

OUR HOME, OUR NEST: MARRIAGE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Brad Driedger - May 3, 2026

God created marriage and family!

Genesis 2:18–24 (NLT)

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”¹⁹ So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one.²⁰ He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening.²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.²³ “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’ ”²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Marriage and family is a big deal to God!

We should treat it with intentionality and be committed to following God’s blueprint

Relational needs in Marriage:

- Friendship
- Respect
- Acceptance & Encouragement
- Affection & Intimacy
- Safety
- Someone who has your back

We are called to serve our spouse’s needs to the best of our ability

Ephesians 5:1–2 (NLT)

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

True love lays down its life for others.

How do you respond when it feels like your needs/expectations are not met?

- Shut down (withdraw)

- Lash out (anger/frustration)
- Build inner narratives
- Look elsewhere
- Become indifferent (harden our heart)
- Keep score & track failures

HEALTHY WAYS TO DEAL WITH UNMET NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS:

1. INVITE GOD TO FULFILL YOU COMPLETELY

Psalm 62:5–8 (NLT)

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. ⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. ⁷ My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. ⁸ O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.

Jeremiah 17:5–8 (NLT)

This is what the LORD says: “Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the LORD. ⁶ They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land. ⁷ “But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. ⁸ They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

As you prioritize your relationship with your shepherd, He can and will fulfill your deepest needs completely!

2. INVITE GOD TO HEAL YOU

Emotional wounds from the past can amplify an emotional need in our life and cause us to project that need onto our spouse in an unhealthy way.

Psalm 147:3 (NIV)

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Colossians 3:13–14 (NIV)

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

God invites us into a healing journey where:

- We recognize unhealthy expectations
- We choose to forgive and surrender past (and present) pain to Him
- We allow Him to reshape our expectations

3. PRACTICE HEALTHY COMMUNICATION

WE HAVE TO USE OUR WORDS TO EXPRESS OUR NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS!
BUT HOW WE COMMUNICATE IS CRITICAL!

James 3:2-5 (NLT)

Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. ³ We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴ And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

OUR WORDS STEER OUR LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS.

OUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE IN A LIFE-GIVING WAY IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS IS ESSENTIAL!

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT)

The tongue can bring death or life...

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- **Be Gentle**

Proverbs 15:1 (NLT)

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.

Gentleness is deciding to care more about the relationship than winning the moment.

- **Be quick to listen**

James 1:19 (NLT)

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

- Create time and space to listen to each other
- Give them your undivided attention
- Ask good clarifying questions

HOMEWORK:

Set aside 10-15 minutes each day this week

Take turns sharing: one high, one low, one need

Practice the "quick to listen, slow to speak" principle

No distractions, no defensiveness