

CHAPTER FOUR

Marriage—The Dynamic Union

The journey just keeps getting better as the Lord continues to reveal more information about the dynamics of relationship development. His blueprint provided some key foundational principles that set the stage for helping me to get our marriage heading down the right track. They proved important and invaluable as I began to tackle the next part of my challenging journey, gaining a better understanding of the dynamic union. The dynamic union or marriage connection provided the greatest challenge for me, so I welcomed the education.

In this chapter, I want to share with you where the Lord took me and how it opened my eyes. I guess he thought it important to take me into a deeper understanding of the marriage union, and I'm glad he did. It's probably the one relationship I took for granted and made the biggest mess. It must be a unique relationship because of a very specific requirement God levies upon its participants. Moses, the writer of Genesis, echoes this requirement in Genesis 2:24, saying, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (New King James version) I believe that the dynamic union is unique because no other human relationship carries this divine mandate for a man and a woman to become one. At least it's not written down in any book I could locate. What does it mean to become one? Merriam-Webster's online dictionary defines oneness as "the state of being completely united with or a part of someone or something, singleness, same-ness, union."

Why would the Creator command husbands and wives to merge their lives in such a way to achieve unity and oneness? The answer lies in the understanding of the dynamics of the marriage union. The word dynamic delivers an excellent definition for the marriage connection. Merriam-Webster's online dictionary defines this word as "always active or changing, having or showing a lot of energy; vigorous, energetic, robust." This vigorous and demanding connection requires the unity of a man and woman to ensure it becomes and remains a meaningful relationship. We must work together to keep it growing otherwise, it can become stale and meaningless.

The word dynamic also fits the makeup of human beings because we're also active, changing, and energetic. We're continually growing and developing our minds and bodies. From the moment we come into this world, until we leave it, dynamic changes define our existence.

We're evolving in our growth and maturity. Therefore, when dynamic humans get connected in dynamic unions, powerful relationships can be established.

Marriage isn't a run of the mill relationship designed for half-hearted people who get the urge to merge. It's a dynamic or dynamic connection between a man and woman who choose to unite their lives in one powerful relationship. It's the center of the universe for the family. It's the seedbed for procreating the next generation. It's the fortress of solitude protecting the precious souls who dwell within its walls. It's an institution ordained by God for the purpose of fulfilling his plan for the future of humanity.

The Creator created Adam and Eve with his own hands and breathed life into them. Afterwards, he placed the monumental responsibility of procreating future generations on husbands and wives. Moses bears this out in Genesis 1: 28, "God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Due to this requirement, it's vital that the dynamic union becomes a lifestyle that will last a lifetime. The apostle Matthew confirms this in 19:6, saying, "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Rene and I didn't understand this dynamic union when we made our connection in 1973. Like many couples, we leaped into our marriage with minimum knowledge or consideration of its monumental requirements. I liken it to jumping off the deep end of the pier without the ability to swim. We possessed no boat or life vest and no clue how to tread water so we could survive the issues and challenges of married life. Each time we attempted to get our heads above water to deal with our relationship problems, huge waves of contention pushed us deeper into the abyss of despair.

The lack of relationship development skills caused us to flounder like wounded fish gasping for air. We spent over twenty-three-plus years bobbing up and down in troubled seas with little hope of saving our sinking marriage. We didn't know what it meant to be a husband or a wife. We didn't fully understand the individual roles and responsibilities that accompanied our connection. We failed to realize the criticality of our union to God's plan and our future. Therefore, we fought for personal survival in a connection that required us to fight for the survival of the marriage. Frustrations blossomed like roses in a flower garden, and its thorns ripped us to pieces.

When all seemed lost, a lifeboat from heaven rowed its way into our lives in the form of a 1996 God-encounter in Turkey (see Chapter 1). After my encounter, Jesus Christ took me on a journey to teach me how to build a meaningful relationship with my wife. Throughout my sixteen-year education, the Lord imparted to me a variety of relationship development principles and applications in the form of divine revelations. These revelations or God-inspired

declarations began to slowly rescue us from the grip of troubled waters because I found myself using them to patch the holes in our sinking marriage. We needed to get it afloat and get to a safe port so we could begin the process of restoring our relationship.

Although divine revelations began to pierce the darkness of our stormy connection, years of frustration held progress to a minimum. As discussed earlier, Rene balked at embracing these principles and joining me in their application, so I set out to do the best I could alone. I'm sure the lingering memories of yesterday's frustrations produced anxiety about trying new things, so she took the wait-and-see path. I knew that it took two to build a marriage, but with my newfound knowledge, I couldn't ignore my personal responsibilities. In addition, the thought of learning about relationships from the Creator motivated me to use my knowledge wisely in hopes of receiving more.

Not sure where this journey would take me, I stepped out in faith and embraced the Lord's instructions. I took Hebrews 11:1 literally, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." With Jesus at the helm, I believed that better days lay ahead for our connection. Therefore, I pursued his knowledge and the application of his principles with a passion. I've never looked back nor regretted my decision.

Pursuing this journey alone wasn't what I desired, but I couldn't control Rene's actions or behavior. I could only control my desire and motivation to learn everything I could and apply myself to the process. The more I learned, the more determined I became to making a difference in our marriage.

Jesus motivated me by helping me to understand some misconceptions about marriage. For instance, relationship problems won't fix themselves nor will they just disappear. They will linger until dealt with and do great damage along the way. Another example, "Rome wasn't built in a day" (twelfth-century cleric in the Count of Flanders). Therefore, I couldn't expect my connection to blossom overnight. Another misconception, marriage connections won't necessarily get better with time; they require consistent personal involvement. The dynamic union can't survive in a neutral state; it must evolve through progressive growth and development. Lastly, the path to meaningful relationship development will often be laden with frustration and anxiety because it's a dynamic union. As stated above, it's a vigorous, energetic, and ever-changing connection.

*** Revelation #6: Satan Targets Your Marriage**

The dynamic union must be pretty important to the Lord's plan for humanity because Satan attacks it with a vengeance. Jesus revealed this to me, "Satan will work as hard to tear down and destroy your marriage as you'll work to build and keep it." I understand that pride and selfishness played a significant role in our relationship

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problems. However, the added attacks of an invisible enemy made the process more complicated and difficult. How? I often blamed my wife for many of our problems because I failed to recognize the tactics of our greatest enemy.