

"A Healthy life-giving relationship is not something that you find. It is something that you make; and you have to keep on making it. Just as importantly, you can also begin remaking it at any stage.

GARY THOMAS

- 1. Trust: The core question of marriage. Are you ______ for ____?
 - _____ trust.
 - _____ trust, caring for your spouse's heart.
- 2. This begins with a willingness to be ______ available.

3. Sensitive _____.

"...let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."

JAMES 1:19

• _____ what you are hearing.

"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.

PROVERBS 24:3

• Ask

Questions

- Can you tell me more?
- What would be most helpful to you right now?
- Do you want me just to listen?
- Are you hoping for some input to solve the issue?
- How did it make you feel when I just said that?

Practice _____ Listening.

"...listen to me and be attentive to the words of my mouth."

PROVERBS 7:24

- Practice trying to really understand and restate what you think your partner is trying to say to you.
- Is this what you are saying? Then restate what you think you heard?
- Try to use "I" statements that help identify how you are feeling.
 "You" statements almost always sound defensive and attacking.

4. Lean Into

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

COLOSSIANS 3:13-14

BOOKS TO READ:

- A LifeLong Love Gary Thomas
- The Meaning of Marriage Tim Keller
- Created for Connection Dr. Sue Johnson; Kenneth Sanderfer
- Safe Haven Marriage Dr. Archibald Hart, Dr. Sharon Hart Morris

PODCAST TO TAKE WITH YOU:

- The Fierce Marriage podcast with Ryan & Selena Frederick.
- FamilyLlfe Podcast network
- The Naked Marriage with Dave & Ashley Willis
- Love and Respect
- Soul Talks With Bill & Kristi Gaultiere