



The Marriage Pyramid: Moving Closer to Your Spouse By Moving Closer to God

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Introduction

You've heard of the Egyptian Pyramids and the food pyramid, but have you heard of the Marriage Pyramid? The marriage pyramid is a model of the relationship between God, a husband, and his wife. For your marriage to work the way God has ordained marriage to work, you and your spouse must both be continuously moving closer to God. In today's lesson we'll explore the marriage pyramid, observe the benefits associated with the pyramid, and learn the perils that await your marriage if either you or your spouse is not part of the pyramid.

One, Two, Three

As you know the opening chapter of Genesis chronicles the creation of the heavens and earth and all that dwells therein. There is no human presence until the end of the chapter. Although Adam communed with God on a daily basis, God recognized that it was not a good thing for Adam to be alone. At this point God put Adam in a deep sleep and formed Eve from his rib. At this point Adam and Eve became partners in their life on earth. [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#) speaks to the power that comes from partnership:

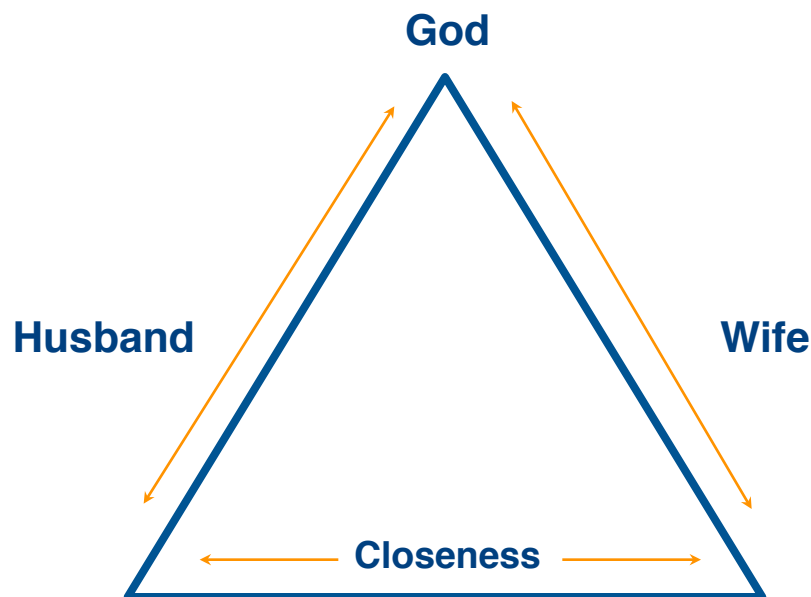
It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough! Two in a bed warm each other. Alone, you shiver all night. By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst.

While it's good to have one other person with you, it's not good enough. The passage continues:

Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped. As this last verse implies, though two is good, three is even better. And this is where the marriage pyramid comes into play.

The Marriage Pyramid

The marriage pyramid is the relationship between God, the husband, and his wife; and is best diagrammed by the following illustration:



As the illustration depicts, God sits at the top of the pyramid, and the husband and wife each have a place on either side of the pyramid. It's key to note that there are several moving parts to the marriage pyramid. Here's a quick list of all the possible movements:

- The husband is moving closer to God.
- The husband is moving further away from God.
- The wife is moving closer to God.
- The wife is moving further away from God.
- The husband and wife are both moving closer to God and each other.
- The husband is moving closer to God and further away from his wife.
- The wife is moving closer to God and further away from her husband.
- The husband and wife are both moving further away from God and each another.

Whew! That's a lot of movement. Right?!? Let's break it down just a little bit to draw out some pertinent lessons.

Lessons from the Pyramid

First of all, let me make it abundantly clear that drawing close to God DOES NOT necessarily mean praying, going to church, or even reading the Bible. While these things certainly contribute to drawing closer to God, they are all *ways* to draw closer to God.

Drawing closer to God is manifested by the fruit one bears, viz., the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). The closer you get to God, the more you begin to think, talk, and act like him. That is the proof of drawing close to God, and it matches [Ephesians 5:1](#), which tells us to be imitators of God.

On the flip-side, moving further away from God does not necessarily mean falling away into a life of sin. It could simply mean not being in a place spiritually were you were a few days ago or not being as zealous as you once were or allowing things to creep in and divert your focus from God. All these things count as moving further away from God.

The marriage pyramid shows the importance of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and how it affects the relationship between the husband and the wife. As indicated by the “Closeness” gauge, when the spouses are individually moving closer or further away from God, they are simultaneously moving closer to or further away from one another. This is critically important for spouses to recognize.

Both spouses must continually be in a state of *-ing* -- viz., *drawing, moving, pursuing*, etc. The *-ing* is perfect present tense, and denotes continuous action. It's not enough for one spouse to “hold the line” spiritually while the other takes a spiritual nap. That leads to trouble. While one spouse can sanctify the other,⁴ it's best if both spouses are moving closer to God.

I cannot count the number of times I've heard spouses (usually wives) lament over the fact that they are pursuing God while their husband is pursuing everything but God. Over and over this has created tension in the home in areas of time and finances (how much time spent at church vs. at home, and money being given to church vs. used for something else). While it can certainly be the case that the husband is the one pursuing God and the wife is off gallivanting, it's typically the husband who is asleep at the spiritual wheel.

If your marriage is going to work, this is the absolute first issue that must be addressed -- not looks, financial standing, body parts, etc. If you or your spouse is not pursuing God, it is going to be very difficult, if not impossible, for you to draw closer to one another. Simply put, you will love your spouse better when you love God first.

In the next two chapters, we'll learn the benefits of both spouses drawing closer to God, and the perils awaiting the marriage when one or both spouses are not drawing closer to God.

Benefits of Drawing Closer to God

The benefits of you and your spouse drawing closer to God are numerous and include the following:

- God draws close to you.
- The husband learns how to love his wife like Christ loved the church.
- The wife learns how to submit to her husband as unto the Lord.
- The husband and wife draw closer to one another.
- Children see a good example of a Christ-centered home, and feel more secure and loved by their parents.
- The close relationship between God, the husband, and wife - the three-stranded rope - becomes a defense against extra-marital distractions (family, friends, finances, affairs, etc.).

These are big-time benefits and should not be minimized by either spouse. Marriages that work enjoy these benefits rather than the perils experienced by marriages that do not have spouses drawing closer to God.

Perils of Not Drawing Closer to God

A marriage that does not have spouses drawing closer to God is at risk of encountering major problems and facing the following perils:

- God is *not* drawing closer to you.
- The husband will find it difficult to love his wife like Christ loved the church due to a) him not drawing close to God and therefore not having a model to follow or b) his wife not drawing close to God and making it difficult for him to follow the model.
- The wife will find it difficult to submit to her husband as unto the Lord because a) she's not drawing close to God and doesn't want to submit to her husband's spiritual authority or b) her husband is not drawing close to God, yet is enforcing his authority as the head of his wife.
- The husband and wife are not drawing closer to one another.
- Any children in the home feel confused and unsettled over the rancor and distance in the home, which can lead to insecurity and acting out.
- The relationship is porous and becomes a haven for extra-marital distractions to enter in and erode the relationship.

Obviously, these are all serious threats to a marriage. The good news is that ALL of them can be prevented when both spouses continuously and intentionally draw close to God.

Conclusion

The marriage pyramid is comprised of God, the husband, and the wife. There are several moving parts to this pyramid, and the best results occur when both the husband and the wife are individually and intentionally moving closer to God. When they do this, they automatically begin moving closer to one another.

Just as the benefits of spouses drawing closer to God are plentiful, so are the perils that await marriages when the spouses are moving further away from God. The heartache associated with moving away from God can be prevented, and both you and your spouse should make it your aim to intentionally move closer to God each day.

Assignment

Both of you should take an *honest* look at your relationship with God to assess whether you're currently moving closer to or further away from God. Make it your aim this week to practice the activities that lead to getting closer to God, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you bear the fruit Jesus bore.

If either of you is not a Christian (one actively following Christ's teachings and commands), consider the love God showed you through sending Jesus to the Earth to die for your sins, and accept the forgiveness being extended to you as a result of Jesus' death on the cross. You can know God and have him live in your heart and direct you by the Holy Spirit. Jesus' resurrection from the dead made this possible. You can pray the following prayer to invite Jesus into your heart:

Dear God, I accept Jesus' sacrifice for my sins, and receive your forgiveness. I acknowledge my sins and my separation from you as a result. I want you to live in my heart, direct my life, and be my Lord. I receive you.

If you prayed this prayer, you are now a Christ-follower, and Jesus lives in you. He will work through you by his Spirit to change you into the person he wants you to be. We encourage you to [let us know](#) about your decision so we can congratulate you and offer assistance to you.

About Kevin & Cetelia Bullard



Kevin & Cetelia Bullard are the duo behind Marriage Works!, a ministry that creates Christ-Centered resources & experiences that help couples build & sustain a healthy, functional marriage.

They have been married since 2000, and are parents to three great children; Max, Caitlin, and Kuria Joy.

Kevin & Cetelia both come from divorced homes, so they understand the pain and confusion caused by broken marriages. As a result, they are committed to making their marriage work, and helping other couples learn how to make theirs work as well.

Through Marriage Works! they provide coaching, weekend Getaways, and resources that lead to a healthy, functional marriage. You can access Marriage Works! through their [blog](#), on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).