

Developing a Marriage Mission Statement

A marriage mission statement will help you to focus on how you want your marriage to bear fruit. Even when day-to-day living is mundane or difficult, a mission statement keeps your eyes focused on the greater prize, and it strengthens the teamwork between you and your spouse.

Creating Your Marriage Mission Statement

The first step in identifying your marriage mission is to brainstorm together. Brainstorming is like free-time on the playground — there are no rules, rights or wrongs. Let anything that comes to mind be stated and not be judged.

Every mission statement (be it a marriage or business) needs to address the following questions:

1. What opportunities or needs do we want to address? This could be internal (within the marriage) or external (within the community) opportunities or needs.

- What is the purpose of your marriage? (e.g., to fellowship and enjoy family and friends)
- What are your dreams or long-term goals? (e.g., open a Bed-and-Breakfast or travel and see the world)

2. What is your plan to accomplish these opportunities or fulfill these needs? (Develop a business plan.)

- With today as a starting point, what specific steps do you need to take to begin your plan and see it through to completion?
- Are you committed? Have you put dates and times on the calendar to chase and achieve these opportunities?

3. What principles or beliefs guide our marriage/relationship? (Identify your values)

- What role do your spiritual beliefs play in your marriage?
- What role does God play in your marriage?
- If you have a family (or are thinking of starting a family), what values do you want to instill in your children?
- How does your responses to these question impact the needs you identified in question 1?

4. What are your unique strengths both individually and together as a couple? (Answer this question separately, and then share your answers together.)

- There are three parts of this question: What are 1) your strengths, 2) your spouse's strengths, and 3) your strengths as a couple?
- Often times others see in us what we cannot see for ourselves. This is a good opportunity to speak truth and enlightenment into your spouse's life.

5. What goals do you want to accomplish in life together? (Identify your goals)

Setting goals will help shape your marriage mission statement (i.e., we want to take a big vacation every 3 years; we want to be a blessing to our church by tithing and serving; we want to play a larger part in national or international outreach ministries).

Now that you've answered these questions, you're ready to write your marriage mission statement. Here are some guidelines to help you craft your statements:

- **KISS – Keep It Simply Simple.** You need to know and remember it, so keep it short and sweet. You should be able to remember it without having to pull the dusty printed version out of the closet.
- **Avoid clichés.** Instead of using common phrases (e.g., be the best we can be), be creative and use your own words to capture and communicate your mission.
- **Be positive.** Mission statements should not shame or cause guilt-trips.
- **Be proactive.** Use proactive verbs to describe:
 - what you want to do
 - how you will accomplish it, and
 - how you will assess your progress toward your goal

A good marriage mission statement will provide vision and clarity when life happens.

Keep your marriage mission statement up to date. Review it a couple of times a year to see how you're doing and feel free to make adjustments to address life changes.

Marital Goal-Setting*

*(*after you've established an overall mission statement)*

What specific things do you want to accomplish:

- **Spiritually** (i.e., your relationship together with God)?
- **Familiarly** (i.e., in terms of relating to parents, children, siblings, etc.)?
- **Physically** (i.e., in terms of maintaining your health and fitness)?
- **Financially** (i.e., in terms of giving, saving, spending, and becoming debt free)?
- **Socially** (i.e., in terms of maintaining and developing friendships)?
- **Vocationally** (i.e., in terms of career and/or employment)?
- **Recreationally** (i.e., in terms of leisure activities, vacations, etc.)?
- **Intellectually** (i.e., in terms of continued mental growth and education)?

There are plenty of examples on how to write a mission statement on the website. Just search "Marriage mission statement example".