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# GrowInGrace Marriage Newsletter

Issue No. 14

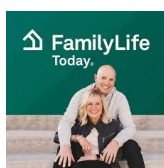


## *Life Lessons I'm Learning by Laurie*

### Can I Get a Witness?!

One of my favorite movies has dancing, which I really love. It's called "Shall We Dance". It came out in 2004 and stars Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez and Susan Sarandon. John Clark (Richard Gere) has a good life, but he feels like something is missing. Both he and his wife are very busy and are just crossing paths with each other. During his morning commute, John sees Paulina (Jennifer Lopez) standing in the window of a dance studio and he decides to check it out and signs up for dance lessons. Jumping ahead, [Spoiler Alert] I always thought my favorite scene is when John comes up the escalator in the department store where his wife Beverly (Susan Sarandon) is working. She has her back turned, and her co-worker tells her to turn to see John in his black tux, holding a red rose, coming up the escalator. He goes to his wife and asks her to dance. I will always love that scene, because you see how they look at each other lovingly, but recently, I love a different scene that happens shortly before this one, when Beverly meets the Private Detective she hired to find out why her husband was coming home with his dress shirt sweaty and smelling of perfume. She no longer needs the detective's services as she knows John is taking dance lessons, but the thing that really got me is when she talks about why do people get married? Her answer to the detective is that it's "because we need a witness to our lives. In a marriage, your promising to care about everything, the good things, the bad things, the terrible things, the mundane things. All of it. All the time. Every day, your life will not go unnoticed because I will notice it."

When Aaron and I got married, I made a covenant with him to be his wife, his best friend, his sister in Christ, and to be a witness to his life for as long as we both shall live. That means I need to make sure I keep my priorities in the right order. Which means God first, then Aaron, then everything else after. The podcast we are featuring this month goes into more detail about this, so make sure to listen to **Montell & Kristin Jordan** talk about priorities in your marriage. Now, you'll need to excuse me, I need to find Aaron, he owes me a dance! Laurie ❤️



## Featured Podcast - Family Life Today

Dave & Ann Wilson feature .. Montell and Kristin Jordan

### **Success Almost Cost Us Our Marriage**

[<listen to podcast>](#) .. (Mar. 16, 2026)



*You're busy. Faithful. Grinding. But if you're honest? Something at home feels off. Music artists and authors Montell and Kristin Jordan get real about success, sickness, marriage strain—and **the quiet drift** that almost costs you what matters most. If work, church, kids, or "good things" are crowding your covenant, this conversation will recalibrate you without shaming you.*

Check out Montell and Kristin's website at [montellandkristin.com](http://montellandkristin.com)

Montell & Kristen were on the 2026 Love Like You Mean It cruise and presented **Prioritizing the Season You're In**

### **THINK ABOUT IT – DISCUSS IT – APPLY IT**

- 1.) God is a God of order and He established a blueprint of priorities that help us avoid a lot of the pitfalls in marriage. Write down all 7 on an index card and tape it to the kitchen cupboard.
- 2.) Early in the Jordan's career, they both placed their work above their marriage. What damage or harm can we cause by not having our priorities in the correct order? [Listen](#) and find out

## I Do Every Day: Fighting Fair in Love and War

'I Do Everyday' Family Life ® - By Ben McGuire (3/21/26)

We sat on our blanket at the drive-in movie, not speaking. Not touching. Icy silence blew through the gap between us.

This was our first real argument. Not the simple disagreements or miscommunications of marriage.

The kind that wounds.

During our marriage prep, the pastor said, "If you ranked highs and lows on a scale from 0-10, your relationships with others will top out at 7 and bottom out at 3. Your spouse, though, will bring you as high as 10 and as low as 0: highs that are unimaginable and pain you didn't think possible."

At the drive-in, where we might have been amorous newlyweds, that moment had arrived.

Before our wedding, our pastor gave a simple assignment. Create "Rules of Engagement": our own pre-established guidelines for conflict resolution.

You probably think of "Rules of Engagement" when it comes to war and fighting an enemy.

You have a very real enemy who desires to drive you apart. And conflict is a favorite weapon.

Prepare for his schemes and determine to fight them at all costs. Battling the enemy's lies is impossible, however, if you view your spouse as the enemy.

Instead, fight for your spouse and your marriage.

Here are seven guidelines that have framed our resolve to fight fair throughout our marriage.

1. Don't avoid conflict by walking away.
2. We will talk everything out honestly before saying we're "OK."
3. Don't criticize the other person in public.
4. Don't wait for the other person to ask what's wrong.
5. Avoid "You always..." or "You never..." statements.
6. Don't bring up past issues (see #2).
7. Don't talk to other people before talking with each other.

Guidelines don't always guarantee quick and simple resolution. We left the drive-in with tension hanging between us and talked for hours, implementing our "rules."

And before our heads hit our pillows, we found grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

For more thoughts on this read Ben's article "[When Your Spouse Rejects Your Love.](#)"

**The Good Stuff:** *"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)."* ([1 Cor. 13:4-8](#))

**Action Points:** Reflect on how you approach conflict with your spouse. Take some time to create your own "Rules of Engagement." Commit to pursuing your spouse in a loving manner in resolving conflict..

### Wifely Wisdom

*It's difficult for a woman to submit to a man who is not completely submitted to God, but God provided a remedy for this in I Pet. 3 1 .. "Wives, be submissive to your husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by your behavior." NASB*

~ Laurie



#### Couples Corner

Send us your prayer requests

We're in your corner praying for your marriage!



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# The 2 Most Sexiest Words a Wife Can Hear..

**“Let’s Pray”** - [Marriage.Ignite](#) (Instagram) by Mike & Janelle Friedrich

Husbands, I can’t tell you how many wives we’ve worked with that said **the #1 thing** that brings them the greatest level of connection with their husband is when he leads her in prayer.

Not because prayer is performative, but because it signals safety, leadership, and spiritual intimacy.

**“Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect... so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”** - 1 Peter 3:7

When you invite God into the moment, you’re telling her she’s not carrying the weight alone.

Prayer will shift the atmosphere quicker than anything else you can do to bring peace into your home.

It builds trust at a soul level, which is the foundation of true intimacy.

A man who leads his home in prayer creates a closeness that no physical act can replace.

Even if it feels awkward at first, don’t stop. It’s not your words that count, but the heart behind your effort.

It isn’t weakness to admit when you need help, it’s wisdom.

-Mike [Article Link](#)



## DID YOU KNOW ??

*Beyond helping us fellowship with God and getting our heart right before Him, research shows that prayer also has physical and mental health benefits ..*

*Prayer provides heart health, lowers stress and anxiety, helps our mood, boosts immunity, and helps us live a purposeful and happy life! 🙏*

## ***Love in Action!***

*Put your phone down when your spouse is speaking to you*

*Give them your undivided attention*

*Make eye contact*

*Let them know by your actions that they are more important than anything else*



## That's Not How It Happened

'I Do Everyday' Family Life ® by Carlos Santiago (3/7/26)

My wife was deep into telling a story to a group of our friends. She had everyone's attention and was building to a dramatic climax, but one of her details didn't feel right to me. Since accuracy is important, I interjected with a quick correction and the conversation moved on.

I thought I was being helpful. The last thing I wanted was for my wife to communicate something she didn't intend. But my decision to publicly correct her wound up communicating something I didn't intend.

Later that evening, she explained how I had embarrassed her. Unintentionally, my words told her:

You're wrong; I'm right.

You don't know how to tell a story; I do.

You have a bad memory; mine is better.

I don't mind making you look like a fool in public if it makes me look good.

I don't respect you.

None of this was my intention, but it didn't matter. Our friends heard the same thing.

After that conversation, I was forced to examine my heart. I wondered, if my boss had been telling the same story, would I have interrupted him like that? Or would I have let it go and talked to him later in private?

Maybe I didn't respect her as much as I thought...

Ever since that day, whenever I hear my wife telling a story differently than I would, I remind myself to think twice before interrupting, especially if my words are going to make her look bad.

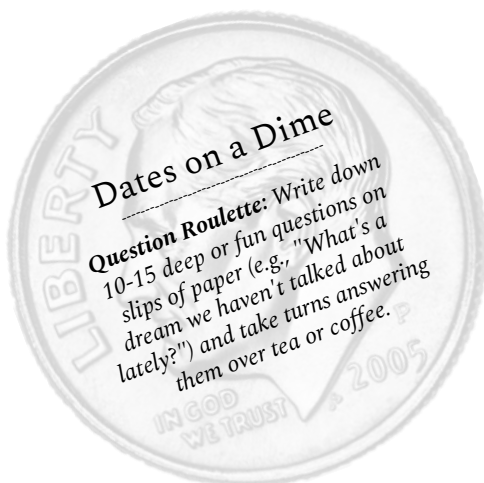
In marriage, your words can encourage and give life, or they can destroy and kill. Learn more by listening to "[The Power of the Tongue.](#)"

**The Good Stuff:** "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." ([Prov. 12:18](#))

**Action Points:** Do you correct your spouse in front of others, or even your kids? If you can't remember, ask your spouse. If they can easily recall a time, chances are your words hurt more than you realized. Genuinely apologize and make every effort to not correct your spouse in front of others.

✉ Receive the 'I Do Everyday' email daily <[link](#)>

*Death & Life*  
ARE IN THE POWER OF THE  
**Tongue**  
PROV. 18:21



### - Husband Hack -

Eph. 5:25 instructs husbands to "love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her"

Verses 28-29 go on to tell husbands "to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body".

If I was to identify what causes disputes and arguments in my marriage, I'd have to conclude it's when I don't practice this.

The reason James tells us to "be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" is to give us a chance to hear what she is saying 'between the lines' in order to love her in a way that honors our heavenly Father.

- AE ❤️