your home down. The Word says in **Proverbs 14:1** “*The wise woman builds her house.*” Men you should know that her love language is affection and attention.

Himself for her.” Husbands, you must show her love by meeting her needs or your wife will be unhappy which will make you unhappy. Husbands and Wives should be asking each other about their needs to know the love language. Learning your spouse’s love language involves going into their world but, many want to go into their spouse’s world just so they can get what they want. You are going into your spouse’s world only to learn their love language so you can meet their need.



women come with inherent needs. If you have a need and your spouse stops meeting that need for selfish reasons, you will feel neglected.

Neglected needs are usually the reason why spouses go outside their marriage to have those needs met. What you put into your spouse is what you will receive. Whatever is deposited will be received good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over (**Luke 6:38**).

Men, you cannot use the excuse of growing up in a household where you did not see affection because you still have to give your wife what she needs.

Proverbs 18:22 says: “*He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.*” A man will only obtain favor if he is doing his role as a husband, according to the Word in **Ephesians 5:25** which says “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave*

A lot of times you are trying to love your spouse the way you want to be loved and are trying to give them what you want which is a form of selfishness. You want to love your spouse your way because you don’t want to die to self to meet their needs. Loving your spouse is giving according to their need first, then you’ll receive what you need but, now that your heart is hardened, you are now waiting for

your spouse to show love to you first. You want to be on the receiving end without giving your part. Stop making withdrawals without making deposits into your spouse

Frequently ask your spouse three things that they require of you and waste no time doing it, as this will begin to remove self-centeredness. When you consistently meet that need, your spouse will meet your need with gladness and without second thought. The more you give, the more you'll receive, but you must learn your spouse so you'll know what to give. The Word says *"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding"...* (1 Peter 3:7). Husbands, you must learn what makes your wife tick and keep the clock wound! **Philippians 2:4** says *"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."* You must understand that it's not about you. It's always about the other person. You have to esteem your

spouse higher than yourself, which will put you in a position which is pleasing to God to receive His favor. Wives, you are no longer your own. The wife has a responsibility to support her husband as she is married to the mantle he has, whether it be a pas-



"God can save your marriage"

tor, business man, police officer or janitor. You are married to that and you need to make him the best he can be.

Since God hates divorce, you should hate it as well. Decree in your heart that you will not become another divorce statistic! Someone has to seek God for His wisdom and plan for the marriage. To succeed in your marriage, you must put in the work by focusing your love and attention toward your spouse. The will of God for you is on the line, the will of God for people is on the line and the will of God for your marriage is on the line. The enemy wants you to divorce because not only is he after your family, but he's also after the bigger picture that your marriage represents. You will win half the battle by looking at what's wrong with you. You can change your spouse by first changing yourself. If God is big enough to save you, He can save your marriage. **EZ**

MarriageMade *EZ* TESTIMONIALS

Here's what couples are saying about Marriage Made EZ from our emails, broadcast viewers, and partners of purpose

I just wanted to thank you so much for coming to the Orlando, FL area last night at Spirit of Truth Worship Ministries. Your information, impartation and revelation were what this area is in dire need of. Even as a divorced woman, I found that what you both presented has blessed me for my future marriage!

~ L. ANDERSON, ORLANDO, FL

I am writing from Italy to appreciate Drs Mike and Dee Dee Freeman for the good work they are doing in the body of Christ and the world in general. We have been really blessed by your programmes on the Word Network. The Marriage Made Ez programme has been a blessing too. God bless you.

~ A. GEORGE, ITALY

I've been married to my darling husband for 9 years this June. We along with some of our other married friends watch you on TWN every weekday morning; we have benefited so much from your ministry. We want other marriages to be blessed like we have been. We believe with all our hearts that God can [and has] used you to be a blessing and bring a special word to our Community's foundation, "The Family".

~ P. JOHNSON, CAT ISLAND, BAHAMAS



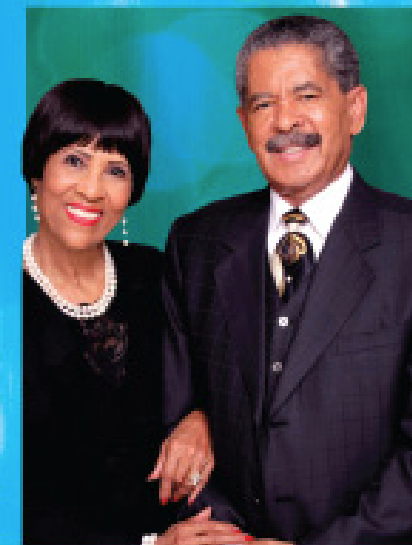
2012 ficwfm convention

JULY 24-26

AT THE FAITHDOME IN LOS ANGELES
CRENSHAW CHRISTIAN CENTER
7901 S. VERMONT AVENUE | LOS ANGELES, CA 90044



Dr. Bill Winston
Living Word
Christian Center
Chicago, IL



Apostle Frederick K.C. Price
Dr. Betty R. Price
Conference Hosts



Dr. Michael A. Freeman
Dr. DeeDee Freeman
Conference Hosts



Dr. Bernard Grant
Showers of Blessing
Christian Center
Rocky Mount, NC

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

MAY
17-18

MESA, AZ
Living Word Bible Church
3520 East Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213
480.964.4463 | Dr. C. Thomas Anderson

SEP
27-28

TEMPLE HILLS, MD
Spirit of Faith Christian Center
2261 Oxon Run Drive | Temple Hills, MD 20748
301.630.3733 | Drs. Michael and DeeDee Freeman
President & Vice President of FICWFM

OCT
25-26

ST. LOUIS, MO
Grow 2 Go Christian Center
870 Pershall Road | St. Louis, MO 63137
314.867.1894 | Dr. Anthony Herrin

Scheduled meetings are subject to change without notice

to Register:
visit ficwfm.org

for more
Information:

call 800-727-1374
visit ficwfm.org



Marriage Made EZ has improved the vision we have for our marriage. It has also helped us to build goals for our family. Prior to MMEZ, we were not having family meetings; neither of us had that experience growing up. Now, we are walking together and agreeing!

~AKIN & TARA OMOTOSHO

Marriage Made EZ has impacted our lives by enlightening us on the covenant of marriage and how that covenant is a covenant that includes us and God. It has also taught us the importance of agreement in marriage. God is using Pastor Mike and Dr DeeDee as a tremendous blessing to the body of Christ and to the world.

~PASTOR PURCELL & TOWANDA DRAPER



Whenever we attend MMEZ, we leave with new revelation and tools that help us. When Drs. Mike & DeeDee talk about the early years of their marriage, we see that things we've experienced in our young marriage can easily be overcome using the same principles. Following their example now has others using us as an example.

~CHRIS AND NATASHA CHERRY



At MMEZ, we learned how to use agreement to maximize our potential. If we have goals and vision, the sky is the limit. Also, if we apply the word of God to our lives and marriage, then we are destined to succeed!

~DEVRON & NICHELLE MITCHELL

MMEZ has transformed our marriage and given us wisdom and helpful tips. We always enjoy the sessions while gaining practical advice. Every couple needs to participate in MMEZ!

~ALEK AND THANH PADGETT





The phrase “I love you but I’m not in love with you” is a common phrase or cliché that maybe you’ve said or heard someone say. Many people are only in love with the idea of being “in love.” The world cannot comprehend the biblical definition of love as stated in **1 Cor.13:4-8** and specifically for husband and wife in **Eph 5:21-33**. As a Christian you should have a biblical understanding of love. When you got saved, chances are, you still operated under the world’s definition of love which is primarily based upon feelings.

There are 3 familiar types of love: Eros, Philos and Agape. The love we are to display in our marriage is the God-kind of love- Agape love. Agape love is the highest form of love and is not associated with your typical emotional feeling of

conditional love as with Eros. Agape is unconditional love. Agape love is the reason Jesus laid down His life for us. Having a feeling of love will not last in a covenant marriage because your feelings change. You cannot make a permanent decision based upon a temporary feeling, as this will lead to making bad decisions. Once you are married, it’s until death do you part. Christian couples should be exercising Agape love. It’s something you do and it’s commanded by God. Thus, it’s a choice. You choose whether you are going to perform this deed based upon what the Word commands and not according to your feelings.

When people think of being in love their first thought is the emotional feeling which is the Eros or Philos love. However,

for Christians, when we think or hear of the word love we should immediately think of Agape love—the highest form of love. The word love has been tossed around and used loosely without knowing its true meaning. When the words “in love” are mentioned most people are really describing a depth of feeling or a certain level of commitment.

Eros love is based on strong emotional feelings such as in a romantic or sexual relationship when you are attracted to someone’s physical or material traits. This is the feeling we get when we first meet someone with whom we are interested.

Eros love is strictly based upon how you feel and it only benefits you- rather than the other person. Thus, it’s selfish and conditional. When you are exercising this

kind of love, you are showing your best character to impress the other person for your benefit. This love will not last because when the conditions are not met and the relationship is tested, the Eros love dies immediately and unfortunately so does the marriage. This is the love which most married couples base their marriage. While most of us experienced this type of love initially, building your marriage on Eros love is like building a permanent structure on sand. If you are exercising Eros love you have to move your marriage toward Agape love where your actions are benefitting your spouse and not just you.

Phileo love is based on friendship between 2 people. This is important in a marriage. Some couples are married but, are not friends or friendly with each other.

Although there is tender affection you are still concerned with self as you are protecting your own interests. There is communication through the sharing of thoughts and feelings. Each person confides in the other but, the sacrifice is limited. Thus the love is conditional. While this love is needed in a marriage it is not sufficient to weather a storm.

Agape love is the highest form of love because it is pure and unconditional as it’s

You must know that Eros love is a temporary feeling, that is conditional and selfish while Agape is a continuous growth of unconditional, unselfish love. People always want to say how they feel when it comes to love but, love is not a feeling, you must understand that. Agape love is an action; an action of meeting the needs of someone without looking for something in return. The problem with mixing the two is lack of knowledge. Most marriages are



the God-kind of love. This love is not sexual or romantic in nature. This is the love married couples need to achieve. Agape love is for the benefit of the other and it’s sacrificial. It’s best to choose this love because it benefits your marriage and family without expecting anything in return. This is how Christ loves us. When we rejected Christ and was happy in our sinful state, He sacrificially gave of Himself. Even now as a born again believer we may do things contrary to His commands but, He continues to love us. This love is so powerful that it never fails. When you love someone with Agape love, you are serving them in spite of their faults. Unconditional love is what’s required to repair and increase your marriage.

Concerning your marriage, the Word says in **Romans 12:1-2** that we are to present ourselves as a living sacrifice as this is our reasonable service. Thus, it’s a given that we are to provide that sacrificial love to our spouse. The unfortunate part is most are confusing the Eros, romantic love for Agape love and stop serving their spouse.

destroyed because one or both, in the marriage, do not have an understanding of true love. Without the knowledge of true love, how can you love someone sacrificially?

Let’s know the truth about Agape love so that you can begin loving your spouse as they are supposed to be loved. First, you must define the role of the husband and wife respectively, and fulfill those roles (**Eph 5:21-33**). When you have a clear understanding of your role you now have the power to fulfill the role. You must know that each role requires a Godly submission. According to **Eph 5:21** we are to submit to one another in the fear of God. When you are operating according to your role, you are communicating your love to your spouse as Agape love is communicated through your actions and not your emotions. Submission/serving is done because of love as the Word states in the second portion of **Gal 5:13**...through love serve one another. Agape love is about serving others. Without Christ it is not humanly possible to love and serve someone the way God commands.



Prior to your salvation, it was all about you and your pursuit of what could benefit you but, when you accepted Christ in your heart you were given the power and freedom to love/serve others. Our service to our spouse and others is an outward expression of our love for their benefit. When you are able to love like this there will always be a great harvest. You are really "in love" when you are operating in Agape love.

The world has taken the word love and diluted it to the point where it's used as a cliché with no meaning. When someone says they are in love with you, the first thing you should look for is a demonstration of that love as it relates to the Word of God. If their actions don't line up with God's Word, they are lying to you. A lot of people are in love with a person's physical traits, money, assets or just the concept of love. Sadly, those are the shallow reasons why most people marry.

When a Christian ponders love, we must think about Christ's love for us. He did everything for our benefit and He did it sacrificially. He laid down His life for us so that we may live an abundant life. Since

we were made in His image we have the power to imitate His ways. **Eph 5:1** says *"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children and walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."*

Most Christians are not mature enough to stay in Agape love. Thus, prior to marriage, both parties must agree to their roles and what is Agape love. The bible says in **Amos 3:3**: *"Can two walk together unless they are agreed?"* If you are going to enter into the covenant of marriage, you have to understand and define Agape love. Couples are getting married with the world's definition of love which is loaded with conditions and because of this, marriages are failing. If you are going to love your spouse God's way, stop trying to use a street excuse for why you won't do what the covenant commands! The street excuse is selfishly putting your needs and feelings first!

Since couples are unable to live up to the highest form of love they are choosing the world's way instead of God's way. You cannot operate in love according to the

world. When you tell your spouse that you love them you are saying I'm going to lay my life down for the covenant of our marriage. In marriage, you must die to self and love the way God commands us to love. Men are not loving their wives as Christ loves the church, nor are they committed to the needs of their family. Wives are not respecting the authority of the husband or being unified in purpose with their husband. When you pursue your God given purpose together, you grow in Agape love. There is no falling in love.

Marriage is supposed to be a picture of that Agape love and Christians are throwing the picture of Agape in the garbage! When you don't show Agape love to your spouse it's like you are spitting in God's face. You are telling God that you don't feel like doing this marriage thing anymore so I'm getting out. That's a coward's move. A coward's move is when you are not able to stand up to be what God has called you to be in your marriage. When you bail out of your marriage you are simply saying you are not willing to make the sacrifice that it takes to be a husband or a wife nor did you have the true understanding of Agape love. That's why it's important to define love and your role prior to marriage. You think that you will lose out by operating in Agape love so; you get in fear, get selfish and stop fulfilling your role. This means you never loved your spouse in the beginning; you were just caught up in your emotions.

Agape love says I will love you; I will serve you regardless of how I feel because there is a purpose greater than my feelings. The love that God commands of us can only be done by faith. Your faith is the victory that overcomes the world (**1 John 5:4**) and your Agape love will overcome all the issues you may have in your marriage.

As married couples we have a responsibility to rescue others in their troubled marriages by being an example. We are the rescuers but, if we need life jackets and life lines how in the world can we help others? The body of Christ is the salt of the earth but, we are losing our flavor. Whatever you are going through right now reclaim your flavor and get back in Agape love. Agape love is concentrated which means when you are operating in this form of love you are applying all your attention for the good of your spouse by meeting their need. This love is so pure that you can't and won't lose because love never fails. **EZ**

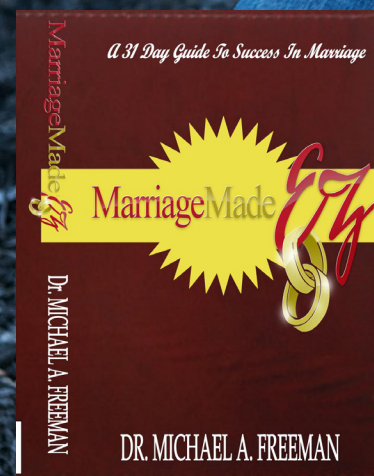
Marriage Made EZ: A 31-Day Guide to Success in Marriage, is a fun, life-altering, manual wherein Dr. Michael A. Freeman guides you on a 31-day journey to a Marriage Made EZ. With more than 26 years of experience, Dr. Mike reminds us that marriage is something you don't get out of alive and for that reason, we must work together to create a Marriage Made EZ, worthy of imitation, in your lives.

In this book, Dr. Mike becomes your coach, your drill sergeant, your example as you and your spouse work together for the next 31 days to create the marriage God intended for you.

MarriageMade EZ

by Dr. Michael A. Freeman

A 31-DAY GUIDE TO SUCCESS IN MARRIAGE



AVAILABLE APRIL 20, 2012



Transitioning from *Single* to MARRIED

PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATION FOR THE BEGINNING OF MARRIAGE

In marriage, couples will be faced with floods and storms. There will be no avoiding hard times as the enemy waits for any opportunity to steal, kill, and destroy what we have built. He will test whether we are convicted of the principles on which we say our marriages are founded. We must ensure that our marriage is dug down and founded on the rock so that it will be unshaken when the flood comes.

A couple making the transition to the married state must apply the principles that Jesus taught with this story to their marriage. They must come to the Lord together, hear the Word as it relates to marriage, and do what the Word instructs.

You've got to put yourself in the right place to get understanding of this covenant. For the married partners at Spirit of Faith Christian Center, this means attending church together, attending and following Marriage Made EZ events, and making time to study the Word in private as it relates to your married life. Coming to God and hearing His heart relative to the marriage covenant is the beginning, but as Jesus said, we then have to do what we have heard. Without application, our marriage has no foundation and is therefore subject to destruction when attacked. So much wisdom regarding building a strong foundation for your marriage

covenant is contained in the Bible, but you must be willing to hear the principles AND apply them.

One way to hear from God and ensure that your marriage covenant will stand the test of time is to get around successful, blessed marriages and emulate what people in those successful partnerships do. This is an integral part of what Spirit of Faith Christian Center has set up within the Marriage Made EZ ministry. We have created a place for couples to come and fellowship and share with each other their secrets to success, as well as to support those among us who are struggling to construct solid foundations for their mar-

riages. We must minister to each other in this extremely important area of Christian family life.

Dr. DeeDee and I have not always had the blessed covenant that we do today. We make no secret of the fact that when we started out we allowed our marriage to be dangerously shaken every day because we had not built for it a solid foundation of covenant principles. We had to dig down by faith and create the foundation after the house was built. However, now that we've done ground work, we are unbelievably blessed in our marriage. We believe that there is no reason that couples should waste precious time being unhappy in their marriages when a blueprint to great blessings exists. Armed with our experiences and an anointing from God, we can minister Word-based principles that will forge a strong and steady foundation from the beginning of your marriage.

Though we have set up this ministry, there are many blessed marriages partnering with us to support our vision. A newly married couple should avail themselves to what DeeDee and I teach regarding marriage, but they will also want to submit to

other couples who have built strong and successful marriages already. This principle of submission to one who has already experienced significant growth or development can truly fast-forward your marriage to the blessings that we experience today.

“As a newly married couple, strong Christian couples keep you company on your journey.”

We have many very successful people at Spirit of Faith Christian Center, and one common theme for those who have reached a significant measure of success early in life is that they put themselves at the feet of someone who has already reached the goal that they have envisioned for themselves. They become disciples, listening and soaking up the experiences of those who have travelled the path to the blessings that they would like to see on their own life. Whether it is a young lawyer learning from the head of a successful law firm about how to grow his practice, or the owner of a business start-up submitting to a mentor who has grown their own business to immense success already, the experience of the mentor can significantly speed the journey of the mentee to their successful end. As each person travels over the same road travelled by another, the path becomes more worn and smooth, the journey becomes easier and the ends are reached more quickly.

So it should be for marriages in the Body of Christ. As one couple in the Body applies the principles of the Word to



their marriage with a profitable result, that marriage can then minister to many others. Others can see the profitable result, apply the same principles, and then experience the same blessings on their marriage while going on to be a blessing to all those around them! Being around married couples who have built Word-based unions will make it easier to hear from Holy Spirit regarding your own marriage.

This principle of getting around people who help you to hear God's Word regarding marriage is going to be important for the transition into the married state from the single state. As two young singles prepare for marriage, you may have to examine the hearts of those that you hang with the most. Do your friends practice the principles of covenant partnerships in the Body of Christ? As single people do they give in to temptations of the flesh above the commandments of God? Do your married friends put each other first in all things and take care of each other's needs for a happy union? As with any transition in life, getting around those who are living faithfully according to God's Word can reduce back-sliding, negative thoughts, temptation, and stress. Make sure that as a newly married couple, you have other strong Christian couples to keep you company on your journey. If you want to have a successful marriage, make sure that you attach yourself to successful couples!

One thing that I must remind couples as they enter into marriage is that everything may not be perfectly set in place at the outset. When we talk about wholeness for a couple, we are not talking about everything being perfect and running smoothly all the time, but rather having a plan. For our singles ministry, Spirit of Faith Christian Center has taught five core areas that a successful single's personal plan should address: spiritual, financial, social, intellectual, and physical. Once you've locked down a covenant partner, these plans should not go out the window. When you are single and courting a mate, you always try to highlight your plans for your future, because who would want to hitch themselves to someone who isn't going anywhere or doing anything? The things that are important to each of you do not change once you say "I do", so you must continue to make plans to grow in the areas that drew you together in the first place.

Building a strong marriage takes integrity. Being a person of integrity in a marriage is about keeping the promises that you make to each other, whether you made them before or after the wedding. The promises to which I am referring are not simply to remain faithful to one another, but also to do things that made you exciting to each other in the beginning. You made promises about what kind of provider you would be or how you would take care of each other, stay attractive for each other and always make time for each other. You no doubt assured each other that you would do whatever it takes to make your marriage happy and exciting to the end of your lives. Be men and women of your word and do not let those promises lie unfulfilled.

Ultimately, the person that you marry should be your best friend. As you strive to make yourself into the best husband or wife that you can be, your spouse should be the one person who can always hold you accountable for your development. Be able to help each other develop without a negative reaction or judgment from the other. Remember what the Bible says in **Proverbs 27:17**, "*Iron sharpeneth iron; so a*

man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Remember that you are better as a team, as one flesh. You should always build up and encourage one other. You make each other stronger, happier and better than you would be on your own. That is why you entered into this covenant to begin with, isn't it?

Remember that it will take some work and adjustment to become good accountability partners for each other. As single people, we become accustomed to taking care of ourselves and being responsible for our own improvement and progress as people. Once married, how do you let go of that single mentality and start progressing as a couple? In **Matthew 19:6** we read that when two singles become married "*they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder (separate)*" [Amplified]. Knowing that you are commanded to live out the remainder of your days as one flesh, you must leave behind the insecurities and habits of your individual lives. As a person cares for him or herself in the single state, so must you care for each other in the married state.

This is not to say that you shouldn't

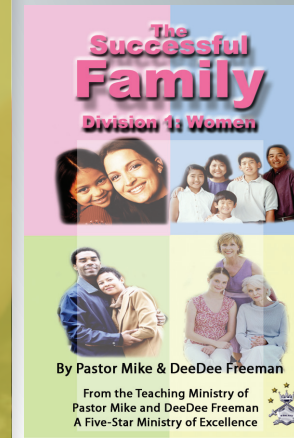


Invest in yourself

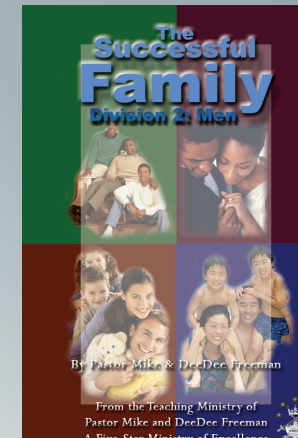
Spirit of Faith Christian Center Bookstore •
2245 Oxon Run Dr, Temple Hills, MD 20748 •
spiritoffaith.org • 301.630.9720

S O F C C
BOOKSTORE

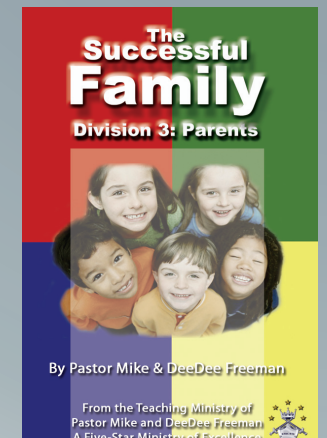
The Successful Family Series: purchase all 3 divisions
CD \$60/ DVD \$125



Women
CD \$28/DVD \$60.00



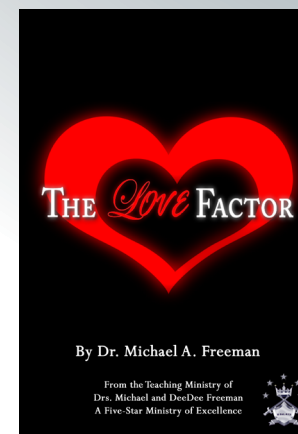
Men
CD \$33/DVD \$75.00



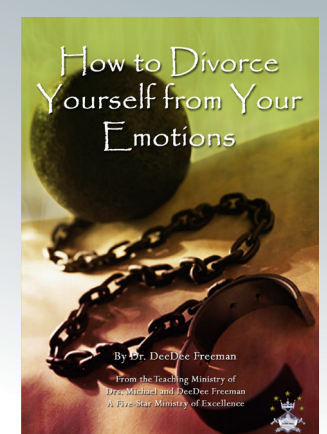
Parenting
CD \$17/DVD \$33.00



Married Made EZ Lessons
CD Series \$9.00/ DVD \$19.00
Includes Shipping and Handling



The Love Factor
CD Series \$43.00



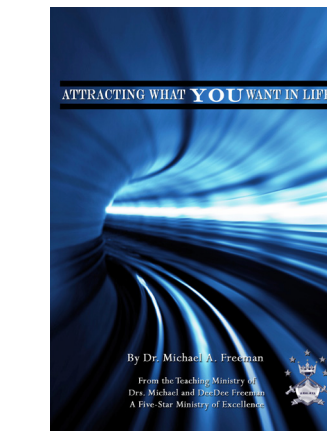
How to Divorce Yourself FYE CD
CD \$12.00



Dreams Do Come True
CD \$9.00



Pride VS Humility
CD \$9.00



Attracting What You Want In Life
DVD \$105.00
CD \$43.00

*We accept cash, personal checks, Visa, and Mastercard.

continue to improve and care for yourself in marriage. I am sure that you expect your spouse to keep up their appearance or continue to strive for financial success, and so you should do the same for yourself. Remember that change in one, encourages change in another. Make lists of the things that you want to improve in yourselves and hold each other accountable by encouraging the progress that you see in your spouse. Always be encouraging, not nagging. If your husband has a list of things that he wants to improve, don't always refer to the list, but refer to the progress that you see. When you see change in his behavior, let him know that you like it. As you make this transition into marriage, you will not see everything come together at once. However, make sure that all progress towards your spouse becoming the best husband or wife they can be, is both encouraged and appreciated.

Always remember that this transition from the single life into a blessed marriage

does not happen by accident, nor does it happen overnight. Marriages are not made like microwave dinners. You can't say a few words, press a button and then it's done. You must do the work to build your foundation. Avail yourself to pre-marital counseling, be willing to sit as a disciple at the feet of couples who have built successful marriages, keep your promises, hold each other accountable, and have faith in each other and in God. With these principles and, of course, the discipline to act according to God's design for a marriage covenant, you will have all of the blessings that have been set up for your marriage. Remember that if you stop working at your marriage, it won't take long for the enemy to attack your heart and decay your resolve. However, if you heed these principles faithfully at the beginning and do the hard work to build the foundations of your marriage, you will feel momentum start to build and the work will become easier with time.

If you apply the Word of God to your

relationship, it will not be long before your marriage is one of those that others want to be around and emulate. When you figure things out for yourselves, be willing to bless others with your experience. As your marriage grows strong with discipline and foundational work over time, you will become an example for others and, in turn, strengthen marriages throughout the Body of Christ. As we are commanded in **Matthew 5:16**, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." As you faithfully apply biblical principal to your marriage and reap the rewards of a blessed union, you will no doubt become a beacon for others. You will not only add to the happiness of Christian couples by your example, but will lead others to the Father through application of His Word. Your marriage is extremely important! Be convicted from the beginning to ensure that it is founded on the rock and then "Let your light so shine." **EZ**

3 NEW LEVELS OF PARTNERSHIP!

MarriageMade EZ

When you become a Partner of Purpose with Marriage Made EZ and give monthly, you will receive a monthly resource that will bless your marriage.

\$19 MONTHLY: SILVER

Exclusive Monthly E-Newsletter from Pastor Mike & Dr. Dee Dee Freeman + Marriage Made EZ digital download or CD Resource received by mail. Plus you'll have access to priority event seating.

\$29 MONTHLY: GOLD

Monthly E-Newsletter + Receive the Marriage Made EZ DVD and CD Resource each month by mail with additional content exclusive to Marriage Made EZ Partners of Purpose. Plus you'll have access to priority event seating.

\$49 MONTHLY: PLATINUM PLUS

Monthly Resource + Partner Plus: You'll receive Marriage Made EZ Partner of Purpose Monthly Resource on DVD, CD, and a special gift including Pastor Mike's new book. Plus you'll have access to priority event seating and special perks such as after event fellowship opportunities for Platinum Plus Partners.

PARTNER WITH US TODAY!!
WWW.MARRIAGEMADEEZ.COM

CONNECT WITH MarriageMade LIKE NEVER BEFORE



MME

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:



Get audio and video lessons on demand!



Connect with MME on Facebook and other networks!



Read exclusive blog posts!



Sow into and partner up with the ministry!

Available on the
App Store
and on Android

Stay tuned for updates at www.marriagemadeez.com

GROUNDWORK



as it relates to the heart

What am I actually referring to, when I say groundwork? Your Heart. In order to maintain what God has given to you, as a believer, you have to keep Your Heart right. **Matthew 5:8** states, *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”*

There are two areas where God said we can know an individual’s heart. In **Matthew 6:21**, He said *“For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”* And in **Matthew 15:18** (NKJV), He says, *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.”* So, you’ll know and be able to tell what is in a man’s heart by what comes out of his mouth.

Now, **Proverbs 4:20-22** talks about the very thing that we need to do to ensure that we keep ourselves in the right position. The scriptures say, *“My son, give attention to My words; incline your ear to My sayings. Do*

not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.” He said to get the words of God in your heart and keep them there. Keeping His words in the midst of our heart keeps us in His presence.

Here are five things that will help you to guard your heart and keep you in His presence:

1. Have an unfeigned relationship with Holy Spirit.
2. Study the Word for yourself; spend time in the Word.
3. Stay far away from offense. When you let stuff offend you, it will eat away at the purity of your heart.

4. Obey at all costs. Disobedience will eat away at a good heart too, just like cancer of the flesh.

5. Stay under a good Pastor.

If you aren’t in the presence of God, then you are not going to be able to tune your ear the way God intended for you to tune your ear. And, if there is one thing you need to perfect as a believer, it is how you hear. How you hear will determine how you will live. If you will just fine-tune your hearing, God is right there every single day of your life to speak to you concerning decisions you need to make. Life is a series of decisions that you make, and if you make one good decision after another, you are going to live the good life. And if you perfect your hearing, you’ll perfect your Heart. EZ



Breezy's Accessories



www.breezyz.com

VISIT US ON THE WEB www.marriagemadeez.com

MarriageMade *EZ*

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother
and cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh

HOME

MEDIA

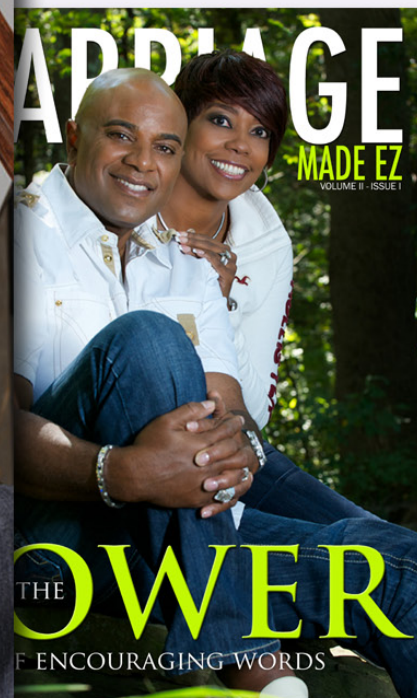
TOUR INFO

PARTNER WITH US

CONTACT US



MMEZ Magazine is going digital!



More information coming soon