

Introduction: The primary role of a backup singer

- When you change marriage, you change the Church.
- When you change the Church, you change the community.
- When you change the community, you change the culture.

Your marriage affects all parts of your life, including your faith and your parenting.

At its core, marriage is really a **DISCIPLESHIP** issue.

How to become a backup singer to marriage:

1. The first song of marriage – Marriage needs to be **HONORED** by all.

¹ Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³ Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. ⁴ Marriage should be honored by all...

Hebrews 13:1-4a

Honor – means to esteem as highly **VALUABLE**.

The most significant contributor to marriages that last is **GRATITUDE**.

2. The second song of marriage – Marriage needs to be **ENJOYED**.

⁷ Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.

⁹ Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days.

Ecclesiastes 9:7,9a

One practical tip is to **DATE** one another.

Five benefits of dating your spouse:

1. Dating keeps lines of communication open.
2. Dating allows couples to shatter routines and get out of a rut.
3. Dating models commitment to your marriage and to your children.
4. Dating relieves stress.
5. Dating rediscovers passion and sparks sexual intimacy.

3. The third song of marriage – Marriage needs to be **PRIORITIZED**.

*That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is **united** to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

Genesis 2:24

*⁴“Haven’t you read,” He replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his wife, and the **two will become one flesh**’?⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”*

Matthew 19:4-6

*⁶“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’⁷ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his wife,⁸ and the **two will become one flesh.**’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh.⁹ Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”*

Mark 10:6-9

One of the greatest gifts you can give your children is a **STRONG** marriage.

Backup Singers to the Duet of Marriage

Teacher: Doug Fields

Summary:

Honor marriage – Lift up and talk highly about marriage.

Enjoy marriage – Model the enjoyment of marriage (date your spouse).

Prioritize marriage – Model a marriage-centric home vs a kid-centric home.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some negative comments you have heard about marriage that have shaped the way you think about marriage? How can you intentionally change these negative thoughts to marriage-honoring thoughts?
2. What are some practical steps you can take to enjoy your marriage more?
3. If you are currently not prioritizing your marriage, what changes will you make?