

# Marriage Question and Answer

by Shane Idleman

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*This sermon delves into the transparency and honesty of marriage through a Q&A session, aiming to provide insights and help to marriages by discussing various topics such as protecting relationships, handling disagreements, love, respect, and submission in marriage. The speakers share personal experiences, struggles, and lessons learned, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing Christ in family life and reducing secular influences during holidays. They also touch on maintaining purity, handling unmet expectations, and deciding on tithing practices.*

**Duration:** 59:16

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:22, 1 Peter 3:1, Proverbs 3:5, Malachi 3:10, Matthew 6:33

**Topics:** "Honesty in Marriage", "Prioritizing Christ in Family Life"

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## Description

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## Transcript

is do something we haven't done before and that is talk about marriage Q&A be transparent at the same time honest and our goal and our hope is to help marriages out there because we are no different than any other marriage out there but we do try to put Christ at the center and so we've got the top 21 questions we're gonna try to get through them quickly but we don't want to rush so I actually might we might have to do part two in the future or we might answer them on a podcast audio we can just if we don't get to all of them we want to try to get all of them so we need to start so with that said I'm gonna have my beautiful wife Morgan come up and when when God called us when he didn't just call me he calls the team and you see what goes on in the the the the front runner or the front burner sorry the front burner not what goes on in the back burner of this and she's just been a tremendous blessing if God calls a man he has to call the woman to the same type of responsibility and helping to lead a church and so I'm just excited that we can open up a little bit it's our 17 year anniversary was last weekend and that went by quick and there are people here have been married longer they do things better and I wish that they would come up and do a Q&A at some point but also Brant and Tiffany your anniversary is today right what a way to spend it so

let's sit down what do you think I'm gonna have we're gonna go back and forth on the questions and if you have questions you can jot them down and if we do a part two or we answer the audio we'll try to get to those as well so we don't want to leave anyone out but let me just start get right to it for Morgan first question being protective or guarding your relationship with Shane should be a normal emotion or feeling but how do you handle or rein in not becoming overcome with jealousy when Shane has so many people tugging at him and pulling him in different directions all the time who know hold them back on that one for that I think there's many situations in all of our lives where we look at someone else's life and say I could never do that that would just be way too much and that's true until you have to do it and that's when I think God's grace kicks in so in the past before we ever started Westside I would have said there's no way that that's just no and then God called us to start Westside and the grace was sufficient at the time it needed to be I can honestly say I could probably count on both hands in the last nine years the times that I've been frustrated where he was maybe doing something else then then what I thought he should have been doing with us like I don't in other words I don't feel like he's married to the church like I know some pastors wives do but I think that in part is due to setting up boundaries from the get-go so he is busy and there are a lot of people needing his time so I don't know maybe God just gave me the grace I'm a little independent too so it's I don't feel like I need that helps you know I mean I can chime in a little bit too because I thank God he called me at 40 and not 24 because in my 20s is when I really learned about putting first things first and prioritizing and and I was able to exercise that then Oh planting the church and really because if your family's not healthy the marriage isn't healthy it's it's gonna affect the ministry it's gonna affect the church so that that has to be the priority as far as the health of the marriage and healthy relationship and and she's flexible though like she said a lot of grace you know I've had to leave with shorts on and flip-flops and go to the hospital or shoot leave dinner or leave an event basketball or baseball or different things not basketball baseball gymnastics and you know so there's flexibility there but I think you hit the nail on the head but that's probably one of those you know times I could count it's probably when it's having to do with the kids more so it's kind of like oh I can handle if it's me but if it starts involving the kids and I feel like they're in any way being neglected I think that's when it's more difficult I'd say the biggest the hardest thing in in that point would be the phone because the phone just goes off like 150 200 text emails a day which we're trying to figure out how to how to utilize the phone better but no yeah that that's it that's a tough one right now I just don't want to want you feel guilty if you know well it's actually what I need to do is just is put it down more in the garage or the spare room or something and have time with the kids and then go back to work time and do it that way and also our hope is in all of this is to show you how we've relied on Jesus and point you to that foundation and we'll get to some questions here that are that might even shed more light on that but this one's for me there has to be disagreements within the marriage so Shane how do you handle a situation when Morgan does not back down or feel she is right but you know you are you guys didn't mess around boy I was hoping for easy ones so how do you handle situation when Morgan does not back down and feels that she is right but you know you are right do you give in do you give in do you walk away do you talk till she agrees with you do you listen to Morgan's side or point how much time do we have well looking at this I would have to say this is probably a major issue where you know you know you're you know there's something major and I can think of a few where just as a husband you know when I don't want to go into a lot of detail but we had we were considering having someone live with us to help out this person and I just felt really strongly and she didn't agree and we collided for a little while on that one but we talked it through worked it out so do I listen to Morgan's side or get her point yes try to try to hear both sides so we don't have I don't know if we have a lot of things that would fit in this category she feels she's right I'm feeling I'm right you know we talked through things and we say okay what's your point of view where are you trying to come from because once you talk a little bit more you understand that

maybe you didn't see it the way they they saw it and you're trying to relate a little bit better so it depends on what the issue is if I know I'm like in this case I felt for the safety of our family you know I wasn't I just couldn't back down I think I told her that it's I can't I'm not I'm not wiggling on this there's no wiggle room on this one but I think listening to them being compassionate and this doesn't happen too often I think this was eight years ago yeah big big issues don't happen too often the smaller ones I feel like you do listen and then you know kind of if it's not a hill to die on for him he'll kind of default if he feels like it's gonna be more peaceful maybe or yeah well what I'll give you one thing that was kind of I mean it's what something we work we actually didn't argue over it a little bit but I have a as the man wanting to I want to have a goal to pay off her house in ten years and that's not gonna work that's you know who budget certain things and certain money goes to it and she's more on wanting it now for the kids stuff and hey what's a 30 year loan you know so I have this plan of paying it off and in that way financially more stable and if something would happen to me the family set and they're stable so I kind of explained I broke down you know 125 thousand in interest you're saving we just have a track home in Palmdale you look at the interest and how much you know we can make an attempt at this we can be debt-free from our home in ten years and I'll be turning 60 59 59 is my goal so I hope I wish we could take a lot more time but do you give in sometimes do you walk away usually you know I'll say you know I'm just gonna go on a drive and maybe run to the church listen to some worship music and just get your get your mind clear because you don't want to go at it when you're when you're angry and you can feel that that irritability rising up that we usually were pretty good about she'll go do something you know shopping at Walmart usually fixes it and I'll go on a drive in light of Ephesians in light of Ephesians 522 and 28 that's the passage talks about husbands loving your wives Shane can you speak on loving your wife and Morgan can you speak on respecting oh no the s-word submitting to your husband so I'll let you I'm gonna be long-winded if you want to start this will probably be my longest answer so can you speak on loving your wife you know when I see how much Christ did for me and I think the gift of marriage and it's a daily dying to self to me that's what it is loving your wife is Christ love the church so it's not about me not about my day my agenda she'll tell you and I'm not just saying this because I do it but I do a lot of the dishes or vacuum or fix meals just to help out you know love at the time to Abram you did that recently yeah so it's a way of loving them so to define that it means to me not doing what I want to do but what does the family need now in saying that I have not mastered this area but that's what it means for me to love my wife and and put the needs of the family first and and then we'll go into the next part here for you he's so sweet he really cooks the meals because I can't cook very well it's funny because you felt a lot of pressure coming into the ministry like I don't cook and I don't play a piano and sing what am I supposed to do pastor's wives do you know yeah so God just but yeah there's so many other many of you the women that know her and they've spent time with her just incredible person from for encouraging and mentoring younger women and and so God has gifted you very much so in areas that are far more important than plant based quesadillas all right okay submitting and respecting okay so it's a big that's a big question and a lot of women don't like that word so I'm not sure why or how we got there but we can think I think the women came before us and kind of turned that into a bad word and then the church fell for that lie that it's a that is a bad word and it should not be something to be rejoicing in and before I fully you know kind of exhaust the answer you should know I'm not one of those like naturally submissive quiet women something some people are and it's amazing that's just more of kind of their nature it's not necessarily mine so when I answer this question I don't want you to feel like it's coming from someone who this comes easy for so you should know that ahead of time but when we both made head of our past wasn't that great so bad but you can clarify if I'm wrong it won't be bad but you're engaged to a guy and you became a Christian but and then I think when you're younger like in your team may 17 18 years that you'd say I don't want some guy tell me what to do so that's stuck with me you know I don't

remember saying that but he swears I said it but and it's really not well yeah I'll let you explain it but it's yeah your personality is not a naturally which is a good person it's a good character trait because of that fight I'm getting my foot out my mouth it's a good fight and you know that that type a but you're not typing either it's that it's just that strong personality you need to have in ministry you have to have you have to have two inch thick skin to really should be in ministry so with that though that strong personality comes not wanting to submit yeah by nature right so it doesn't come easily but I don't read anywhere where it says submit if it comes easily and so I don't feel like I get a pass just because my personality might not might be a little you know more loud or boisterous or whatever I don't get a pass from Scripture and what Scripture tells us so there's just a lot I feel like a lot of times as women we hear that word and we get mad and we you know I'm not gonna you know some guy telling me what to do or whatever but it always kind of baffles me when we look at you know we can look at the beach and see or the ocean and this beautiful God's beautiful creation and we can look at a forest of trees and oh my gosh isn't that a beautiful thing that God made or we can look at our children oh can you hear me or we look at our children and see you know oh they're just so beautiful and God's creation but then we look at this this way that God set up marriage and we say that part is not beautiful but it is when we're applying it so when you've got a man leading by by example and by love and not you know with an iron fist yes because that's important it would be a lot harder to submit for sure to someone who is not a good leader not giving an excuse to not do your part but I can see where it would be harder and then of course if this isn't even I may would take a whole nother topic to talk on abuse and different things like that coming into play so this answer is covering assuming our relationship would you clarify yeah no I just mean in general if you know if there's a home where there's abuse going on and stuff I'm not by any means saying you know lay down and submit woman and all that so I think you guys understand that but just in the context is actually is husbands love your wives and why it's respect so it's that mutual understanding and when it's a when it's a good when it's a cycle and both both parties are doing what they're supposed to do it's just a beautiful thing not always easy but we're not promised easy but it is a beautiful thing and so I feel like there's so much of the blame game we'll all submit when he loves we'll all love when she submits well no God's Word tells you to do you they're gonna do them and and if they're not then you're praying and you're waiting meanwhile you're obeying and that's that's the best that we can do like my mom's has a checklist you know or don't compare right it's one of the biggest things she sees and counseling to is blaming the other person comparing why did this I make the money and see nobody's wanting to take that you're right the Bible puts it right back on us regardless of how the other person is acting yeah times yeah it's not a suggestion I found the hard way scripture is not just a nice little idea and for all you wondering our first year was the hardest are we allowed to say like nevermind no I mean it was as far as we both thought about divorce you know for sure the first year because you just you realize how selfish you are and it was it was a hard first year we we I mean we thought about it but we knew we couldn't because of the scriptural course and then marriage is often a tool like no other tool that God will use to really humble you and to break you and I remember I shared this with some of you as many years ago now that I she left her journal open and it talked about me being a controlling man with finances and not letting the kids do a lot and I was like I left there mad but I was broken like what are you talking about and as a man seeing my dad go through the recession with construction losing everything almost and and I've been more of that penny pincher you know so no they're not gonna do this no we can't do this nobody can't you know because you're you're living on a budget where but it started to hinder people's dreams and what they wanted to do and so I had to learn from that like okay well let's have them let them do what they want to do in a budget you know and be more humble about that and so that was my whole point not to take away from this point but is to let marriage humble you and conform you and shape you and break off those hard areas of pride and

self-centeredness and that's when we're confronted with those things we need to change those things yeah for sure another point too I just for the women if that is more of a struggle and it's you know you say the word submission or respect and you just you just hear it on the face you hear it and you see it on the faces and I just think what if our the man by our side was going I have to love my wife what a horrible plot in life to have to love her but that's what they hear when we're saying I have to respect you and it's the biggest thing for a man and I think that's why God put it in here men love your wives wives respect submit your husbands because we're not gonna naturally do it I mean some people may be a little more prone to it in general but by and large it's not going to come very natural and so he's telling us for our own good this is what works best a two-headed monster is a very ugly thing there has to be someone taking the lead and to me I mean don't get me wrong there are times when I go down punching and and it's I don't want to but I feel like I have a grown at least in 17 years for me it's yeah for me I don't it's kind of like okay when it all falls apart my fault go on with your bad self you make that call you know luckily he's often hearing from the Lord so I can trust his leading so that was kind of a joke kind of not because I do trust when it comes down to it even when it's something that I don't particularly like with the house payment for instance probably not something I would choose to do at this point but I can see the wisdom in it and so I'm not gonna kick and scream about it and I trust him and I trust that God is leading so I'll bow out you know what I mean also for I think the women almost have it well I can't that might be taken wrong I wouldn't want to be the man I'll just say that right now I would way rather be the woman I don't want to have to provide for an entire family I don't want to have to try and lead an entire family I don't want to have to try and protect an entire family that's like beyond what God created me to do and so I want him to operate in his full gifting and what God has called him to do and for him to be able to do that I need to come underneath that yeah and like there are if there are things she doesn't agree with she'll voice that and why she doesn't agree with it we've I've changed course in regard to like the kids probably you know the kids with schooling or they're needing this isn't gonna work you know we got a we got to do this and there's probably many examples we could give on this but what about would this be under this question when people say so how's it how's it really like yeah how's it really like living with shame yeah yeah yeah what's it like being married to shame and it's funny because I do read between those lines some people I think genuinely are curious but I usually get the sensing of two different types of people the first one is the type of people who aren't a big fan of the ministry or of Shane or whatever and so out there and so when they're asking I see all over their face what they're really asking is isn't it so horrible don't you like never have any fun and don't you like just get scripture beaten over your head all day and and isn't just the worst thing ever how do you live with that guy and then there's a whole nother group of people who are like he's so spirit-filled what's it like living with him it must be cloudy all day or you know walking on clouds and and and there's never poop diapers from the kids and it must be so amazing that was a good laugh and I'm just like you know I think my answer is what's it like being married to him is very similar as what it's like being married to your spouse there are some amazing amazing days and there are some very hard days it's the same you could ask him the same question what's it like being married to me I'm no walk in the park either you know what I mean so I feel like that question could really get thrown back on anyone yes he's a strong leader strong personality which is amazing and that's what I need and then other days less than amazing you know I you know it's it's it's so I would say it's amazing being married to him it's not perfect and it's not always a walk in the park but I don't I don't think that's specific to us I think you could all say the same thing yeah and with the big confusion I think with a lot of people is how I preach to the masses is not how I act an individual level I'll put on what do you think repent you little sinner yeah repent you little sinner I mean oh yeah I'll dance I'll dance I'll dance around with them a little bit dance around with the kids play with the kids and I yeah the kids fall off their chair laughing when when he gets laughing and like really laughing yeah it's hard to stop

and then the kids like practically fall out of their chairs laughing at him laughing so it's not like we just sit at home all day and to be honest with you this could be an encouragement I'm not doing really good in this area with with devotional time and teaching my kids scriptures right now to be honest with you it's it's something I need to work on we've tried it I think the devil comes against it every chance he gets you can have hey what tonight family at dinner we're gonna talk about Disneyland oh there'd be no problems but as soon as you want to open up the Bible all hell seems to break loose so and I'm I'm kind of careful that I maybe I could push not push but but invest scriptures into their life more but I don't want to come across as that you know that angry father-in-home I don't I've never said you have to submit I've never said you have to respect me I never quoted Ephesians 5 I don't quote verses to use them at the kids but that would be my downside is I probably could be better in this area of because I'm so exhausted when works over and sometimes I feel like my time with the kids is like it should be the when I have the highest amount of energy when I spend time with the Lord in the morning so yeah who we are here is who we are at home we don't try to put on different masks and different things but I don't how I preach and how hard at preaching that's really a calling that's what God God gifted me in that area he and he anointed me to have that type of ministry like John the Baptist that that calling the nation back I eat breathe that I have books on the side of her bed piles of them and I'm just I just love revival I love God awaken these people because that's my heartbeat but when I'm at home you know it's it's riding bikes or playing or doing things with the kids it's not it's not I don't I don't preach to them at all I think he's harder on himself yeah even though we mean we might not sit down as often as we can in like full-on devotion but it's constantly talked about throughout throughout our home when you're lying down when you're rising up they they wake up and they catch dad on his knees you know 4 a.m. if someone wakes up to go to the bathroom or they catch us talking about a scripture and different things so I don't think it's yeah I just feel like I wish I could do more yeah if you ever did a devotional with little kids you probably feel the same way it's it's hard so that would be one thing you could pray for us what that looks like you know spend more time but they do get it's it's character qualities and in teaching I mean I walked out of dicks a month and a half ago with something in my hand and Shane said oh dad you didn't pay for that I'm like oh that's right my mind wasn't even on getting anything it's like oh that's a good example let's go back or if they give me too much money back or if we stop and talk to someone and buy them food so there's learning throughout the whole week that we're investing in them one of our daughters goes to the hospital homes as she comes to the morning worship it's she's up at 430 in the morning on Sunday and she comes here praise God for now I know that you know that could change as she gets older but so we do see them growing right okay I won't say that either you're right we shouldn't we shouldn't talk like that all right I think we kind of cover this one what do you do when you find out you're wrong about something how easy is it for you to apologize and admit correct the wrong you've done to others and that's only question four so we probably have to go pretty quick okay I think it's easier to say you're sorry when you realize that the offense is against the Lord so yes maybe sometimes I've done something I've wronged him and if I realize that it's wrong it's not always easy to you know eat that humble pie and go and apologize but if I try and fight it and then I'm out of God's will then it's easier for me to say okay I prefer to be right with the Lord and you know take on a little bit of humility to apologize than to kind of stay out of right yeah and I'm on the same boat I would say how easy is it for you to apologize and admit you're wrong to the other I think I think we're both both pretty good at that you know saying hey I miss this I wasn't I didn't understand and you want to jump on that quickly how do you keep that balance in your family to prioritize Christ in Christian holidays this probably could have a question we waited on because there's other priority ones let me let me try to come back to that one Morgan how do you deal with situations that that I don't understand as a man like if you're pregnant when I saw that question I was hoping for more of maybe a an example the only thing I could think of that came to

mind was like pregnancy postpartum depression which I struggled with more so with one of the kids than the other four and that verse you know for men dwell with your wives with understanding I think it's a good thing for you to seek to understand your wife to try and hear her the heart and hear where she's coming from but there are some things that I mean there was a time I think in this last pregnancy that I like had to have I don't even remember let's just say a cheeseburger even though it wasn't because I couldn't do meat this time on this one but it was like no I have to have it I have to have it now and he's like well just eat something else you know it's fine like it's 11 o'clock at night I'm like you know you don't understand it's a real thing or like nesting before the baby was born and I was nesting I'm like you don't get it I cannot not organize these things I can't not do it you know so just just trying I guess to help him understand and knowing at the same time really Jesus the only one who's gonna fully ever really get me yeah if you ask that question and you had a more specific thing in mind ask me later and there's some single questions here too for singles so we're gonna maybe come back to those in a minute what does being a spiritual leader look like to me I think we covered some of that earlier about leading by example doing what you don't feel like doing admitting you're wrong showing character in your home can I give an example real quick sure like a practical example after every time after I had a one of the kids it's hard to get your quiet time in like it's just it just is hard to be in the word and different things and you try and got screaming baby and all these kind of things so he recognized kind of recent within the last few months he kind of recognized that I wasn't in the word as much as I should be because it's very apparent when you're not in God's Word and your mood is going haywire so we had an opportunity to go out on a date so I was gonna come over and hang out with the kids and instead of like hey let's go to dinner are there any good movies on he's like hey why don't we go read our Bibles at the office all right and bring some books and I was like it was fun actually that's a great idea and I was so excited which sounds you know maybe funny cuz like our one chance to go on a date but those couple hours flew by like it was just so great to sit and be able to read and just kind of talk together and stuff so I think he I think that's a good example of a spiritual leader he recognized that I was floundering a little bit and I needed to kind of be pulled back in and then as I was reading we were talking about what we were learning that's about three hours worth of so you have to prioritize did a movie and popcorn sound better to the flesh but once we once we you know started it was it was fun it was it was actually time flew by very quickly how do you a fair proof your marriage so how do you fair proof your marriage I will say this so we're we're we're both pretty open and transparent about this you know if there's any they shall say hey this guy face this guy sent me a message on Facebook well we're actually have a joint account so the one time oh yeah that did happen you actually saw it before I did and you went ahead and let him yeah no that you saw it I said I'd love to get lunch with you and we're also I think sharing accounts is good I recommend I know a lot of people are like oh well if you you know you can't trust me there's that's like well if I can't trust you why don't you want to share the account then so I don't know for us that works and it's huge accountability and I know how crafty and deceiving the enemy is and I know what he wants to do to the marriage and so I'm not giving him any you know opportunities and having the phones available passwords you can look in at whatever you want there's no and and hey I'm there's you know there's times I think 2012 I'll never forget that time where because she said I'm feeling really you know I'm just feeling discontent and we need to connect again we're kind of drifting apart so if you identify it you bring it up and you can talk about it and then make make the correction course to get back on track with the marriage so it's it's not the affair happens in secrecy when you keep things hidden whether it's Facebook or email or at work and you keep it hidden but if you bring something to the light and you say you know if a husband's at work is like I'm just you know I'm really attracted with this person I got it you know I gotta find a different job or something or somebody says hey I'm attracted we go to this Bible study and I'm attracted to this this this guy there or something you know and you kind of be that did

happen to us that's why she's laughing we weren't even married I don't think were we we were just dating I think we're days right we were I don't know but she was really attracted to one of the guys at the Bible study so I'm like well that's not gonna work geez Louise so embarrassing that's okay that's it that's just a normal aren't you guys so that's about being that the whole point was being honest and open and transparent and say hey here's what I'm struggling with and and not letting it hide in darkness and it might it might hurt a little bit to expose it so if you say if a husband says hey I'm struggling I've some things have popped up I think it's been a couple years but if something popped up on my computer and this I tell her hey this this popped up on the computer this morning okay you know we talked so it's not having this secret little life on the side and nobody knows it's just being transparent and letting letting God work through that so yeah I think that's the biggest thing that kind of goes along with this question how do you pray for a dead marriage and there was a time like he was talking about around I don't know yeah it's been quite a while now but I was in a place where I hadn't been in the word a lot I just was kind of my my relationship with Jesus was floundering a little bit and the church just started so that brought a whole new yeah and when that starts to happen good things never come of that I grew very apathetic like I just didn't care anymore I could care less if he came or went and this is he knows all this already so but it was it was getting to the point where I just was done I was just done to be honest and I kind of struggled with the Lord because I'm like everyone else is getting divorced you got all these other Christians getting what why can't I just go in and file but I had enough fear of the Lord in me that said no you can't do that so I remember telling the Lord one time in prayer I'm like I don't care who it is me or him but you got to take one of us I can't do this for another 50 years and I can't I have no biblical grounds for a divorce so I know I'm not gonna do that but I don't want to just live as roommates for for the rest of my life and that's just how done you know that I was and so the question how do you pray for a dead marriage I just started praying God I can't even hold on to you got to hold on like you you got to take this and you got to do something with it I can't continue like this and I and I have no other option but you and so it wasn't a situation I know there's some dead marriages due to like so many different circumstances ours wasn't any sort of like sin issue or anything like that it was just life and my kind of backtracking away from the Lord a little bit I mean it's still a Christian I just wasn't you know really on fire and the setting was to we had just two little kids and the church just started and that brought on a lot of challenges a lot of pressure we were we were hurt by a lot of people in ministry I know it's hard to believe but we in that the kids I'm tense and she's not in the word I'm kind of just going my own doing my own thing and the enemy will come in and use that as a wedge and capitalize and start planning thoughts like well look at this guy or look at this situation and but I missed the whole point of how do you a fair proof your marriage it really begins with your devotional life your time spending your time spent with God in prayer and reading the word and and living the Christian to feel the Spirit filled life that's the best way to a fair proof your marriage and then these other things I talked about those are just that's icing on the cake because accountability software won't stop an affair it's a it's a it's a good thing to do but your heart has to be right and she brought that up to me in 2011 I don't remember when it was but it hit me like a ton of bricks who then we yeah he was actually getting ready to do the first marriage series Jim you hurt that way yeah I was getting ready to yeah the very first one you've done a couple since then and I remember we were going on an anniversary trip and he didn't know how I mean he knew things were kind of funky but I don't think he realized the extent of how just low I was at that point and I remember driving on that two and a half hour drive going again enough fear that you just need a little bit of that you know fear of the Lord to stay in you to kind of light that fire and it was like you are not gonna let that man go up there and do a marriage series feeling like this like that is just a slap in the face to God I felt so I had to kind of do the hard thing and and just kind of spill it and tell him everything that I was feeling and things that we you know then we prayed just in the trip was better after that for sure so I know we

prayed and I didn't I didn't get upset I was really just wounded but remember a lot of it a lot of us how we were raised you've heard my testimony I was raised in a home my dad was very angry and boy you don't cry there's no emotions it's driven it's hard-working you know you just you just plow forward and you move forward you work hard and and you take that in a marriage and here I am I'm going 100 miles an hour we planted this church and I'm just failing to see that she's dying spiritually so God used that to really revive the marriage at that point I think it's you know and there's it's that was probably a turning point for sure what has been your most difficult issue to work through I would say that actually changes with seasons like sometimes it's been finances when he was in construction and the market just tanked and it was like all of a sudden we had no money probably at that season it was finances having kids for sure at different points or how to handle the kids how to discipline different things like that communication I don't know what do you yeah it's different seasons what's what's been the most difficult issue to work through I mean at first it was it was kids it's funny because you have that first child and you're like so protective you know now the fifth one like let her crawl on the floor she won't get sick I mean you know but so I think for me the first baby was planting the church was hard so there's different seasons so I don't think there's something that stands out what was that question about intimacy oh yeah have you ever had some yes did you ever have a dry spell from lack of intimacy if so how did you remedy that that one I think goes back to communication you all know what intimacy is if you're here right Morgan's mom's right there so I have to take a look this way and my mom said she's watching on live stream what was have you ever had a dry spell yeah I would say particularly after having children each you know each time you you give birth there's a dry spell different things how do you remedy it I would say sometimes it just takes time like in the case of that but for maybe a couple who is just not connecting on that level I would say pray honestly that sounds like pray but you just pray for that desire pray you had it there before you know when you guys first met and and different things the Lord brought you together and that's such a integral part of a marriage I feel like that's probably the that's really the thing that separates or distinguishes marriage from every other relationship you know with your with your parents or your siblings or your friends you communicate you respect each other you love each other you laugh together you hang out together you do all these intimacy is the one thing that sets marriage apart and so God created it he tells us to do it he even tells us not to refrain from it lest the enemy come in and work so and so to answer the question probably communication because guys are very visual right wake up nobody I mean no surprises here right so guys are visual what they see well a woman can see it and say I don't want it because you've been a jerk all week so you know do the dishes vacuum but it's it's communication and and how do you resurrect that though if there's no attraction for the other person they just the attraction is done so a lot of times it's where our thoughts are going mentally where are we focusing on that's why men a lot of men are addicted to pornography so they have no desire at home a lot of women now pornography is growing in women as well but they're watching things they shouldn't be watching or reading books they shouldn't be reading looking so their minds going a different direction the men's going so they're drifting apart so really that's why prayer is important you pray and you bring that back and you say God we need this intimacy back and we need you to show us what to do in this area because we just we just don't love each other anymore I don't want to touch him I don't want to look at him yeah and it's difficult though even something just came to mind to like men with pornography pornography or women even expectations can come in like just don't watch The Bachelor and The Bachelorette I don't know I'm just gonna throw that out there there's nothing good and and wholesome about those types of movies there's nothing edifying to your relationship with your husband when you see someone hooking up with 25 men or someone hooking up with 25 women and then you start having expectations of what these rendezvous should look like and maybe they don't look like that in your home and different things just just yeah I don't know I don't know if that's for someone because it just

came to my mind but just no need and a lot of you don't know maybe all of you don't know but with Morgan's background when I met her she was involved in Hollywood so when she came she was in Craig Morgan's first video something right home about you know Craig Morgan who's pretty popular country singer so that started and she was getting other work and so when she became a Christian a gray glory van she walked forward when gray glory gave the call and now everything's changing so she's getting out of this industry that her whole life was focused on so the enemy was really having a heyday on oh just a mom now you know just just to stay at home look at this guy's he's you know he's planning a church you can do what he wants and not realizing that God called us together so it's it's really taking your thoughts captive it's a very it's a very it was very difficult because that's where the enemy works first he's gonna work you where your thoughts go your feet follow and that's it was so important to guard that in marriage well what about that kind of ties in with the question someone wrote in about maybe you have a highlighted about like how did you stay pure before marriage oh yeah let's go crossing the line let's go through those real quick that's for a single yeah we actually stopped kissing at one point but like what six months before we got married it's just getting too hard to you know we knew that we wanted not gonna work made mistakes in the past and we knew we want to do things right this time so we just said you know that's done also modest I remember there was a few times well one in particular where Shane just said I just need you to not wear that and I had again coming out of Hollywood being a new Christian and that was the farthest thing from my mind and God really had to do a work in my heart and I remember going through and cleaning out my closet and wanting to cry because I was throwing away like hundreds of dollars of clothing and I was like I'm not just gonna give it to the Goodwill where some other girl can wear getting burned but I think the more modest I could be it really helped him and so the Lord just had had really taken me on a journey in that area so it's always been kind of important to me but never more so now that we have a 12 year old son and trying to teach him guard your eyes guard your heart take your thoughts captive so I think like for the single for it for women in general try and maintain modesty and teach that to your girls and the guys are bombarded enough they don't need it from the church too and how did you keep yourself from crossing the line before marriage it really starts in the heart first we both did not want to go back where we came from in our past we want to make sure it was God's will to get married and we were actually so worried about marriage I broke up six times I think right he did including once after we were already engaged I broke can you imagine me breaking up with Morgan's that this is not working I need but I wasn't always a break it was more like I mean he had a hard past I had a hard past we so desired to know that this was God's will and our families were like would you just get married already but we were looking for a red flag and so it's more of like I need a break don't call me for a break and then we are going to marriage counseling pre-marriage counseling in the past we went to get counseling before he even proposed because we just wanted to be so sure because I was I was worried making a mistake again and but anyway the pastor said hey we're talking in his office he goes Morgan can you go out for a while and she left and he goes you better stop this stuff just ask her to marry you are you gonna lose her you're so fearful I think you proposed that night I think I did because we were on a break and I was driving and he wasn't supposed to be calling me yet he's calling me so I like pulled over on Avenue J and he's like hey we had that counseling appointment tonight do you want to keep it even though we're on a break I'm like sure whatever so we go to the counseling appointment that's the night you propose I think yeah he shot me straight and then we broke up again really really I took all my bridesmaids to lunch and said there's not gonna be a wedding and then I had to tell him there's gonna be one but it it sounds it was a roller coaster but we we dated or courted or whatever for six months when you proposed what I asked you on the way to this on the way home from the beach after three weeks of dating okay so how much time do we have we were doing a young we were both attending like a young adults

church service FYI shout out for young adults luncheon coming up make sure you guys sign up in the way you might meet yeah we're a testimony of young adults anyway so the the group was going to the beach or something we decided to drive to bed together in caravan so we're like playing this weird I don't know game of like whoa what if like what if there was an earthquake right now what if you know just I don't even remember random questions and he goes we we had been seeing each other for three weeks and he goes what if where do you see this going and I'm like right now to the beach but it was just kind of he's 10 years older he had already been divorced which you guys knew no cuz you look young and I look old whatever so no I look older I know that no you don't but anyway I'm 30 and I'm like I'm not just gonna go on dates for a while I need to know where's this going you know basically I don't want to waste time but it's I mean that's that was I realized in that moment like this guy's not looking for a girlfriend he's he wants a wife and am I is that something that I want to see where the Lord is gonna take this or do I need to just say you know no I'm not there yet I was 21 you were 31 and then we got married 22 and 32 so so that was my fear is this younger girl just out of Hollywood new Christian Oh Lord God I need but we are seeking God so there's a lot of strength in knowing that God is directing if you're doing these things that's why how did you keep yourself from not crossing line before marriage because we want to know God's will so much how did you know they were the one did you just know to for us it was a process of getting to know their character their beliefs and just that you could feel that especially when you abstain for Mary I mean there's there's a struggle for a little while that's why I'm not gonna kiss you this is just we don't need to test it out before we buy it right just we just trust God and we just stopped any type of physical intimacy to hear God's voice clearly that's a good encouragement for the young adults who are the singles who aren't married I'm I was just reading a book over last the last week and it said 70% of single Christians who say that they're Christians 70% are not remaining pure they're just like whatever I'm just gonna X that part out but really and truly it's there for a purpose there's so much you can save yourself by following God's Word before marriage so definitely if you if you're not or you haven't you can get back on track and just say Lord from this point on I want to honor you in that way and how did you protect your heart in case that person wasn't the right one that's for the single in all the ways we just mentioned so you don't go so far you don't get too deep into the relationship because when it's when it's when that happens it's all about lust it's not about love or finding God's will anymore it's about now there's this desire you open the door for that wasn't meant to be opened just yet and now you're gonna be struggling against this this competing God's will and what what what's the world's will for your life I remember something you said a while back too is you never really know a hundred percent until you say I do I mean you pretty much know and you're 99% sure but until you say stand up there and say I do that person could leave that person could end up you know dying that person whatever so until you say I do that's when you're absolutely 100% sure absolutely yeah yep it's you put on the altar until the day you say I do then after that it's all bets off we'll get through a few more real quick how do you keep that balance in your family to prioritize Christ in Christian holidays and reduce today's secular focus on gifts and other secular traditions well you really got to be on the same page with this one because you know or pray about it you know for example Halloween's coming up we don't celebrate Halloween per se but I'm not gonna you know ignore the fact that I like pumpkin seeds roasted in the oven either and talk with the kids we call it good overcame evil day that's what we're celebrating that Christ we don't need to fear this other stuff out there we're not gonna dress like witches and warlocks we're not gonna put stuff in our house but we're not gonna just you know we believe Christians can redeem the theme of Christmas or Easter so we don't celebrate Halloween but if we buy a pumpkin and cook some pumpkin seeds and have a fun night out as a family Christmas we have a real limited budget on what the kids get we kind of make it just a special day I love Christmas personally I know some people don't I get rebuked every year when I have a Christmas tree out in the lobby but we're not worshipping the

tree as in Jeremiah we're not we're just we're just love this this holiday the same with Easter not celebrating Easter bunnies and things but what the empty tomb and I think we talk to them yeah we teach them the real meaning of Christmas and Easter kind of where it rooted where things started why why the world believes what they do and why we believe what we do yeah I mean for me Halloween is just a just an evil type of holiday so that one's pretty easy but if the kids want to dress up as Barbie and run around the backyard I'm not gonna go no no no you're going to hell you know it's well that's what yeah that's that goes back to things we're like we've disagreed on maybe because I grew up you know trick-or-treating and this or that and so for me it was like oh well that's just what we do and then for him knowing kind of more the background and how that day got started and just all that kind of stuff so it's been a learning process in that sense too and you know yeah I feel like we've grown to where we're kind of on the same page now if I'm complete in Christ as a single woman why do I desire a companion I can answer that one quickly because you are complete in Christ as a single person but sometimes God gives us that desire to marry and it's a good desire to have so you're complete in Christ you're everything but that can still be a good God-given desire to pursue a mate but if a person's single and they've been single a long time you know I would again take it to God in prayer and his timing and you're complete you don't have to have someone to make you complete and take it to God in prayer and see what his plan is for your life sometimes he's wanting to see we want mr. we want mr. right instead of being mr. right but we want to meet mrs. right instead of being mr. right so God often wants us to work on our character and our own shortcomings as well any other one stand out does anyone have one they could say real loud real quick without a microphone cuz I'd have to repeat it well you're thinking there's this one how do you handle expectations oh there's one more I know yeah how do you how do you handle unmet expectations well your spouse will never meet your expectations they never they're not that the knight on the white horse and she's not what you they're never gonna meet those expectations that's why you always find that fulfillment in Christ and who God is to you and don't don't have someone else be responsible for your happiness so many people think their spouse and I'm all for happy marriages I'm all for spouses making but you can't have the other person be the answer to your happiness and expectations I think we were both what we were expecting I learned it really I mean yeah it didn't you know you think of you have these images of what marriage is going to be and those expectations come crumbling down usually on both sides mm-hmm our first six months I remember we had a situation where I was just I had an expectation a big one and it was just it just didn't come to fruition or whatever to the point where I was crying it was like such a big deal to me that I I went in the other room I started crying about it and I just felt like the Lord said he will never be a hundred percent what you need him to be only I can be that to you and so I felt like you need like a friend yeah I felt like he was so gracious to show me that so early on because it really set up for not that I never had another expectation you know I try I think we kind of do that natural we have to remind ourselves to kind of bring it in and and not expect not not put those expectations on someone else and make them feel like they have to live up to it all the time you know because that's that's a lot of weight we don't want to have those expectations on us so try not to put it on them too real quick what is your favorite marriage book Ephesians and Titus actual book mine I think is the Ten Commandments of Marriage his name escapes me right now Ed Young I believe love and respect is pretty good respect okay how do you decide on a tie percent is it gross or net well this is going to be an individual family related question we started ours before we even got married we were already giving whatever God put you on your heart I mean we go towards we gravitate towards that the gross you know let's say a person makes five thousand dollars a month then they're they're setting aside five hundred dollars for tithe you don't have to do ten percent but it's a real good principle to follow and so what happens that as you restructure your life around that God's a priority not now maybe I'll fit him in later and we've we've never looked back he's he's been faithful in so

many areas when we were buying a house our lender actually said you don't need to count this giving you can buy a you know a nicer home but no that was one of our bills so we kind of went into the marriage but I think a husband a wife need to agree on it also if it's gonna put you in a financial bind right now you need to work towards it maybe maybe downscale a little bit but you'll never go wrong putting God first so it shouldn't be what's the minimal amount I can give versus what's what does God put on a heart what God loves a cheerful giver in the New Testament it's not a you have to give 10% or you have to do this it's it's cheerful we should want to so we actually we actually enjoy giving back to God giving back to this church right off right off the gross before any taxes and things come out but I think you can tell me if I'm wrong but in my opinion if you're a couple struggling between gross and net and one wants gross and one wants net if you're the woman I would just advise let him make that decision it's not like you're deciding should we go spend all this money in Vegas or should we not this is a decision he wants to please the Lord he wants to honor the Lord he wants to do what's right I would just trust that and let the Lord lead him honestly but well let me just let me just close out in prayer God our hope is that this Q&A would Lord draw more marriages to you we we we just publicly confess it our total reliance on you God we need you in our marriages and our homes our children I pray you begin to build marriages this evening

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