

FROM
ME TO WE

KEYS FOR BUILDING **STRONG FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS**

#6 MAKING MARRIAGE WORK - PART 5

To make marriage work you must pursue peace.

- **Romans 14:17**
- **1 Corinthians 14:33**
- **2 Corinthians 13:11**
- **Colossians 3:15**
- **James 3:13-18**
- **Romans 12:17-18**
- **Galatians 5:22-23**

1. Discover your differences.

Genesis 25:27 (NLT) As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home.

2. Appreciate the positives.

- ▶ Look for the good.
Philippians 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.
- ▶ Reflect on the benefits.
- ▶ Write a “letter of recommendation.”

- ▶ Observe what other people appreciate.
- ▶ Stop unrealistic comparisons.
1 Peter 2:1 (TPT) So abandon every form of evil, deceit, hypocrisy, feelings of jealousy and slander.
- ▶ Consider what originally attracted you.
- ▶ Soften your heart.
Matthew 5:43-44 (TLB) There is a saying, “Love your friends and hate your enemies.” But I say: Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!
Luke 6:32-33 (NLT) If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!
- ▶ Practice the “Golden Rule.”
Luke 6:31 (NLT) Do to others as you would like them to do to you.
- ▶ Affirm what you appreciate.
Proverbs 15:1 (NLT) A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.
Proverbs 18:21 (NIV) The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
Colossians 3:15 (NLT) And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.