

And the Lord God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (Genesis 2:18 KJV)



Marriage is perhaps the most complex of human relationships. The process of joining two people in a relationship which is intended to last for a lifetime can involve great effort. Yet, many couples believe that a good marriage will just happen. Many couples are ill equipped to deal with the challenges they face in marriage.

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census as of the year 2002, the median duration of first marriages that end in divorce is 7.8 years. The percentage of married people who reach their 15th Wedding Anniversary is 52%. The percentage of the population of the United States that is married declined to 59% in the year 2002 compared to 72% in 1970.

Clearly, these findings contradict the myth that good marriages just happen. Most couples do not successfully anticipate the conflicts they will encounter in their marital relationship and have the necessary skills to resolve those conflicts. This underscores the need to assist couples preparing for marriage and those who are married to learn the skills necessary for their successful marital relationship.



GOOD NEWS! The good news is there are tools available to assist couples in building their successful relationship.

One of the most powerful tools available today is the Prepare/Enrich series of inventories that are designed to focus objectively on critical relationship issues. Examples of issues that are examined by the inventories include

Marriage Expectations	Marriage Satisfaction
Personality Issues	Idealistic Distortion
Communication	Sexual Relationship
Conflict Resolution	Children and Parenting
Role Relationship	Family and Friends
Financial Management	Spiritual Beliefs
Family of Origin	

The Prepare/Enrich Inventories have been rigorously tested for both reliability and validity. The inventories discriminate with 85% accuracy couples with marriage problems (or potential marriage problems) from those who are happily married.

The Prepare/Enrich Inventories is a critical part of the New Marriage Building Program developed by Thomas and Arlene Jenkinson. Tom and Arlene have been married for over 38 years. They bring their years of experience plus recent research in Marital Development to your marriage situation. Tom serves as Pastor, Educator and Consultant in the greater Washington, DC area. Both Tom and Arlene are Certified by Life Innovations to offer the Prepare/Enrich Inventories to assist couples to discover their strong areas and their growth areas.

The New Marriage Building Program includes

- Prepare/Enrich Inventories
- Exploring the couple's relationship strengths and growth areas
- Learn and practice useful communication skills including assertiveness and active listening instruction
- Explore the impact of their families-of-origin and couple relationship
- Learn skills to resolve conflicts.
- Learn to release blocks or resistance that hinders relationship growth
- Develop workable financial plans and couple goals
- And more

God knew that man needed a companion who would respect and admire him. And God knew that the companion (wife) needed love and closeness that would fulfill her.

If you have concerns about your marriage or if you are planning to marry, contact Tom or Arlene Jenkinson to receive the support and encouragement that you need.

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