



for the

MARRIAGE

**IF YOUR COVENANT
NEEDS A CHALLENGE
THIS BOOK IS FOR YOU**

EDWARD PAZ

About This E-Book

On September 4, 2019, my wife Rebekah and I celebrated 15 years of marriage.

Though our anniversary, spent together in Rome, Italy was as picturesque as it gets, many of the moments in our marriage have not been so Instagram worthy.

In 15 years of marriage though there have been many joys, there have also been many difficulties, hardships, and challenges that we have (by the grace of God!) persevered through.

The following 15 lessons are all things that I wish I understood more clearly when we first got married, but I'm glad that I've learned them, and I hope they serve you as much as I hope that they serve my wife and I over the next 15 years!

EDWARD PAZ
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LESSON 1

Selfishness Separates

The times when I have felt most disconnected from my wife is when I have been thinking and acting selfishly.

Conversely, the times when I've felt closest to my wife is when I've preferred her needs to my own.

It's very hard to be connected to someone you're not thinking about.

In other words, **whenever selfishness is present, intimacy is absent.**

Questions to Consider

In what aspect of your marriage relationship do you find yourself behaving most selfishly? What is your plan for putting an end to this type of behavior? What are the consequences of not addressing this?

LESSON 2

Finances Frustrate

Marriage and money "issues" go hand in hand. **It's not a matter of "if" money will become an issue, it's a matter of how big of an issue we will allow it to become.**

Matthew 6:25-34 has become particularly helpful for me when it comes to how money impacts our marriage.

Here are the Cliff's Notes: "Do not worry." If God provides for the birds and the flowers, he will surely take care of us!

Questions to Consider

How are finances causing division in your marriage? What are you going to do about it? If finances aren't currently an issue, what can you do to prevent it from becoming one in the future?

LESSON 3

Patience Prevails

Acting or reacting impatiently has never produced a good result in my marriage. Ever.

But, impatience *has* been an impetus for making many situations worse. So many arguments, disagreements, and frustrations can be avoided by exercising patience in the midst of tension and uncertainty.

Patient, thought through responses trump impulsive, knee jerk reactions.
Always.

Questions to Consider

What is the source of the impatience you display towards your spouse? What can you do to act more patiently, especially in the midst of tense situations?

LESSON 4

Purpose Points

In the times when I am confused about the trajectory that our marriage is on, it is the *purpose* of our marriage that always points me back in the right direction.

It is the purpose of marriage that clarifies why I must persevere.

The purpose of our love for and lifelong commitment to each other is simply this: to become a visible representation of God's love for the world.

Questions to Consider

What is the purpose of your marriage?
Has it ever been clearly stated or written?
How can you keep the purpose of your marriage more visible to you and your spouse?

LESSON 5

Experiences Enhance

Very few things have strengthened our marriage like our intentional effort to create new memories through fresh and unique shared experiences.

Travel experiences. Shopping experiences. Eating experiences. Unexpected experiences. Enjoying new experiences together has kept our marriage exciting.

The quickest way for your marriage to feel old is to eliminate enjoying things that are new!

Questions to Consider

What is the next intentional shared experience you are planning on having as a married couple? What are the obstacles to this actually happening? What are the consequences of not following through?

LESSON 6

Occupations Occupy

Our responsibility to work our jobs can very easily begin to take precedence over our responsibility to love each other.

There's always another deadline. There's always another project. There's always another expectation that must be met now.

But, if we are not intentional about disconnecting ourselves from our work, our work will disconnect us from our marriage.

Questions to Consider

Be honest. Is your job your mistress? In what ways do you choose the progress and success of your job over the intimacy and health of your marriage? What can you do to put first things first?

LESSON 7

Surprises Satisfy

Surprise gifts. Surprise dates. Surprise plans. Surprise cards.

A well thought out surprise can showcase the intentionality, ingenuity, and interest you have for your spouse in a way that the same ol' executed routine, many times, just can't do.

When a surprise is done well, "*I was thinking about you.*" is communicated in one of the most poignant ways possible.

Questions to Consider

What type of surprises does your spouse enjoy? What is the next surprise you have in store for your spouse? What prevents you from planning surprises (big or small) more often?

LESSON 8

Actions Accentuate

Being that I'm a guy who talks for a living, my wife is not very impressed by the words I use to express my love.

For her, the small, mundane tasks around the house, done with a positive attitude, often times, are more meaningful than words. She doesn't want to *hear* that I love her, she wants to see that I love her.

She cares less about what I say and more about what I *show*!

Questions to Consider

What actions communicate love to your spouse most clearly? What are the actions that your spouse most appreciates that you avoid or refuse to take? What action will you take today to love your spouse?

LESSON 9

Laughter Lifts

If I want to gauge how healthy my marriage is, all I have to do is pay attention to how often we are laughing together.

Laughter means you're connecting.
Laughter means you're having fun.

**No laughter. No love. Know laughter.
Know love.**

If laughter is not lifting your marriage up, it is very likely that taking yourself too seriously is bringing your marriage down.

Questions to Consider

When was the last time you and your spouse laughed together? What are the things that make you and your spouse laugh together? How can you create more moments of laughter within your marriage?

LESSON 10

Community Contributes

Our marriage was not meant to be lived out in isolation.

Having a community of people around us who can share in the ups and downs of our marital journey is a necessity.

I strongly believe that our ability to "go the distance" in our marriage has much to do with being surrounded by a community of people committed to holding us accountable to maintaining a healthy marriage relationship.

Questions to Consider

Who are the key people around you that add value to your marriage? Who can ask the "hard questions" about the health of your marriage? When do you plan on connecting with these people next?

LESSON 11

Humility Honors

One of the greatest ways I can show honor to my wife is to admit when I've messed up, made a mistake, and missed the mark as a husband.

A sorry spouse is a spouse who can't say "I'm sorry." There's something wrong if you can't say, "I was wrong."

Humility admits fault. Humility acknowledges room for growth. When you're willing to humble yourself, you're poised to honor your spouse.

Questions to Consider

When was the last time you apologized to your spouse? If displaying humility through apologizing is difficult for you, what are you going to do to get better? What's at stake if you don't improve in this area?

LESSON 12

Struggles Strengthen

COMING SOON!

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God Guides

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Questions to Consider



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