

## Eight Building Blocks for a Strong Christian Family



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1. Commitment – the foundation, a promise to God (Matthew 6:33, Joshua 24:15, Matt. 19:5)
  - a. Commitment to *God* – first and foremost
  - b. Commitment to *each other* - it's a permanent thing, not a trial
2. Love – freely expressed, unconditionally given (John 3:35, Eph. 5:22, 25-28, Titus 2:4-5)
  - Verbally
  - Physically
3. Appreciation – be generous with praise! (1 Peter 3:7)
  - For who they are- qualities they have
4. Forgiveness – (Eph. 4:32)
  - Examples: Jesus while on the cross, Stephen while being killed
5. Communication – (Col. 4:6, Prov. 14:1, 31:26)

Two important aspects to communication:

- Talking
  - Listening
6. Recreation/Rest (Mark 6:31)

“If we don't come apart, we may come apart” – Vance Havner

7. Prayer (Phil. 4:6-7, Matt. 7:7-8)
8. Word of God (Deut. 6:6-7, Col. 3:16)

**Questions:**

1. Why do you think there is such a lack of commitment on the part of many marriages today? What kind of level of commitment should Christians have when it comes to marriage?
2. Bro. Martin mentioned the importance of showing love in a relationship both verbally and physically. Do you also feel it is important to verbally tell family members, "I love you" regularly? Why or why not. What are some ways we can *physically* show our love for our husband/wife or other family members?
3. Under the heading of "forgiveness," the quote was used, "*A good marriage is made up of two good forgivers.*" Why is forgiveness so important in a marriage?
4. Which of these areas might you struggle with the most? Do you really think that God can help you in these areas and you don't have to settle for a less-than-best marriage?

**Prayer:** *"Father, thank you yet again for sending Your Son to die as our atonement so we can be forgiven and our relationship made right with You. Help me to love my spouse/family members as You have loved me. Help me to forgive as You have forgiven me. Help me not to settle for anything less than the very best you would have for me and my marriage/family. May my marriage/family be filled with love and joy to bring glory to Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."*