

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Pastor James and Margaret Neely, Family Life Education Directors

MARRIED COUPLES YOU CAN TURN IT AROUND WITH GOD.

Theme: Recognizing your "out-of-order" relationship and striving to compose it will put a "sparkle" back in your conversation.

Marriage is a Holy union, instituted and ordained by God. He is a God of order, not of confusion. (1 Corinthians 14:33, "For God is not a God of disorder but of peace....") As with Adam and Eve, God desires to keep married couples happily together.

A wife is inclined to associate romance not just with sentimental feelings, but with the things her husband does throughout the day and week to make her feel loved, protected, and respected. Flowers, compliments, love notes and tender embraces are all steps in this direction.

With a little unselfish forethought, a husband can learn to pacify his wife while he lay the groundwork for a lifelong pursuit of greater intimacy in their marriage.

Holding each other close in one's arms as a way of showing love or affection is the message of this article, "Making the most of a messy marriage."

Making The Most Of A Messy Marriage



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Let's face it, there are times when marriage is *messy*. Okay, it's messy most of the time! Let's be honest, we're two fallen creatures living in a fallen world trying to honor God in

the midst of our mess. So we're going to share with you 4 ways we're all a mess and how to make the most of your messy marriage!

We're all a *mess*.

Mentally. Let's face it, men and women think differently. So how do we make the most of our mental mess? Mentally meld. We often joke that between us we have ONE brain. It's true, when we operate best is when we both think on a matter, come together and meld our thinking into one unified thought. It's not his way or her way but *our* way.

We're all a *mess*.

Emotionally. You're both adults, so how do we make the most of our emotional mess? Emotionally exercise self-control. We love this statement. "My response is my responsibility!" You can't control your spouse's response to a situation and your spouse can't control yours. Only YOU can control how you react to any given situation. So the next time you're about to blow up, count to 10 and exercise self-control.

We're all a *mess*.

Sexually. How do we make the most of our sexual mess? Sexually submit. Ephesians 5:21 says, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Nowhere in marriage is this more important than the bedroom. Intimacy in marriage is critical for a healthy relationship and husbands and wives have very different needs in the intimacy department. Communicating intimacy needs is often a difficult discussion, but one that will reap great rewards as you, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21).

We're all a *mess*.

Spiritually. We know we're a mess Spiritually as Scripture says, "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." So how do we make the most of our spiritual mess? Spiritually surrender. We try so hard to be the perfect wife, the perfect husband and the perfect couple, but we can't. In our own power we fall short everyday, but when we surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit we walk, talk and connect on a deeper level as a couple.

One of the best actions you can take to spiritually surrender is to pray together. Many couples struggle with this but it doesn't have to be complicated. Simply start by speaking out loud the things that you are thankful for and you've begun a prayer life. Ladies, sometimes you can take the lead. There will be days he just doesn't feel spiritual and he needs you to be spiritually strong.

So take these steps to make the most of your messy marriage.

(Article by authors Jay and Laura Laffoon; Publication, The Journey Christian News)
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