

Week Two Quotes

As a spiritual exercise, remind yourself again that, regardless of the result of your choice, you willingly chose this man or woman. After considerable consideration, you asked this person to marry you-or you said yes when he asked you. At the time, your decision made perfect sense-you were literally willing to bet your life on it-and you had every reason to believe that being married to this person was a relationship you would cherish for years to come, till death intervened to separate you

Gary Thomas, Sacred Marriage, 235.

Romantic love has no elasticity to it. It can never be stretched; it simply shatters. Mature love, the kind demanded of a good marriage, must stretch, as the sinful human condition is such that all of us bear conflicting emotions....This is the reality of the human heart, the inevitability of two sinful people pledging to live their life together, with all their faults, for the rest of their lives.

Sacred Marriage, 15-16

The majority of marital problems come from trying to help your mate be a better spouse.

Gary Oliver

Godliness if selflessness, and when a man and woman marry, they are pledging to stop viewing themselves as individuals and start viewing themselves as a unit, as a couple. In marriage, I am no longer free to pursue whatever I want; I am no longer a single man. I am part of a team, and my ambitions, dreams, and energies need to take that into account.

Gary Thomas, Sacred Marriage, 77.

Conflict often comes from our attempts to blame our spouse for our own selfishness.

Me

Marriage requires a radical commitment to love our spouses as they are, while longing for them to become what they are not yet. Every marriage moves either toward enhancing one another's glory or toward degrading each other.

Dan Allender and Tremper Longman.

For ten years, our entire lives had been about me. My career came first, always. Stefanie made every sacrifice in the world to support me unconditionally... What kind of husband would I be if I didn't drop everything for Stefanie when she got sick? Did I want her sister to have to hold her hand while she suffered, because I wasn't there? Did I want Stefanie's mother to have to sit with her in the hospital while they were shooting needles into her and filling her up with those awful chemicals, or did I want to be there myself?... This is my family, this is my responsibility. This is my home. This is my duty.

Chris Spellman in GQ Magazine

Making someone feel smaller so that we can feel larger is anti-thetical to the Christian faith, a complete rejection of the Christian virtues of humility, sacrifice and service.

Sacred Marriage, 77

I felt a calling from God to be a pastor. I studied, prepared, and finally was ordained by my bishop. There are days when I get frustrated with my job. I have had thoughts, on occasion, about doing something else. But then I remember my calling; it was God who called me to this work. This part of God's purpose for my life. My ministry is an act of faithfulness and obedience to God.

And so it is with marriage. Marriage is not simply the next step after falling in love. Marriage is serious business. It is a calling from God—a lifelong mission of service and caring and ministry to another human being—seeking to be, on God's behalf, a companion and helper to another.

Adam Hamilton, Making Love Last a Lifetime, 21.