

# Together We Are Stronger: The Blessings of Marriage

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SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH

# The Paradox of Marriage

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***Getting married is easy. Staying married is more difficult. Staying happily married for a lifetime would be considered among the fine arts.***

Author Unknown



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# The Process of Marriage

***However carefully and wisely marriage may have been entered into, few couples are completely united when the marriage ceremony is performed. The real union of the two in wedlock is the work of the after years.***

Ellen G White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 105.



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# Four Predictors of Marital Success/Distress

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- **Family of Origin**
- **Individual Characteristics**
- **Social Contexts**
- **Couple Interaction Processes**

Thomas B. Holman



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# The Reality of Marriage

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**Your marriage will *naturally* move toward a state of alienation.**



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# A Probability in Marriage

***The presence of Christ alone can make men and women happy. All the common waters of life Christ can turn into the wine of heaven. The home then becomes as an Eden of bliss; the family, a beautiful symbol of the family in heaven.***

Ellen G White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 28.



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# God's Blueprint for Marriage

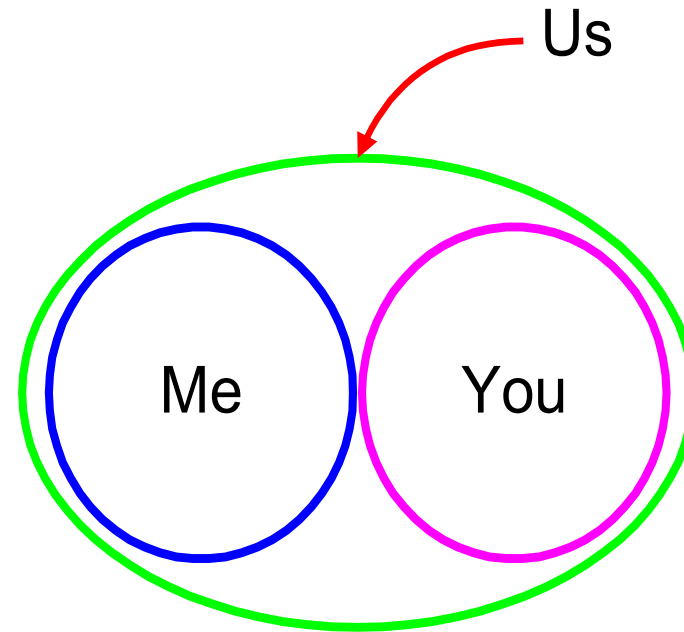
***So then, they are no longer two but one flesh.  
Therefore what God has joined together, let  
not man separate.***

Matt. 19:6 (NKJV)



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# The Mystery of Oneness



Differentiated Oneness



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# Ellen White and Individuality in Marriage

**God requires that the wife shall keep the fear and glory of God ever before her. Entire submission is to be made only to the Lord Jesus Christ, who has purchased her as His own child by the infinite price of His life... It is a mistake to imagine that with blind devotion she is to do exactly as her husband says in all things, when she knows that in so doing, injury would be worked for her body and her spirit, which have been ransomed from the slavery of Satan. There is One who stands higher than the husband to the wife; it is her Redeemer, and her submission to her husband is to be rendered as God has directed—”as it is fit in the Lord.”**

Ellen G White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 116.



# Barriers to Togetherness

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- **Self-protection and the fear of rejection**
- **Sin and selfishness**
- **Lack of knowledge**



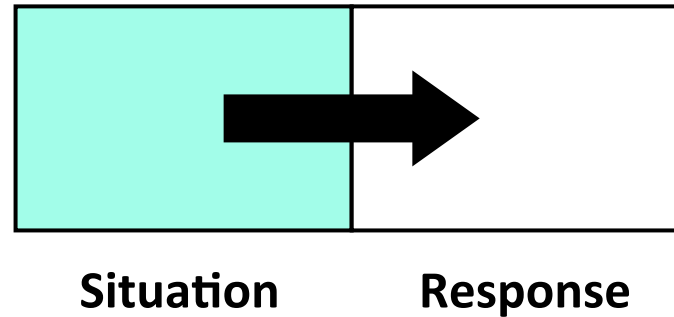
# Togetherness and a Strong Marriage

- Be committed to knocking down and keeping down barriers. *Serve one another in love.* Galatians 5:13.
- Be committed to focusing on what you can do to be a better spouse. *Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.* James 1:19.
- Be committed to loving your spouse deeply. *Love is patient, love is kind...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* 1 Corinthians 13:4,7.

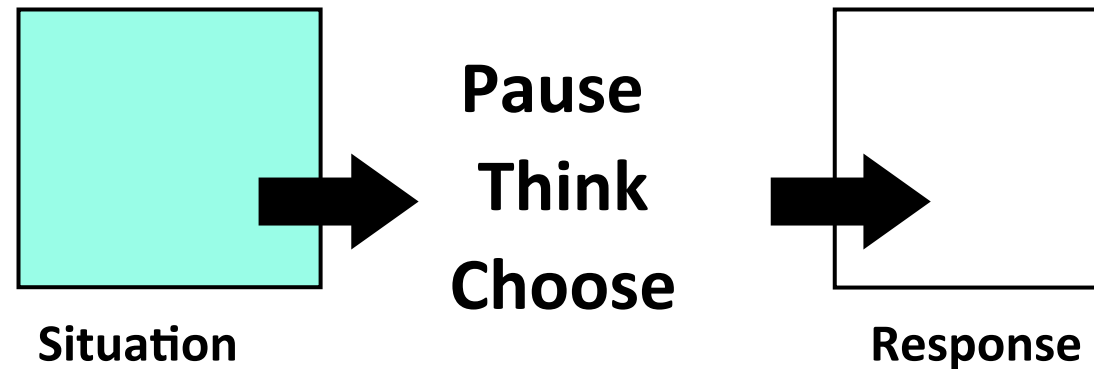


# Stimulus and Response

## REACTIVE



## PROACTIVE



# (TRUST) Emotional Bank Account

## Withdrawals

- Being disrespectful or rude
- Never apologizing
- Criticizing or talking about others behind their backs
- Breaking commitments and promises; not following through
- Being quickly offended, holding grudges

## Deposits

- Being kind
- Apologizing
- Being loyal to those not present
- Making and keeping promises
- Forgiving



# The Imperative of Unity

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***There should exist in the minister's family a unity that will preach an effectual sermon on practical godliness.***

Ellen G White, *Gospel Workers*, pp. 204-5.



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# The Promise of Success

*I can do all things through Christ  
who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)



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