12 Ways to Start a Marriage You Will Love

by Dr. Greg & Erin Smalley and leading marriage experts

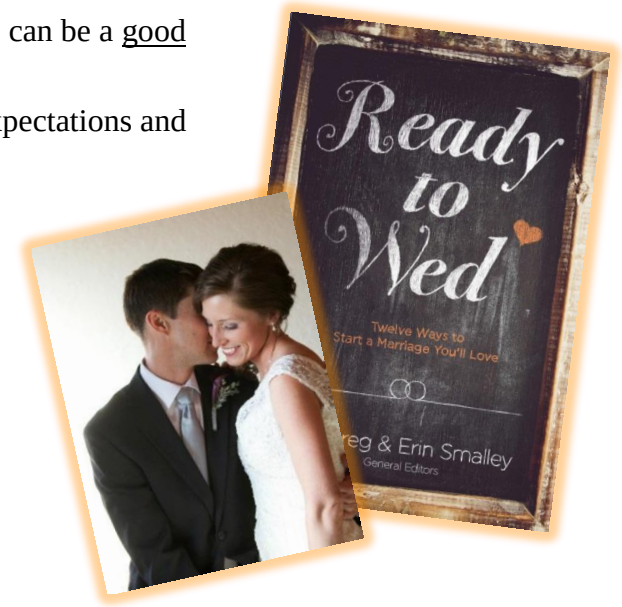
The following are strategies that engaged couples need to implement once they get married:

INVEST in your marriage by:

1) **Leaving & cleaving** — leave behind family & friends, your single lifestyle & past baggage in order to unite with your spouse
2) **Lifelong commitment** — divorce is not an option; your marriage is designed to a lifelong adventure
3) **Honoring each other** — view each other as a priceless treasure
4) **Spiritual intimacy** — pursue an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ together
5) **Physical intimacy** — sex should never be a chore or obligation, but a way to celebrate your relationship by putting your spouse's needs & desires ahead of your own
6) **Positive communication** — Spend every day in conversation to know each other better

Learn how to MANAGE CONFLICT by:

7) **Valuing your differences** — gender & personality differences can be a good thing!
8) **Creating realistic expectations** — identify your unrealistic expectations and find win-win solutions
9) **Healthy conflict management** — conflict is inevitable, how will you handle it?
10) **Sharing responsibilities as a team** — be fair about household tasks & responsibilities
11) **Pursuing financial peace & harmony** — make financial decisions as a team
12) **Coping with stress & crises** — learn how to face the challenges of life and everyday stress together



Based on *Ready to Wed* by Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley, published by Focus on the Family & Tyndale House Publishers. © 2015