

TRUE NORTH: A SERIES FOR MEN

Episode 04 – Marriage and Relationships

Episode 04 - Marriage and Relationships

1. If you're in a men's group, how many years of married life (combined) have been lived by the men in this group? Each man who's married could give a one sentence piece of advice about how to have a good marriage.

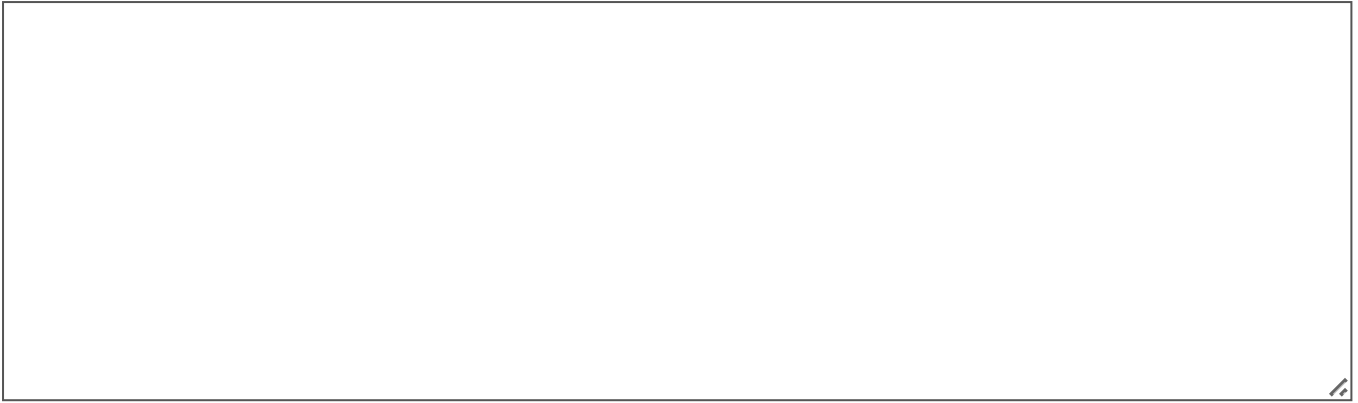


2. Approx. 40% of adult men (in the USA, Australia, UK, and 49% in NZ) are not married – they may be single, widowed or divorced.

If you're involved in a church, or men's group, how well are you making those men welcome and cared for?



If you are a single man, what has been your experience in joining a group or church?



3. Matt Fuller, author of “Reclaiming Masculinity”, said:

“There’s no place for husbands to be an overbearing authority to their wives.” *Matt Fuller*

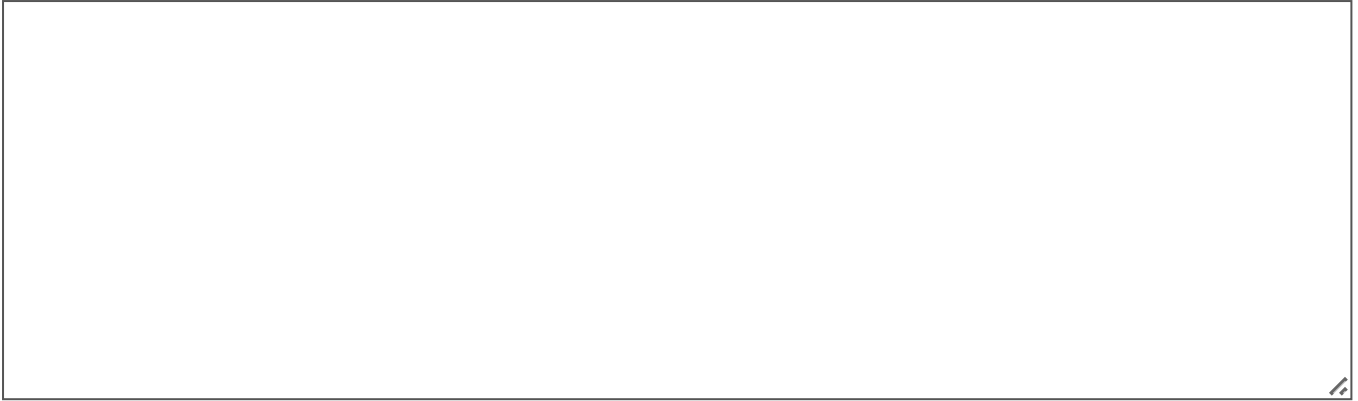
How can men (or churches) help create a culture that protects women (and children) from any kind of abuse by husbands, partners and men in general?



4. Marriage is the most intimate of relationships, Paul Thomson said in their personal story, quoted Genesis 2:24

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.” *Genesis 2:24*

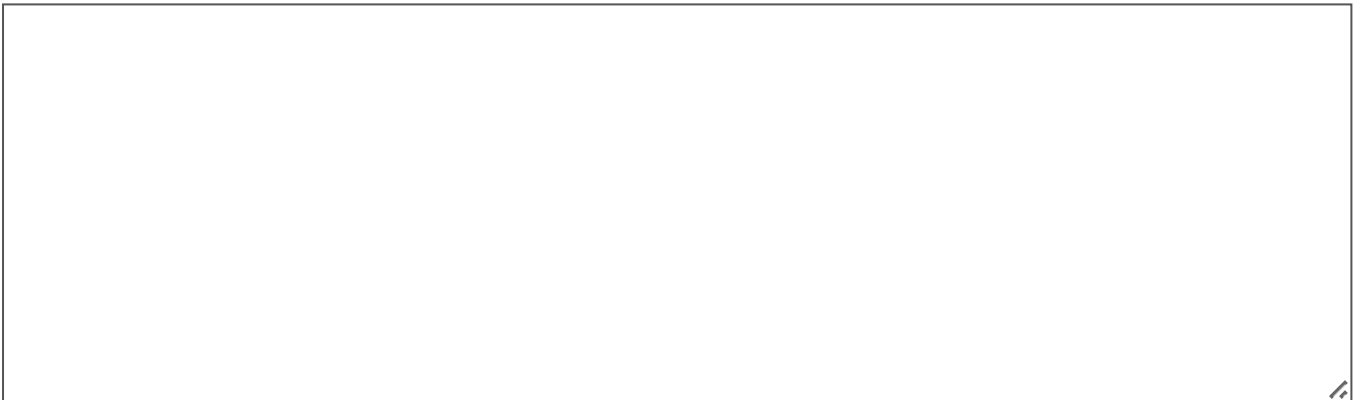


What does it mean that husband and wife become one flesh?

5. Warren Farrell said:

“The single biggest challenge in relationships is the inability to handle personal criticism from our love ones without becoming defensive. When it comes to criticism we respond defensively. What was functional for survival is dysfunctional for love.” *Warren Farrell*

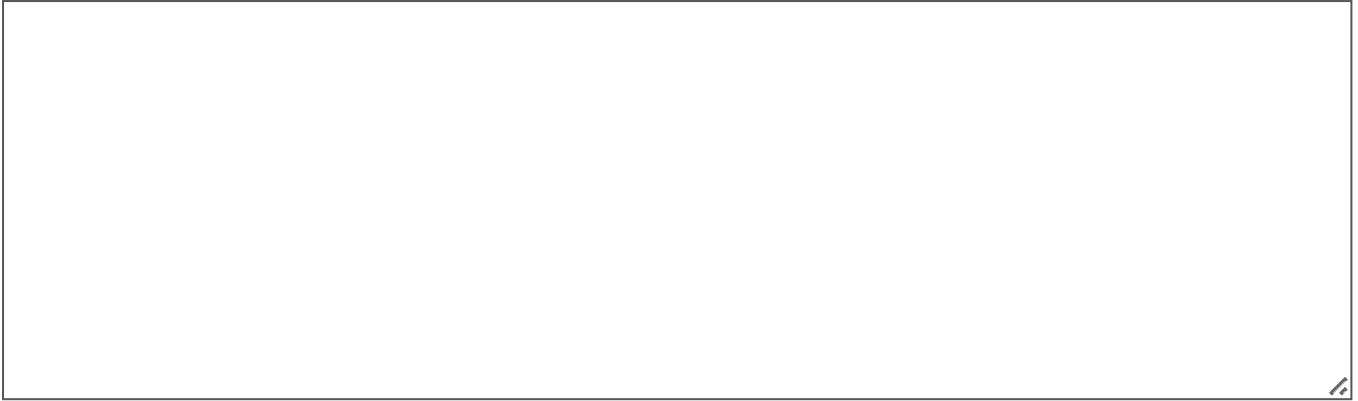
Do you agree with what Farrell says? If yes, why is this so hard to do? What practical steps might a man take to respond to criticism in a positive way?



6. Millions of people (especially Millennials and Gen Z) are now using dating apps to meet partners. And yet, as Ed Davies said, many people have significant problems with the “market place” this creates.

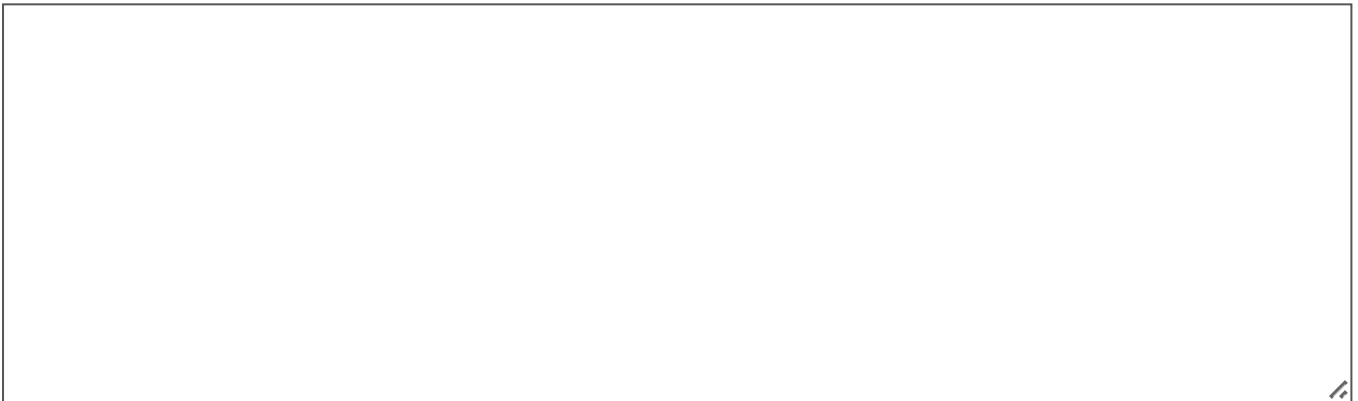


If you have used a dating app, comment on your experience.



7. Ed Davies raised the issue of pornography and how it has changed the relationships between men and women, affecting young children and bringing violence into sex.

a) Are you aware of the effects of pornography on men of all ages? Do men you know share this struggle?



b) What do you think Peter means by saying sinful desires “wage war against your soul”? “Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.” (1 Peter 2:11)



8. The apostle Paul says:

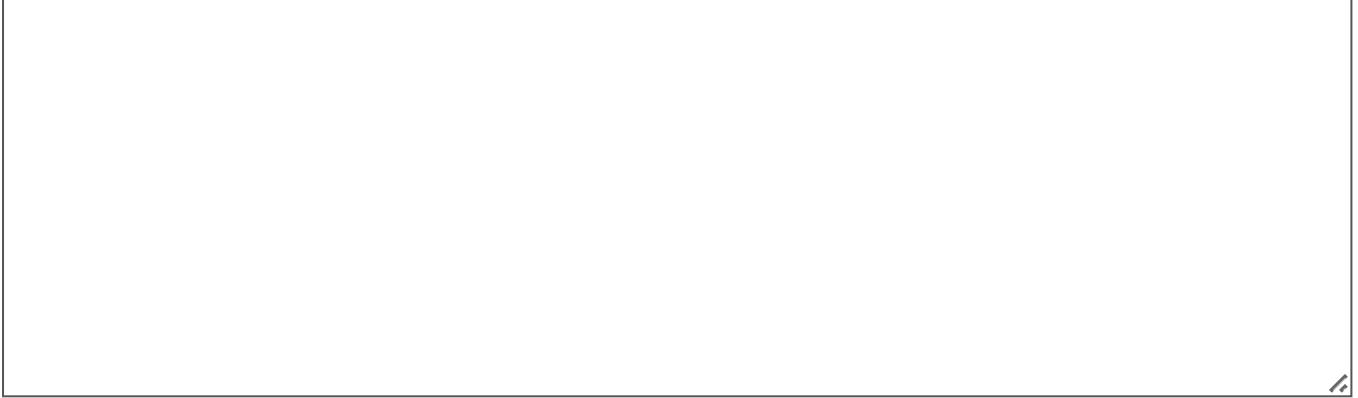


“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her...”

Ephesians 5:25

That’s the ‘gold standard’ for love!

a) What would that look like day by day to love your wife that way?



b) How will it be sacrificial?

