



# know your purpose

***The secret to a healthy marriage begins with keeping our real purpose front and center in our thinking...and doing the work of fighting off shadow purposes.***

- What do you argue about most often in your marriage? When are you/when have you been the most fulfilled in your marriage? What do these answers tell you about your purpose in your marriage?
- Look at Genesis 2:20b-24. As you read this, keep in mind what a radical departure this is from cultural norms. Understanding the atmosphere of the Ancient Near East, we would not be surprised to find a call for a woman to leave all of her significant relationships and to be united fully in this one new relationship. That is a given. But to find a similar charge given to a man, that is completely without parallel in this time period. What is the significance of that? What do you think it means to “become one flesh”?
- Now look at Ephesians 5: 25-32. See especially verses 26, and 28-29.
  - What does Paul give as the purpose for a husband’s love?
  - The word “holy” primarily means to be different, other-than, set apart. It also means to be morally pure. How does this affect your understanding of a husband’s purpose?
- Does this passage shed any light on your understanding of what it means to “become one flesh”?
- What purposes, either consciously or subconsciously, have you been pursuing in your marriage? In other words, have there been shadow purposes for you?
- Are there ways in which you, as a couple, have answered WHAT instead of answering WHY?
- Can you think of any practical difference that keeping your purpose before you would make in your everyday married life?
- Psychologist Larry Crabb says, “Our highest purpose as husbands or wives is to be an instrument for promoting our partner’s spiritual and personal welfare.” If you are doing this with a spouse, tell one another what the other could do to further promote your spiritual and personal welfare.