

**Here are some helpful thoughts on developing your marriage as a partnership.**

What are your individual goals for your marriage? In what ways do they overlap?

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How would you rate your mutual respect for one another?

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How would you rate your shared compassion for one another?

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**The overall focus of your marriage:**

- \_\_\_ **Build it on Empathy**...this is the ability to put yourself in your spouse's place and to truly search after his or her best interests.
- \_\_\_ Enemies of empathy: A driving or intolerant personality, an uninvolved or aloof partner, and a non-reflective or overly busy lifestyle.
- \_\_\_ **Build it on Maturity**..this is the learned wisdom of acting responsibly and unselfishly toward your spouse.
- \_\_\_ Enemies of maturity: Unrealistic views of life and marriage, uncontrolled anger or temper, uncontrolled lust or jealousy, and baggage from my family of origin.
- \_\_\_ **Build it on Dignity**...dignity is the ability to be gracious, thoughtful, and measured about our responses to life's challenges.
- \_\_\_ Enemies of dignity: An unrestrained tongue, wandering affections, or a scoffing heart.

**An overall principled understanding on a marriage partnership includes:**

What are the attractive qualities in any man or woman?

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How is a spouse to deal with what he or she feels is unacceptable in their spouse?

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What is the root of most women's anger? Most men's anger?

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How are respect and trust established in the arena of a marriage relationship?

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What does it mean to "live with your spouse in an understanding way?"

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How do we give honor to someone as a partner in life?

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