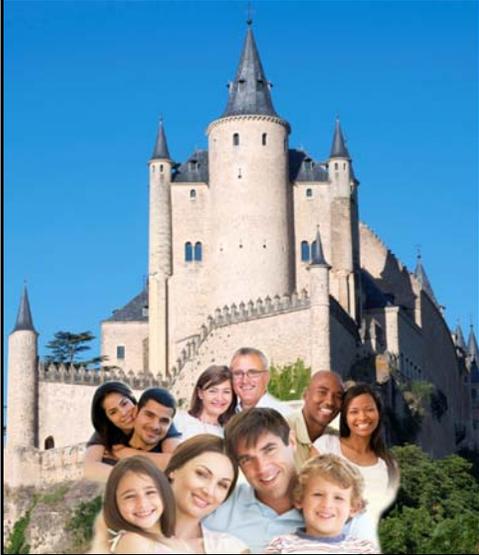
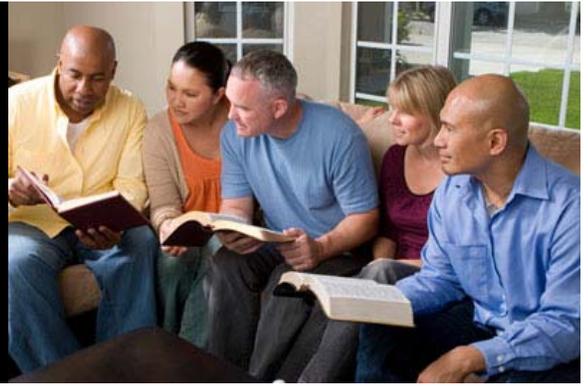


# Community:

Living together as the  
Body of Christ



## FORTIFIED MARRIAGES

*Building Strong Marriages*

*Fortified Marriages Ministry: A Christian nonprofit ministry helping the church and individual couples build strong marriages.*

[www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

[info@fortifiedmarriages.com](mailto:info@fortifiedmarriages.com)

480-699-2515

The Body of Christ, the church, is meant to work together to accomplish the purposes of God. Likewise, the family and specifically, the marriage relationship, is a microcosm of this function - in fact, marriage and family came before the church and is *supposed* to reflect the very nature of God - *community* - working together in unity and singleness of purpose. Yet, so often we see division and diversity of purpose in marriage, family, and the church.

The problem is that many people have bought into the cultural ideal that the *individual* comes first. It is all about me; make *me* happy or I am moving on - to another relationship, church, or community. God's plan is for *oneness* in marriage; unity without separation. His plan is that the Body of Christ would work *together* for His glory, not work as individuals for our own glory.

Friends, we have got to stop thinking as individuals, as lone islands in the sea of humanity. We were created for a purpose; God's purpose of being light to a dark world; of being a testimony to His love and goodness. We are that light and testimony when we live in community - living in unity, harmony, and working *together*. We must reject the ideals of the culture and embrace God's view of marriage and the church; giving up our rights to do whatever we please, living in community and sharing our lives with the person we committed our life to.

### Helpful Resources:

*Fortified Marriages Resource page:* [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

*The Marriage Relationship and the Individual* at Start Marriage Right - goes deeper into this subject. [www.startmarriageright.com](http://www.startmarriageright.com)

*Community: God's Design For Growth* article at [bible.org/article/community-god%E2%80%99s-design-growth](http://bible.org/article/community-god%E2%80%99s-design-growth)