

"Marriage God's Way is a thorough and comprehensive treatment of marriage. The reader who works his way through this volume will be richly rewarded."

Tedd Tripp—Husband of 48 years and best-selling author of *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

MARRIAGE GOD'S WAY WORKBOOK



*A Biblical Recipe for Healthy, Joyful,
Christ-Centered Relationships*

Scott LaPierre

"This is what every marriage needs! Your mind will be filled with the pure and perfect word of God. If you want a book that is built on the foundation of scripture, Marriage God's Way is for you."

Scott Brown—Husband of 31 years, director of The National Center for Family-Integrated Churches, and author of *A Theology of the Family*

The perfect companion to *Marriage God's Way*!

God intended marriage to be a great joy, but we can only experience this joy if we obey the principles in His Word. This workbook will help you apply the biblical recipe in *Marriage God's Way*. Inside you will find:

- Clear instructions on prayer, communication, and forgiveness
- Insightful questions that solve marital frustrations
- Practical exercises to enjoy with your spouse
- Helpful discussion topics that strengthen your relationship

Use this great tool in your marriage, small group, or church. It is perfect for engaged couples, newlyweds, and marriage veterans. There are questions for husbands, wives, and both as a couple:

- HUSBAND: What are three ways your wife makes you feel respected? Disrespected?
- WIFE: Second only to Christ, do you feel like the supreme relationship in your husband's life? Why or why not?
- HUSBAND: When your wife is suffering, do you feel like she takes it out on you like Rachel did with Jacob (Genesis 30:1)?
- WIFE: What can your husband do to help you more easily resist the temptation to nag him?
- BOTH: What do we have in our home that threatens our holiness, and how do we remove it?

Regardless of the person asked, the purpose of each question is to help you have a *Healthy, Joyful, Christ-centered Relationship*!

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Using This Workbook

Following these guidelines will allow you to receive the most benefit:

- 1 The workbook contains questions for each section in *Marriage God's Way*. Read the book before looking at the corresponding questions.
- 2 Instead of reading a chapter of the book and then answering the questions, it is best to read one section at a time and then answer the questions.
- 3 Some questions are addressed to both spouses, while others are for only the husband or wife. Whatever the case, be sure to discuss all your answers with your spouse.
- 4 Ideally, husbands and wives should each have their own workbook and do the work together.

Expect Tension

In Chapter 2 of *Marriage God's Way*, the third section, "Embrace the Struggle" says:

As you work through this book, recognize the tension created in your marriage is a good thing. God is introducing areas that need to be improved, and the best way to do that is by asking each other tough questions.

This will be even truer as you use this workbook. Whenever you experience tension, remember God is at work strengthening weak areas of your relationship!

Focus on the Way Your Spouse Feels

Many workbook questions contain the word "feels." This is because:

- It is not a question of whether a husband *thinks* he loves his wife. It is a question of whether his wife *feels* loved.
- It is not a question of whether a wife *thinks* she respects her husband. It is a question of whether her husband *feels* respected.

Consider these two passages from *Marriage God's Way*:

1. In Chapter 10 the sixth section, "Perception Is Reality," records: "Note the emphasis here is how a wife *feels*. A husband might insist: 'My wife is the supreme relationship in my life. She is more important than anything else.' But the wife might not feel that way. A wife's perception is her reality. It is not about what the husband says or even thinks but about what the wife feels."
2. Chapter 11 discusses wives respecting their husbands, and the fifth section, "Learning, Then Embracing" records: "A wife who does [these things] will have a husband who feels very respected."

Focus on the way your spouse feels. Then, after learning how your spouse feels, make the appropriate changes to help your spouse feel differently. The poor alternative is trying to talk your husband or wife out of feeling the way he or she feels. The section, "Embrace the Struggle," also says:

A husband might say, "Outside of the Lord Himself, do you feel you are taking second place to anything in my life?" If a wife answers that she does not feel she is the supreme relationship in her husband's life, the husband should not try to talk her out of the way she feels or persuade her to see things differently. Likewise, a wife might ask her husband, "Do you feel I respect you?" If the husband explains how she makes him feel disrespected, the wife should not argue with her husband and try to convince him he is wrong. Instead, each spouse should listen to the other and try to make the appropriate changes.

Similarly, if your husband or wife is hurt by something you have done, do not try to make him or her feel wrong. When hearing your spouse's thoughts, commit to not interrupting or arguing. If you understand how your spouse feels, then you will learn to treat him or her the way he or she wants to be treated.

Crucify Your Flesh and Apologize the Right Way

As you continue through this workbook, you are going to hear answers that reveal:

- Your weaknesses
- Hurts you have caused
- Ways you have failed

Your flesh will flare up and threaten the work God wants to do in your marriage. Read Romans 8:13 and Galatians 5:24, and then list three ways you will need to crucify your flesh:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Stay on guard against your sinful nature tempting you to get angry. Do not let pride have victories in your marriage! Instead, humble yourself and ask for forgiveness the right way. Some people – whether intentionally or unintentionally – act like they are apologizing, but their “apologies” are simply ways of making excuses and shifting blame. This only serves to increase frustration and hurt. Sincere apologies have the opposite effect – they diffuse aggression and prevent bitterness. Proverbs 15:1a says, “A soft answer turns away wrath” and there are not many softer answers than apologies made the right way. To do this, make sure you avoid two words:

1. Avoid the word “but.” When an “apology” contains this word, it is an excuse disguised as a confession:
 - “I’m sorry, BUT if they hadn’t done that...”
 - “I am sorry, BUT this happened...”
 - “I’m sorry, BUT I never would’ve done this if not for...”
2. Avoid the word “you.” When an “apology” contains this word, it is a manipulative way for people to shift blame, and make the other person feel bad about being hurt or upset:
 - “I’m sorry YOU did this...”
 - “Well, I’m sorry YOU are mad...”
 - “I’m sorry YOU are offended...”

Instead, make sure you apologize the right way. This involves two steps:

1. First, say: “I am sorry for...” or “I am sorry I...” followed by the offense you committed.
2. Then, say: “Will you please forgive me?”

The second step is important because it:

- Shows you recognize you have done something requiring forgiveness
- Shows you are not minimizing your actions
- Engages the other person and requires a response

Finally, if your spouse asks for forgiveness and you say, “I forgive you,” you are obligated to do your best to forgive the way God forgives. God does not forget our sins, but He does choose not to remember them:

- Isaiah 43:25b – I will not remember your sins.
- Jeremiah 31:34b – I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.
- Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17 – Their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no

more. When you say, “I forgive you,” you are committing to do your best to:

- Not remember your spouse’s sin
- Not hold the sin against your spouse
- Refuse to bring up the sin in the future

Although Saul was the king of Israel, a more appropriate title would be the King of Excuses. Do not be like him! Read 1 Samuel 13:1–14 and 15:1–29. What was wrong with Saul’s “apologies”? What excuses did he make? Who did he blame? Provide three examples:

1.

2.

3.

Take Your Time and Pray!

There is no rush as you continue through this workbook with your spouse. Allow time for prayer and reflection. Do not rush answering questions, asking each other questions, or sharing your responses. Consider working through no more than one chapter per day. Also, plan the location and atmosphere when using this workbook:

- Would it be best to do the work over some activity, such as a meal together?
- Could it be helpful to discuss your answers while taking a walk?
- Will you be more consistent if you choose a specific time (and possibly place)?

Pray together when you begin and conclude your times together.¹ When you begin, pray specifically for:

- Graciousness and honesty in answering the questions
- Humility in receiving your spouse's criticisms

When you conclude, pray specifically for:

- Your spouse to be the husband or wife God wants him or her to be
- The Holy Spirit's help in applying what you have learned and making the appropriate changes

Finally, be sure to thank God for the gospel that equips you to have the *healthy, joyful, Christ-centered relationship* he desires for you.

¹ If you are forced to do the workbook without your spouse, you should still pray.

Introduction

*“The truth of God’s Word has the power to heal
and strengthen any marriage.”*

What is the significance of marriage in relation to the church? In relation to society?

How can our marriages serve as evangelistic tools?

Part I

Recognize That . . .

Chapter One: Your Marriage Reflects Your Relationship with Christ

“When a husband knows his love, and a wife knows her submission is an act of obedience to Christ, it can be that much easier. A husband’s love and a wife’s submission is not a test of their obedience to their spouse. It is a test of their obedience to the Lord.”

Consider your relationship with your spouse is a reflection of your relationship with Christ. What three adjectives would you use to describe your marriage?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Are these the same adjectives you want to describe your relationship with Christ? If not, what changes do you need to make?

Two commands from the Bible give us the standard for marriage:

- Ephesians 5:25 – Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.
- Ephesians 5:22 – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Husband: Do you see your love for your wife as a reflection of your love for Christ? Why or why not?

Wife: Do you see your submission to your husband as a reflection of your submission to Christ? Why or why not?

What are common excuses people give for not obeying these commands?

Which of these excuses do you tend to use?

Trust the Holy Spirit to Help You

Marriage God's Way states that being the husbands and wives God commands us to be is intimidating and overwhelming. What other words would you use?

"If there is any area of the Christian life in which the Holy Spirit's help is necessary, it is marriage."

The first half of Ephesians 5 is about "living in the Spirit." Considering the second half of Ephesians 5 contains the marriage passage, what is the significance of the instructions in the first half?

Read John 14:16, 26, and 16:7. What three areas of your marriage most need the Holy Spirit's help?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8 and Philippians 2:13.

1. What "good works" do you recognize in your marriage?

2. Which works are you more naturally inclined toward, and therefore they are easier for you?

3. Which works, or areas of your marriage, do you find to be more difficult, and therefore they:
 - Require more of God's grace to abound toward you as 2 Corinthians 9:8 says?
 - Require more of God's work in you as Philippians 2:13 says?

Read Ephesians 1:18–20 and Hebrews 13:20–21.

1. Using the language of these verses, what parts of your marriage seem dead and in need of resurrection? **T**hese could be your financial situation, intimacy, communication, or unity in parenting.
2. When considering the power discussed in these verses, what encouragement can you take away for these “dead” areas of your relationship?

Write down the above verses on index cards or sticky notes. Post them in places where you will see them frequently, such as a mirror, dashboard, a lampstand beside your bed, the hood over your stove, or inside your iPad cover. When you see them, pray for God to show you how you can change your marriage, through changing yourself – enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We Cannot Just Sit Back

Read Romans 13:13-14. List three ways you are “making provision” for your flesh:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

“The Holy Spirit is not going to supernaturally take control of a marriage when the individuals are not committed to putting forth the necessary effort.”

Provide three practical examples of how the Holy Spirit might compelyou to treat your spouse better:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

You should verbalize your appreciation for your spouse’s changed behavior. Provide three examples of ways your spouse has tried to change:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

“We should see ourselves working side by side with God in our marriages.”

Chapter Two: Marriage “Problems” Are Really Symptoms

“When you are not involved in the body of Christ, you will not receive the encouragement and exhortation God wants you to have.”

While remembering to focus on *yourself*, if a “marriage doctor” were to examine your marriage, what are three “symptoms” he would observe?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does your time in God’s Word look like? If you are unsatisfied with your answer, what changes should you make?

Are you involved in a church? Notice the question is not, “Do you go to church?” Or “Are you a member of a church?”

1. If you are involved in a church, in what ways do you share the marital challenges you are experiencing so God can use your church family to help you?

- 2 If you are not involved in a church, what changes need to be made so you can be active and involved?

Handling Frustrations

Why do marriage passages, such as Ephesians 5:22–33 and 1 Peter 3:1–7, intertwine instructions for both spouses? In other words, why should husbands and wives be familiar with Scripture’s commands for their spouses?

After looking at the verses above, what things do you struggle with that are preventing you from fulfilling your role in marriage?

How can you encourage your spouse to fulfill the role God has given him or her? Provide three examples:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What can you do to make being married to you easier? Provide three examples:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How will you pray for your marriage differently?

Embrace the Struggle

What “recurring injuries” do you see in your marriage? In other words, what problems or conflicts do you continue to experience that need to be embraced so they can be straightened out?

Why should you expect discomfort as you and your spouse discuss the tough issues?

In what ways can this discomfort be beneficial?

God's Chastening Is Not Punishment, but a Father's Loving Discipline

In your own words, explain why some people receive "the peaceable fruit of righteousness," but others do not.

"It is not easy to understand how powerful God's Word is when you have not seen it work. It is not easy to understand the importance of obeying Scripture until you have disobeyed it and personally experienced the negative consequences."

As you continue through this workbook and difficult conversations take place, what reminders do you need to tell yourself? I encourage you to go back to the beginning of the workbook and reread, "Crucify Your Flesh and Apologize the Right Way" as often as necessary.

Before beginning Part II, circle the answers that would complete the following two sentences. People familiar with your marriage would say:

1. It seems like:
 - a. He is the leader in their relationship.
 - b. He might be the leader in their relationship.
 - c. She might be the leader in their relationship.
 - d. She is the leader in their relationship.
2. It seems like she:
 - a. Tries to help her husband.
 - b. Might be a help to her husband.
 - c. Doesn't help her husband.

Part II

Genesis 1–3: Creation of Marriage and the Fall

Chapter Three: God's Establishment of Adam's Headship

*"If we understand that man's headship began at creation,
we will see it as part of God's natural, healthy, divine plan
for husbands and wives."*

What evidence shows that God established male headship at creation?

Why is it significant that God established male headship before the fall?

What is the significance of creating Adam first and then Eve, instead of creating them as a pair as He did with the animals?

God's First Command

Why did God give the first command to Adam alone instead of both Adam and Eve?

Adam Names the Animals and Eve

What two purposes did God accomplish by having Adam name the animals?

1.

2.

What is the significance of God bringing Eve to Adam so he could name her?

History's First Surgery

Why did God choose to create Eve from Adam's side rather than from the "dust of the ground" as He had done with every other living creature (including Adam) up to that point?

Why does Genesis 2:24 mention a man leaving his father and mother without mentioning a woman leaving her parents too?

Why would Genesis 2:24 mention leaving father and mother when Adam and Eve had no earthly father and mother?

In a marriage ceremony, a father walks his daughter down the aisle to her groom. What biblical principle does this symbolize?

Egalitarianism Versus Complementarianism

Have you been taught a complementarian or egalitarian view of marriage? If egalitarian, are you willing to reserve judgment and openly receive what the Bible teaches about distinctions between husbands' and wives' roles and responsibilities? Why or why not?

In what ways has egalitarianism influenced Western culture?

Marriage God's Way states, "Egalitarians will insist a difference in roles and responsibilities implies a difference in equality, importance, or value." Considering what you read about complementarianism, how would you refute this statement?

Since complementarianism provides better relationships between husbands and wives, in what ways are you resisting God's design by embracing egalitarianism ideas? How are these detrimental to your marriage? What adjustments do you and your spouse need to make?

Better Together

In what ways do you and your spouse complement each other?

"When a husband and wife become one flesh on their wedding day, they are two people who complement and complete each other."

List three of your spouse's strengths:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Chapter Four: Male Leadership Is God's Pattern

"The pattern of male leadership in the community of faith began at creation and is maintained throughout Scripture."

Considering God called men to be leaders throughout the Old Testament, what application do you see this having for the church and the home?

Queens, Priestesses, and Prophetesses

What can women learn from:

1. The evil examples set by Jezebel and Athaliah?
2. The godly examples set by Esther and Huldah?
3. The inconsistent examples set by Miriam?

Deborah the Reluctant Judge

If someone defended or promoted female leadership using Deborah as an example, how would you respond?

"Deborah affirmed the rightness of male leadership, not only looking to Barak to lead but letting him know this is what God wanted."

Wife: What lessons can you learn from Deborah?

Husband: What lessons can you learn from Barak?

The Pattern Continues Today

Think of an example for each item below, and discuss the outcome/consequences:

Husband: A time your leadership was absent.

Wife: A time your husband's leadership was absent.

Husband: A time your wife usurped your leadership.

Wife: A time you usurped your husband's leadership.

After reading chapter four, how will you view leadership roles for men and women in the church and home differently?

"When churches have female pastors or elders, they have rejected the teaching of God's Word."

Would you like to read more?

Use coupon code **mgw10** to receive an additional 10% off any purchase, and **FREE shipping** on orders over \$20!

- *Marriage God's Way* retails for \$14.99, but it's [on sale on my site](#) for \$11.99 (20% off).
- The *Marriage God's Way Workbook* retails for \$11.99, but it's [on sale on my site](#) for \$9.99 (25% off).
- *Enduring Trials God's Way* retails for \$11.99, but it's [on sale on my site](#) for \$9.99 (25% off).
- Purchase the [Marriage God's Way bundle](#) (one book and his and her workbooks) for \$29.95 (30% off).

About the Author

Scott LaPierre and his wife, Katie, grew up together in McArthur, California, and they have been blessed with seven children. After college, Scott served as an Army officer before becoming an elementary school teacher. While teaching, he began working part time as an associate pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Lemoore, California. When the church grew, he was hired full time and remained there until becoming the senior pastor of Woodland Christian Church in Woodland, Washington, in 2010.

Scott has a bachelor's degree in business administration and two master's degrees, one in education and the other in biblical studies. He enjoys spending time with both his home and church families and studying and teaching God's Word.

You can contact Pastor Scott, learn more about him, or subscribe to his newsletter at the following:

- Email: scott@scottlapierre.org
 - Website: www.scottlapierre.org
 - Facebook: [@ScottLaPierreAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/ScottLaPierreAuthor)
 - YouTube: [@ScottLaPierre](https://www.youtube.com/ScottLaPierre)
- Twitter: [@PastorWCC](https://twitter.com/PastorWCC)

Would you (or your church) like to host a Marriage God's Way Conference?

Sample Messages

Visit Pastor Scott's speaking page for sample video messages:

<https://scottlapierre.org/speaking/>.

Schedule

Typically there is one session on Friday evening and four sessions on Saturday, but there is flexibility:

- All the sessions can be on Saturday for a one-day conference.
- There can be less than five sessions to allow for discussion or Q&A.
- Sessions can be split over Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and/or Wednesday evening.

Outreach

Consider viewing the conference as an outreach to share Christ with your community. Pastor Scott can run a Facebook ad, and/or set up a Facebook event page for those in the church to share with others.

Compensation

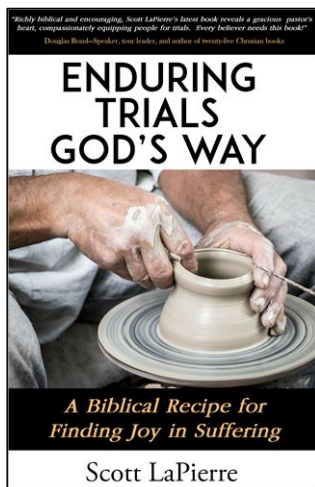
Scott is thankful to be compensated by having copies of his book purchased for those attending.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Scott at: scott@scottlapierre.org.

Enduring Trials God's Way: A Biblical Recipe for Finding Joy in Suffering

Trials are part of life on this side of heaven, and God wants to use them for your good! Pastor Scott LaPierre presents scriptural principles that give believers the encouragement they need when suffering. Every chapter concludes with questions that help you apply what you are reading. With *Enduring Trials God's Way* you will:

- Develop the spiritual perspective to embrace trials
- Appreciate the maturity trials produce
- Understand the rewards for enduring trials
- Recognize God is still compassionate and gracious during trials
- Learn to persevere through trials that threaten your faith



Endorsed by well-known ministry leaders:

- “Richly biblical and encouraging, Scott LaPierre’s latest book reveals a gracious pastor’s heart, compassionately equipping people for trials. Every believer needs this book!”
—**Douglas Bond**—Speaker, tour leader, and author of twenty-five books of biography, practical theology, and historical fiction
- “One of the best biblical treatments of suffering I have seen. You want this book in your library!”
—**Dr. Carlton McLeod**—Speaker, author, and senior pastor of Calvary Revival Church Chesapeake

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