



**JOURNEY:
Cherish Your Spouse
Unconditionally**

A hiker with a backpack is standing on a rocky peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape under a cloudy sky. The hiker is wearing a red jacket and dark pants. The background shows rolling hills and a distant horizon.

1 Timothy 3:1-2

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ²Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife. . .

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Cherish Your Spouse . . . Unconditionally

- *I choose* to become deeply rooted in who I am and whose I am.

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Cherish Your Spouse . . . Unconditionally

Colossians 3:1-3

*¹ Since, then, you **HAVE BEEN** raised with Christ, **set your hearts** on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now **hidden** with Christ in God.*

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A person in a red jacket and blue jeans stands on a rocky peak. The background is a cloudy sky and a green landscape.

Cherish Your Spouse . . . Unconditionally

Colossians 3:5

⁵ ***Put to DEATH, therefore, whatever BELONGS TO your earthly nature . . .***

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*“Marriage is God’s invention for our good and His glory. Its purpose is to sanctify us. I would not be where I am today as a man following Jesus if it hadn’t been for my marriage. God takes our selfishness in marriage, **exposes it**, and **uses it against us** for our own good. The reason you have to finally come to grips with your faults in your marriage is because they are ruining your life!”*

--Tim Keller

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A person in a red jacket and blue jeans stands on a large, dark rock formation. The background shows a vast, green valley with rolling hills under a sky filled with white and grey clouds.

Cherish Your Spouse . . . Unconditionally

- ***I CHOOSE*** to become deeply rooted in who I am and whose I am.
- ***I CHOOSE to honor and delight in them.***

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A person wearing a red jacket and blue jeans stands on a large, dark, mossy rock formation. The background shows a vast, open landscape with rolling green hills under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is bright and airy.

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Song of Solomon 2:2

Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.

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A person in a red jacket and blue pants stands on a large, dark rock formation. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape with rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

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Song of Solomon 2:3

³ Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.

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A person in a red jacket and blue jeans stands on a large, dark rock formation. The background shows a vast, green valley under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Cherish Your Spouse . . . Unconditionally

- ***I CHOOSE*** to become deeply rooted in who I am and whose I am.
- ***I CHOOSE*** to honor ***and*** delight in them.
- ***I CHOOSE*** to discover and meet their needs.

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*“It is rare for both spouses to share the exact same intensity of desire related to anything—anything—shopping, football, food, travel, sleep, windows open/closed, room cold/hot, not to mention sex. **How we deal with desire** will set the stage for **how we enter conflict**.”*

--Dan Allender

Cherishing Your Spouse Requires Intentionality

- *Are there expectations we're hanging onto as a precondition to choosing to cherish our spouse unconditionally?*
- *Are we growing in our identity?*
- *Are we delighting in our spouse?*
- *Are we discovering and meeting their needs?*

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