

# 25 Ways to Strengthen Marriage in the Church

1. Pray for marriages on a consistent basis.
2. Adopt a Marriage Policy. (A Marriage Policy is a set of agreed upon guidelines for premarital preparation and marriage enrichment to empower couples for healthy, life-long marriage.)
3. Schedule a marriage enrichment seminar for your congregation.
4. Publish upcoming community marriage enrichment seminar schedules in your church bulletin.
5. Provide a thorough premarital preparation process for engaged couples.
6. Encourage elders and deacons to model the value of their own marriages to the congregation.
7. Train mature married couples to serve as mentors to those who are engaged, newlyweds, or experiencing marital difficulties.
8. Promote abstinence outside of marriage and faithful marital relationships.
9. Consider marriage enrichment opportunities when budgeting pastor and staff benefits.
10. Teach couples about the importance of praying together.
11. Institute a reasonable time off policy for church staff to deal with family emergencies.
12. Offer to cover a portion of any marriage counseling fees.
13. Purchase marriage enrichment books, tapes and videos, and provide a family/marriage resource library.
14. Subscribe to marriage strengthening periodicals.
15. Cooperate with other congregations and organizations to share resources.
16. Honor and recognize wedding anniversaries in your congregation.
17. Preach and teach on marriage in the Bible and provide marriage Bible studies.
18. Sponsor church date nights on a regular basis.
19. Implement church staff policies that discourage overnight travel.
20. Offer workshops on family budgeting and financial planning.
21. Encourage proper male/female working relationships for staff and congregation members.
22. Develop programs that address healthy relationship formation in church singles ministries.
23. Promote a "Marriage Week" once a year.
24. Offer time management seminars.
25. Make it mandatory for pastoral staff and their spouses to attend at least one marriage enrichment seminar per year.

