

“Nothing is more important to your marriage than your theology (what you believe about God), and nothing is more important to your theology (and hence your marriage) than the gospel...When we grasp the depth of God’s love for us revealed in the gospel, when we rest in the joy of God’s forgiveness toward us in the gospel, when we experience God’s transforming power in us through the gospel, and when we begin to emulate the pattern of humility and obedience we see in the gospel, what a wonderful difference this will make in our lives and marriages!...

...Nothing is more essential to a marriage,
and nothing brings more hope, than
applying the gospel of Jesus Christ."

—Gary & Betsy Ricucci,
Love that Lasts:

When Marriage Meets Grace, 21, 23

“The solution to stinginess is a reorientation to the generosity of Christ in the gospel, where he poured out his wealth for you [2 Cor. 8:9]. You don’t have to worry about money, for the cross proves God’s care for you and gives you all the security you need. Jesus’s love and salvation confers on you a remarkable status—one that money cannot give you...

...The solution to a bad marriage is a reorientation to the radical spousal love of Christ in the gospel. 'Thou shall not commit adultery' makes sense in the context of the spousal love of Jesus, especially in the cross, where he was completely faithful to you. Only when you know the spousal love of Christ will you have real fortitude against lust. His love is fulfilling—which keeps you from looking to sexuality to give you what only Jesus can give...

“What’s the point? What makes you faithful or generous is not just a redoubled effort to follow moral rules. Rather, all change comes from deepening your understanding of the salvation of Christ and living out of the changes that understanding creates in your heart. Faith in the gospel restructures our motivations, our self-understanding, our identity, and our view of the world. Behavioral compliance to rules without heart-change will be superficial and fleeting.

“The gospel is therefore not just the ABCs of the Christian life, but the A to Z of the Christian life.”

–Tim Keller, *The Prodigal God*, 118-19

“The ultimate thing we can say about marriage is that it exists for God’s glory. That is, it exists to display God. Now we see how: marriage is patterned after Christ’s covenant relationship to his redeemed people, the church. And therefore, the highest meaning and the most ultimate purpose of marriage is to put the covenant relationship of Christ and his church on display. That is why marriage exists. If you are married, that is why you are married. If you hope to be, that should be your dream.”

—John Piper, *This Momentary Marriage*, 25

- Because of the gospel, *Christians have become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17)*. Therefore, in our marriage, our past does not define us, confine us, or determine our future.
- Because of the gospel, *we are forgiven (Ephesians 1:7)*. Therefore we can live free of all guilt and condemnation for every sin, and we can trust that God, in his mercy, will be gracious to us.

- Because of the gospel, *we can forgive, just as Christ forgave us (Ephesians 4:32)*. Nothing done against us compares to our sin against God. Therefore all offenses, hostility, and bitterness between Christians can be completely forgiven and removed.
- Because of the gospel, *we are accepted by God (Romans 15:7)*. Therefore we are not dependent on a spouse for who we are or what we need.

- Because of the gospel, *sin's ruling power over us is broken (Romans 6:6, 14).*

Therefore we can truly obey all that God calls us to do in our marriage, regardless of any circumstance or situation.

- Because of the gospel, *we have access to God through Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16).*

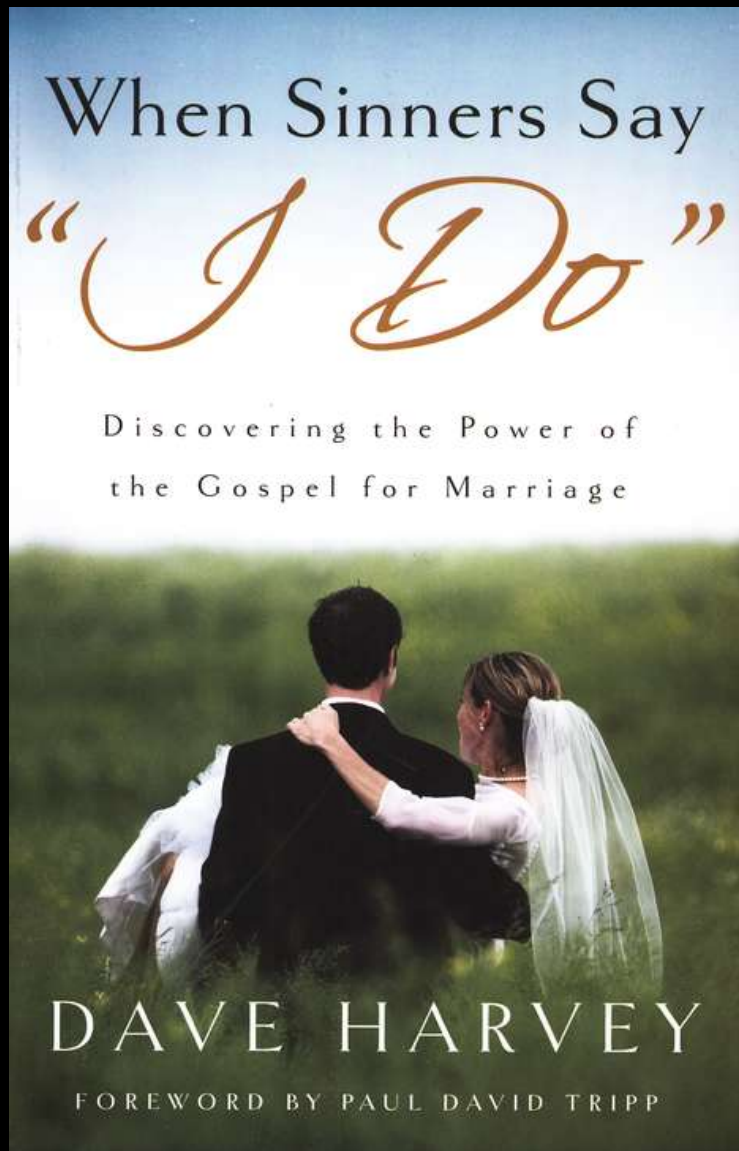
Therefore we can at any time take any need in our marriage to the One who can do all things.

- Because of the gospel, *we have hope (Romans 5:1-4)*. Therefore we can endure any marital difficulty, hardship, or suffering, with the assurance that God is working all to our greatest good (Romans 8:28).
- Because of the gospel, *Christ dwells in us by his Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:13-14)*. Therefore we are confident that God is always with us and is always at work in our marriage, even when progress is imperceptible (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

- Because of the gospel, *we have power to fight and overcome remaining sin, which continues to dwell and war within us (Romans 7:19-21, 24-25; Galatians 5:16-17)*. This indwelling enemy represents the essence of what is called the doctrine of sin.

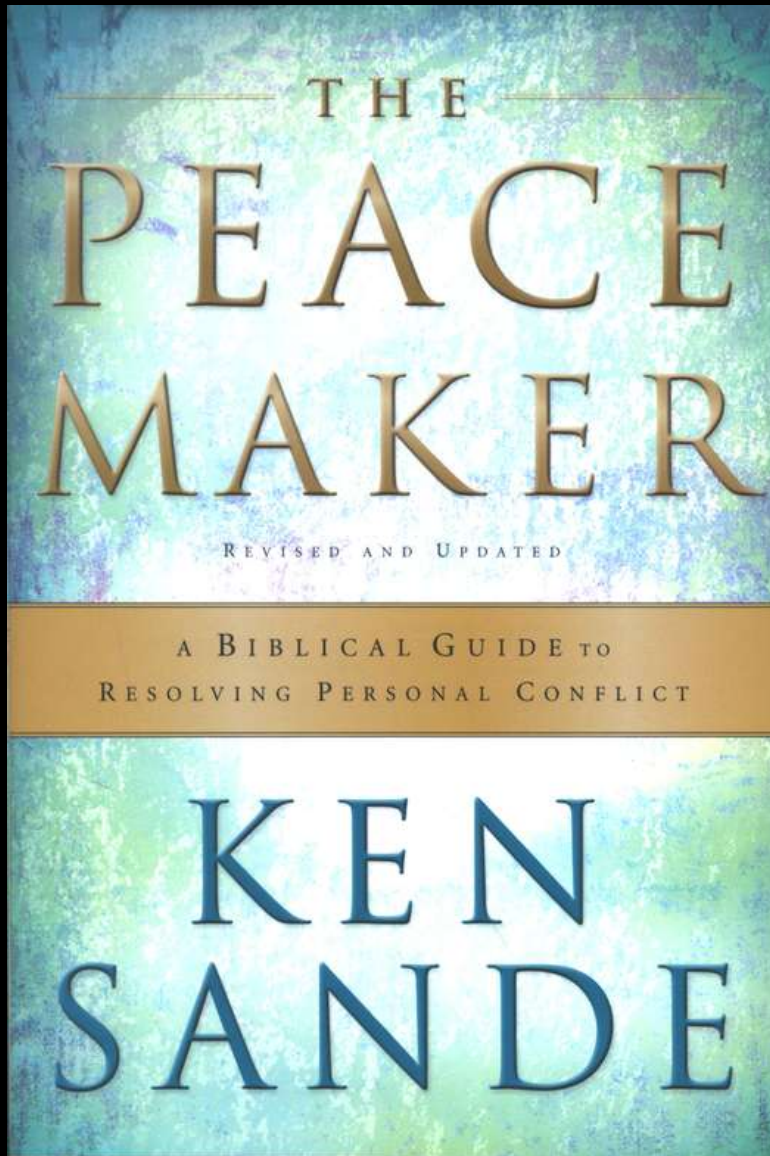
—Gary & Besti Ricucci,
Love That Lasts, 22-23

Recommended Resource



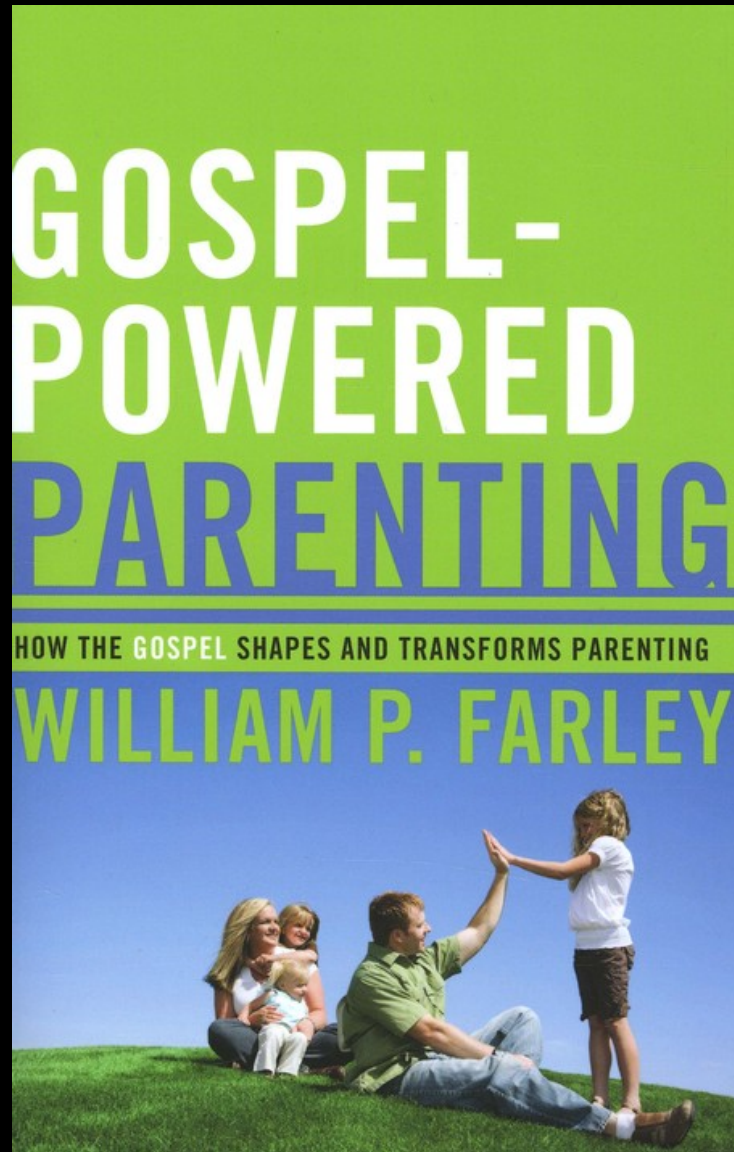
When Sinners Say 'I Do': Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage by Dave Harvey

Recommended Resource



The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict by Ken Sande

Recommended Resource



Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting
by William P. Farley