

CONNECTING COUPLES TO CHRIST AND THEIR SPOUSE

Glen and Shawn Solberg | Serving Couples to Build Christ-Centered Marriages

Prayer Requests to Share

REACHING COUPLES LOCALLY: Please pray for the Lord to give Abiding Marriage favor when it comes to couples in Central Arkansas searching the internet for marriage help. We are thankful for the many couples we are reaching in other states, but also want to make an impact in our local church and community.

GIVING THANKS: Please pray that Glen and Shawn and our family would be people who are truly grateful and consistently giving thanks to the Lord, the One who provides for our every need! Pray also that our adult kids and their spouses would also be saturated in thankfulness to the Lord.

NEXT GENERATION: Please pray that Abiding Marriage would be helping raise up a new generation of Christ-centered marriages that will impact their local communities for God's Kingdom purposes!

FIRST LOVE & COMMUNITY: This is our consistent prayer: That we would never lose our "first love" for Jesus Christ and the pursuit of a deeply abiding relationship with Him. And after that, we would continue to make it a priority to be deeply connected to Christ-centered community in and outside of our local church.



Couple Sharing: Your Partnership at Work!!

As with our previous updates, we are excited to share a couple's comments to remind you that your partnership is **making a difference** in marriages for God's Glory! This couple was married earlier in 2023!

HUSBAND: I am very thankful for Abiding Marriage. Me and my fiancée's relationship was struggling and we decided to get counseling. We knew it had to be done but financially we didn't know how we were going to manage it. We knew we wanted Christian counseling and Glen was the first person we contacted. I felt that this was the place for us. I am very grateful for Glen and the people who support this ministry financially! May God bless you all in everything you do!

WIFE: I am so thankful for Abiding Marriage. My fiancée' and I were having a really rough time communicating and being willing to see each other's side on most topics. We decided that we needed to see a counselor and we wanted it to be a Christian counselor. We reached out to Glen and it was almost instant the difference the counseling made in our relationship. We were held accountable for our faults and encouraged us to listen to one another and put the other's needs before our own. We still meet about once a month to keep things going in the right direction. We are so thankful for Abiding Marriage and God for seeing us through our difficult times and making us a better as a couple and stronger in our faith as well.

Does Your Serving of Others Reflect a Heart for the Kingdom?

The men's group I attend has been studying the Parable of the Good Samaritan. It has been helpful to take this very familiar parable and really work and study through it. For anyone who really takes time to study it, there is buried treasure to unearth - Jesus helps us focus on what it means to "be a neighbor to someone in need". Here is what one Bible commentary shares:

"Most people do not mind serving others from time to time. If it is convenient, if it fits into the schedule for the day, if the one in need is part of our circle of friends, or if the kindness is reciprocated. Any of those things can create an environment that makes serving rather easy. But what if the service is inconvenient, an interruption, costly in time and resources, without chance of reciprocation, or, above all, rendered to someone to whom we would not normally give the time of day? Jesus reminds us, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, that the latter kind of service best characterizes those who belong to His Kingdom". (Source: Discover God Study Bible - Luke 10)

As I re-read these words this afternoon, it's as if the Lord said, "How are you doing, Glen, at serving your wife, Shawn - when it is not convenient, when it does not fit your schedule, or when you know your service will likely not be reciprocated?" I felt the sting of the Spirit's conviction. The commentator was right - serving is much easier when that service fits into my comfort, schedule, and capacity. Thank the Lord for His forgiveness with my selfishness and for His Spirit that empowers me to walk differently into my next opportunity to serve Shawn.

How are you doing with serving your spouse? Are you being "a good neighbor to your spouse when they have a need", or just when it fits into your plans and bandwidth? *Lord, help us to serve our spouse from a heart of self-sacrifice, remembering they are a good gift from You - the One who is the Giver of every good gift we have!*



Have You Checked Out Our Latest Blog Posts and Podcasts?

Every month we publish new blog posts and new podcast episodes to help you grow in your marriage and in your vertical relationship with God. You can find those on our website at www.abidingmarriage.org/blog and at www.abidingmarriage.org/podcast. Additionally, we would not only love for you to read/listen to them and put them into practice, but we also ask you to consider sharing them with others. We all need encouragement!

Bible Verses for This Month

Owe nothing to anyone – except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These – and other such commandments – are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. Romans 13:8-10