

CONNECTING COUPLES TO CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

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

Prayer Requests to Share

FOCUS FOR 2025: Pray for our preparation in prayer before each session. That we would be consistently and fervently praying for the Spirit to fill and control us. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit in sessions - to lead us to truth and Scripture that helps couples grow in humility and Christ-likeness. Pray against the attacks of the enemy as we expect more spiritual battles for these couples and for us.

FAMILY PRAISES: Please celebrate with us for two big announcements for our family: 1) Our oldest son, Josh, and his wife, Annie are expecting their first child - due date is late December! And 2) our daughter, Sarah, is engaged to be married to a wonderful young man. They are currently looking at dates this October for their wedding. Thanking the Lord greatly for these wonderful blessings in our lives!! (Resharing from June '25)

FIRST LOVE AND 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.



The Meaning of Covenant: Dennis/Barbara Rainey

Any covenant – including the marriage covenant – is a binding, weighty obligation. In Proverbs 20:25, we read, **“It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward reconsider his vows.”**

When couples speak their vows to each other during the wedding ceremony, they are pledging to faithfully enter the estate of holy matrimony. It's holy because God has set it apart and blessed it. The Old Testament declares, “For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce”. (Malachi 2:16), and in the New Testament, Jesus proclaims, “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:6). As others have so rightly pointed out, the Lord didn't stutter when He spoke those words!

It is time for us to embrace and proclaim God's sacred view of marriage, as well as His holy hatred for divorce. We can best do that by **first** committing our marriages to the Lord. God wants to demonstrate to the world through our marriages that He is indeed alive and active in this most important of all human relationships. **Second**, we can help others succeed at marriage. We live in a culture of divorce which not only accepts divorce, but also expects it. Why not try to come alongside friends or family members who are having difficulty in marriage? Too many marriages are dissolved far too quickly over what ultimately are insignificant matters. We all need cheerleaders and coaches. Why not become one?

SOURCE: FamilyLife Marriage Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Prov. 20:25

Are You Getting Our Monthly Updates by Email?

In addition to sending out this “printed version” of our monthly update 3-4 times a year, we also send out an electronic version the other 8-9 months. Are you getting our email updates? The last one we sent out was last month, in June 2025. If you are NOT getting them, that means we likely do not have a good email address for you. Please email Glen, letting him know you want the electronic updates and sharing your email address. Thanks for doing that!! His email is glen@abidingmarriage.org

Your Partnership at Work: Real Comments from Real Couples

Shawn and I want to regularly “brag on the Lord” for what He is doing in the lives of the couples He brings to Abiding Marriage. But we also want to **thank our Ministry Partners** whose gifts fund the mission and outreach of this ministry. So please take a moment to praise the Lord with us as you read the comments of a couple *who has been married just under one year*:



Husband: In hindsight I can clearly see that it was no coincidence God led us to Abiding Marriage. In His perfect timing my wife and I were led to attend marriage counselling in this ministry at a pivotal time in our young marriage. The forthcoming fruit produced in us and our marriage was clear evidence of a God-centered ministry built upon truth. I am thankful for the wisdom, patience, instruction and love shown to us through this ministry—which has caused us to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ, and with each other. May God continue to bless and get the glory from this ministry.”

Wife: A moment of gratitude and sincere thanks is necessary for the ministry we’ve received through Abiding Marriage. To the Partners and Supporters of the ministry within the body of Christ - thank you! My husband and I are a newly married couple who wanted to start our journey off together wisely with Godly counsel and insights from someone who could help us navigate the road to oneness we found ourselves on being newly married. It has not always been easy, but with the ministry we’ve received from Abiding Marriage we now have a much stronger foundation in the principles and promises found in the Bible for marriage and how to apply them practically together.

As a reminder, you can read more couple’s comments at this link: <https://www.abidingmarriage.org/your-partnership-at-work>

Bible Verses for This Month

Some Pharisees came and tried to trap Him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?” “Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And He said, “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. ‘Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.” “Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?” they asked. Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.” Matthew 19:3-9