

FORTIFIED MARRIAGES

Fortifying Marriages to Strengthen Families, Churches and the Community



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MA-MFT

Visit our website

www.fortifiedmarriages.com

to find out more about the ministry and how you can get involved.

The website also has a great deal of marriage resources and links to other marriage organizations available.

Donations are tax-deductible and make the ministry to couples locally and internationally possible.

Leaving a Godly Legacy: Armando & Consuelo Millan

Mother's Day just past and Father's Day approaches and I felt led to write about parenting, but it wasn't coming together until today when we attended our good friend's grandfather's memorial service and the inspiration came. This man has left an incredible legacy; in reality, it is the legacy of this couple. Consuelo, Armando's wife of 54 years went home to be with the Lord 22 months ago and now he has joined her in Heaven.

They raised three children and deeply affected 13 grandchildren, in-laws, pastors, and multitudes of people in their lifetime. This recurring theme throughout the service challenges me to live my life for God more and quit agonizing over the little things in life. A pastor for 50 years, Armando never had much in the way of material things, but the treasures he has stored up in heaven are certainly bountiful! In tears, one pastor shared how this man of God led him to the Lord and then disciplined him through his teenage years, pointing him toward life-long service for God. Again and again, family and close friends shared about how this couple had deeply affected their lives, through prayer, encouragement, love and the example of lives dedicated to serving the Lord.

Armando's youngest grandson noted that "Tata" was very independent to the end. He remembered that before she died, "Nana" had told him to not bother any body and he listened; "Tata always listened to his wife and I loved and respected him for that." A legacy inspiring even the second generation after him! Parenting is an awesome responsibility and it requires husbands and wives to work together as a team. Armando and Consuelo demonstrated that teamwork to the end of their lives. This didn't end when their children left the home, they continued to influence their children and grandchildren and still do through the Godly legacy they have left for us all. Whatever age your children are, strive to leave a Godly legacy for them.



Understand Your Children!

Husband and wife differences greatly affect the marriage relationship, but once children's differences are added a family becomes what author John Trent calls, the "wild kingdom." It is amazing that children from the same two parents can be so different and is important that parents learn and understand their children. They have different personalities and are not clones of their parents. We've counseled many who have been pressed to conform into the image their parents had for them causing problems in their adulthood and negatively affecting their marriages. Biblical parenting means that parents love and guide their children according to their "bents" - according to the way God created them.

One couple approached us at the end of a parenting seminar asking about the problems they had with one of their two children. One child conformed easily and without much prompting, kept her room clean. Their second child required much more work and it seemed that she would not complete any chore without constant follow up. Prior to the seminar, they couldn't understand why they were so different, but during the seminar they learned that with different personalities, they had to work with their children differently to help them each develop responsibly. When we understand our children's differences, we can better help them to learn and develop into responsible adults. It requires time and work, but perseverance, consistency, encouragement, love and much prayer will make a difference in their lives.

Action Point: What are you going to do?

How would you be remembered if today was *your* last day? Would you be remembered as a parent who loved his or her children? That you prayed for them daily? Armando and Consuelo did not leave the wonderful legacy they left by chance; they sought to serve God completely, purposefully prayed for their children, and many others, daily, and loved their children drawing them to the Lord by their Godly example. It is a challenge for every couple; a chal-

lenge that is not easy, but also not impossible. You must be purposeful about loving your children as they are and setting a Godly example for them in your walk with the Lord. Work *together* as a team to raise Godly children and even to influence your adult children. Be accepting of your children without compromising Biblical principles. Utilize the parenting resources on our website to help you grow in this area.



Chris and Carmen's *Loving Your Children as They Are* helps couples better understand their children and utilize their differences for effective parenting. This one of several seminars and workshops we present to help improve and strengthen marriages. Contact us to set up a seminar or workshop at your church or organization. A full list and description of the workshops we present are available at our website, under the "Seminars" tab.



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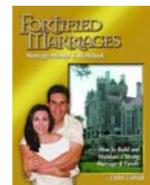
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Resources Available at www.fortifiedmarriages.com

- Click "Parenting Resources" for great resources to aid effective parenting.
- Click "Communications Resources" for books and resources to help improve your communication.
- Click "Links" to find organizations to help strengthen marriages.
- Click "Resources" to discover many excellent marriage materials.
- Click "Manual" to learn about the Fortified Marriages manual and workbook.
- Click "Crisis Resources" to download a helpful resource list.



Fortified Marriages is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization seeking to build strong marriages to withstand the storms that will come. Please consider partnering with us to affect marriages and help couples leave a Godly legacy. Ministry partners may donate to the cause of building strong marriages, become monthly contributors, pray regularly for the ministry, or by letting others know about the ministry. More information is available at <http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com/page.php?22>.