

We must contend for marriage! It is the foundation of the family, the church, the community, and the nation. Marriage is the first institution created by God and holds the very fabric of society together. It is a visible representation of the relationship of Christ with the Church and representative of the Gospel. It is up to us, the Church—the Body of Christ—to stand up and defend the institution of marriage. Yes, people will oppose us; the culture does not believe in God's plan for marriage. We must speak up and say that marriage according to God's plan is important!

There are many things we can do to defend marriage, but first, we must live out God's plan in our own marriage. To quote a character from a popular movie, "Gays aren't the problem with marriage. You people are!" When "Christians" do not demonstrate God's plan for marriage, why would the world want what we have? The non-Christian world will do whatever seems right to them; Christians must obey the Word of God. Demonstrating true Biblical marriages will draw people to Biblical ideals. Too many Christians speak out in support of marriage when their own marriages are not testimonies for the God they claim to serve.

Couples who have a God-fearing, strong marriage can be used by the Lord to help others and give them hope. We must continue to work on our own marriage, but there is a time when God will call upon us to be used in others' marriages. Our availability is more important than our qualifications. The Lord empowers those He desires to use—you don't need a counseling degree to share what you know about God's plan for marriage. Whether it is confronting someone about to leave their marriage or encouraging a couple experiencing problems, *you* can help other couples. Be a champion for marriage - some one who fights for and defends Marriage as God designed it.

Helpful Resources: Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com Check out:

Defending Marriage: 12 Arguments for Sanity by: Anthony M. Esolen Marriage Champions: marriagechampions.wordpress.com