



12 Ways to Start a Marriage You Will Love

by Dr. Greg & Erin Smalley and leading marriage experts

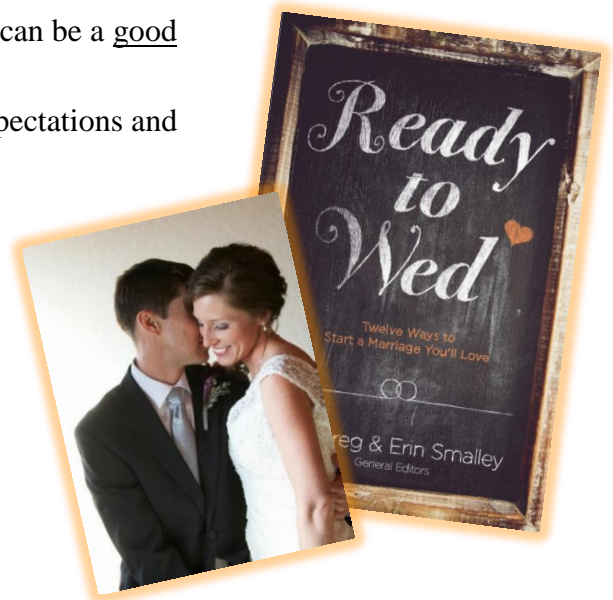
The following are strategies that engaged couples need to implement once they get married:

INVEST in your marriage by:

- 1) **Leaving & cleaving** — leave behind family & friends, your single lifestyle & past baggage in order to unite with your spouse
- 2) **Lifelong commitment** — divorce is not an option; your marriage is designed to a lifelong adventure
- 3) **Honoring each other** — view each other as a priceless treasure
- 4) **Spiritual intimacy** — pursue an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ together
- 5) **Physical intimacy** — sex should never be a chore or obligation, but a way to celebrate your relationship by putting your spouse's needs & desires ahead of your own
- 6) **Positive communication** — Spend every day in conversation to know each other better

Learn how to MANAGE CONFLICT by:

- 7) **Valuing your differences** — gender & personality differences can be a good thing!
- 8) **Creating realistic expectations** — identify your unrealistic expectations and find win-win solutions
- 9) **Healthy conflict management** — conflict is inevitable, how will you handle it?
- 10) **Sharing responsibilities as a team** — be fair about household tasks & responsibilities
- 11) **Pursuing financial peace & harmony** — make financial decisions as a team
- 12) **Coping with stress & crises** — learn how to face the challenges of life and everyday stress together



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