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## **Hot Button: Is Marriage Worth It?**

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Maybe instead of asking if marriage as a whole is broken, we should instead ask if what is broken is the way we've been doing it.

### **Three Words That Summarize What the Bible Teaches About a Marriage That Lasts**

#### **Word #1: Faithfulness**

**Malachi 2:13-14 (NIV):** ...You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

**Jeremiah 34:18 (NIV):** "Those who have violated my covenant and have not fulfilled the terms of the covenant they made before me, I will treat like the calf they cut in two and then walked between its pieces."

Faithfulness builds trust. It says, "I'm not going anywhere."

#### **Word #2: Friendship**

**Song of Songs 5:16 (NIV 1984):** ...This is my lover, this my friend...

**Exodus 33:11 (NIV 1984):** The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend...

### **Three Different Marriage Postures**

#### **A. Back to Back**

#### **B. Shoulder to Shoulder**

#### **C. Face to Face**

Faithfulness builds trust. It says, "I'm not going anywhere."  
Friendship deepens connection. It says, "I enjoy being with you."

### **Word #3: Forgiveness**

**Matthew 18:21 (NLT):** ...“Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

**Matthew 18:22 (NLT):** "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!"

Faithfulness builds trust. It says, "I'm not going anywhere."

Friendship deepens connection. It says, "I enjoy being with you."

Forgiveness heals wounds and softens hearts. It says, "I choose grace over grudges."