

MARRIAGE:

*Friendship Is
Essential!
Part 3*

A puzzle piece image of a couple sitting on a rock by a lake. The couple is in the center, with the woman on the left and the man on the right. They are both looking at each other. The background shows a lake and some trees. The puzzle pieces are white with brown outlines, and some pieces are missing, creating a jagged edge.

Marriage:

*Finding More of
the Missing Pieces*

Part two of Elim's sermon series on marriage.

“In your marriage sermons, you use the phrase ‘Choose to _____’ a lot. While I agree that the gospel involves making choices (difficult, often painful ones), I wanted to bring about some discussion showing that mere willpower and better performance are not the basis for meeting the trials of marriage. It is not helpful to a man who struggles with anger (or despair, depression, lust, etc.) to bring the solution down to mere willpower or choice.”



Philippians 2.12-13

So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence,¹³ for the one bringing forth in you both the desire and the effort—for the sake of his good pleasure—is God.



Confront My Pride and Live with My Spouse with Humility & Sympathy

"What are some good strategies for fighting for empathy and humility?"

And, though I specified 'in the moment of a fight,' I'm interested in 'before the fight' as well."



Confront My Pride and Live with My Spouse with Humility & Sympathy

- *It's about being before doing.*
- *Doing flows out of my becoming.*
- *This “becoming” process is a life-long journey.*



Challenge My Selfishness and Engage with a Radical and Generous Spirit

- *Generous with your words of
encouragement and appreciation.*



Challenge My Selfishness and Engage with a Radical and Generous Spirit

“People who are focused on criticizing their partners miss a whopping 50 percent of positive things their partners are doing and they see negativity when it’s not there.”

People who give their partner the cold shoulder—deliberately ignoring the partner or responding minimally—damage the relationship by making their partner feel worthless and invisible ... Being mean is the death knell of relationships.”



Challenge My Selfishness and Engage with a Radical and Generous Spirit

- *Generous with your words of encouragement and appreciation.*
- *Generous with your time.*
- *Generous with your actions.*

