



## TALK IT OVER

Friendship in Marriage

### BOTTOM LINE

At the root of a healthy marriage is a well-tended friendship.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

The house you currently live in is on fire. Your family is safe, but you have three minutes to grab two items and get out safely. What do you grab? Why?

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

*What did you hear?*

*What do you think?*

*What will you do?*

### RESOURCES

- The Daily: [newpointeorg/daily](http://newpointeorg/daily)
- [Dating Your Spouse](#) by Craig Groeschel

### KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18 ESV*

*A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17 NIV*

*However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33 NIV*

"One of the loneliest and most discouraging places to be is in a marriage that is devoid of FRIENDSHIP." – Dave VanDonge

"Happy marriages are based on a deep friendship... a mutual respect for and enjoyment of each other's company. These couples are well versed in each other's likes, dislikes, personality quirks, hopes, and dreams. They have an abiding regard for each other and express this fondness not just in the big ways but in little ways day in and day out.... Friendship fuels the flames of romance because it offers protection against feeling adversarial toward your spouse." – Psychologists Gottman and Silver

### TALK IT OVER

Since friendship is necessary to a healthy marriage, how would you describe what that practically looks like? When FUN leaves a marriage, it becomes simply functional. What are some effective ways to keep having fun in marriage? How can you find commonalities if many of your interests vary? Discuss the concept of "falling out of love." How can we build reliability in a relationship that has been unreliable? True intimacy develops with improved communication. How can communication between busy spouses grow and deepen? What does it mean to "tend to" your friendship? Encouragement in marriage is seeing past your spouse's flaws, dependencies, and weaknesses, to the person God is growing that person to be. How can you cultivate that view? Friends serve each other. Discuss. How can a couple discover or create a shared mission for their marriage?

### ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

In a world full of brokenness, I commit to God and my spouse to not add to that brokenness but grow in the oneness of God. I commit to be a better friend through these actions, God being my helper: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My Action Step: \_\_\_\_\_

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