



# FIREPROOF

YOUR MARRIAGE

NEVER LEAVE YOUR PARTNER BEHIND



## FIREPROOF

In the movie *Fireproof*, Captain Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: "Never leave your partner behind." But at home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules.

After seven years of marriage, Caleb and Catherine Holt have drifted so far apart that Catherine wishes she had never married. Neither understands the pressures the other faces—he as a firefighter and she as the public relations director of a local hospital. Regular arguments over jobs, finances and household responsibilities have brought them to the point of saying, "It's just not working anymore."

As the couple prepares to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's father challenges his son to commit to a 40-day journey based on a book he calls the *Love Dare*. As Caleb reads through the *Love Dare*, he begins to learn about unconditional love. But is it too late to "fireproof" his marriage? His job is to rescue others. Now, Caleb Holt has to face his toughest job ever—rescuing his wife's heart.

Fellow firefighter Michael Simmons explains to Caleb, "Fireproof doesn't mean that a fire will never come, but that when it comes you will be able to withstand it."

SO, HOW DO YOU INSURE THAT YOUR OWN MARRIAGE WILL SURVIVE AND WITHSTAND THE CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES OF LIFE?

Visit the official movie site at [www.fireproofthemovie.com](http://www.fireproofthemovie.com)  
FIREPROOF (c) 2008 Sony Pictures Home Entertainment

# Love & Marriage

"TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE..." — Ecclesiastes 4:9

Long ago, Israel's King Solomon handed down both wisdom and poetry on the topic of marriage. We all understand "two are better than one" when we long for a best friend, lover and ally who will remain with us for the rest of our life. Solomon captured the feelings eloquently when he wrote, "This is my lover, this is my friend." (*Song of Solomon 5:16*) In the same book of the Bible, Solomon invites his beautiful wife and lover to "come with me." The words are frequently used in weddings because we can all identify with the romance and the desire for a "soulmate."

And, the vast majority of us will find someone to "come with me" and fill that need for a companion. Approximately ninety percent of us will eventually marry. If you aren't currently married, chances are that someday you will be.

Unfortunately, around half of all marriages will end in divorce. Most will perish from what is known as "irreconcilable differences." That's the catch-all phrase for what Caleb Holt means when he says, "It's just not working out anymore." The common explanations are, "I've fallen out of love with her/him," or, "We're just two different people now."

In fact, there are days in every marriage and every relationship when there are irreconcilable differences. But, marriage is intended to last a lifetime—is there a way to withstand the fires and build an enduring marriage?



WILL YOUR MARRIAGE LAST A LIFETIME?





# A Lifelong Covenant

“...WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET MAN NOT SEPARATE.”  
— Matthew 19:6

In *Fireproof*, Caleb and Catherine start down the path to divorce. Caleb explains their plans to his friend Michael, who responds with, “I’ve seen you run into a burning building to save people you don’t even know, but you’re going to let your own marriage burn to the ground.” When Caleb tries to justify his decision, Michael illustrates his point by gluing together a salt and pepper shaker. Salt and pepper are very different—much like men and women are different. But, salt and pepper, like men and women, are always together. When Caleb tries to pull the two apart, he’s warned that by doing that he will break one or both of them.

The marriage covenant is God’s plan as well. Consider these words from Jesus, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (Matthew 19:5-6)

## He Said/She Said

As Caleb and Catherine struggle with their marriage, they each explain to friends their view on why the relationship is failing. Caleb claims that Catherine is too sensitive and that “she doesn’t show me respect.” In a scene that occurs simultaneously, Catherine is comforted by her hospital co-workers as she explains that Caleb is “so insensitive.” She laments, “He doesn’t listen to me. He doesn’t understand my needs.”

It’s a classic, timeless he said/she said dilemma—men viewing the relationship from one perspective, and women seeing a very different side.

Men and women... Actress Katharine Hepburn was once quoted as saying, “Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then.” We all know the jokes: men not stopping to ask for directions; women grabbing the credit card and heading for the mall. She thinks he doesn’t listen and he wonders if she will ever stop talking.

**A**ND YET, THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE HAS  
DESIGNED US TO PERFECTLY COMPLEMENT  
EACH OTHER, AS PART OF A MATCHED PAIR.

The Bible explains it this way: “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27) It’s clear that the differences were deliberate—perfectly conceived to make the two opposites both irresistibly attracted and drawn to each other as partners and companions.

It’s a scene that portrays a great truth. Marriage is a covenant. The dictionary defines “covenant” as a solemn agreement with legal validity. Michael urges Caleb to consider the promise he made: “You made a lifelong covenant. When most people promise for better or worse, they really only mean for better.”



“You can’t give what you don’t have...”

“WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.” – 1 John 4:19

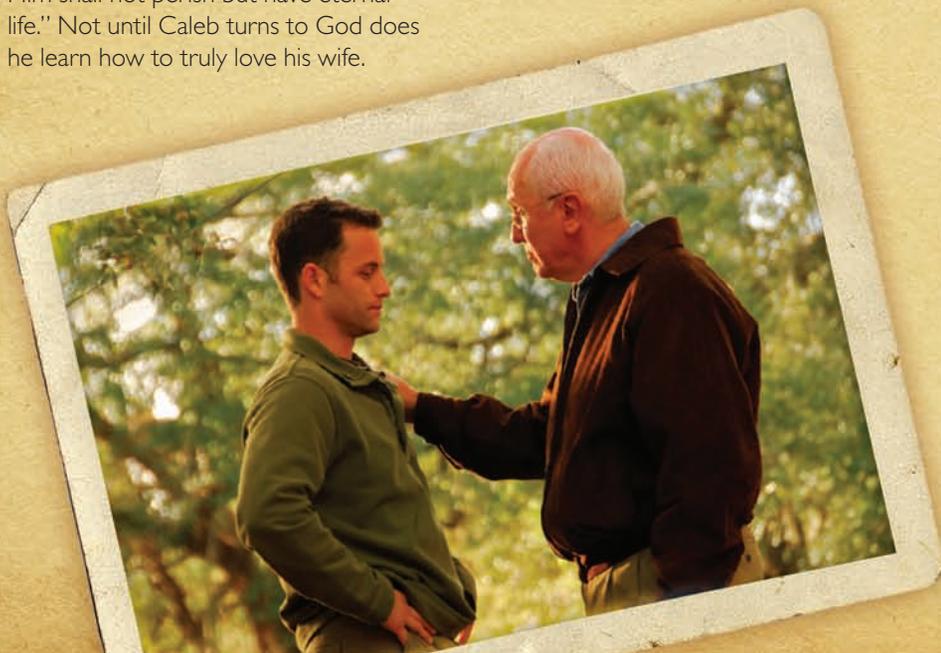
Caleb takes on the challenge of the *Love Dare* and begins to demonstrate his love for Catherine. He apologizes and sends flowers and arranges dinner, but still, Catherine has been hurt and isn't ready to trust him again. In frustration, Caleb confronts his father with, “How am I supposed to show love to somebody who constantly rejects me?” John Holt responds with a difficult truth, “You can't love her because you can't give her what you don't have.”

What Caleb is missing is the foundation for unconditional love. That basis for love is found in the most famous verse in the Bible—John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Not until Caleb turns to God does he learn how to truly love his wife.

Near the end of the story, Caleb tells Catherine, “In the last few weeks, God has given me a love for you that I've never had before.” The love and strength Caleb draws from God enables him to remove everything that threatens his marriage to Catherine.

The song *Love is Not a Fight*, by Warren Barfield, says it this way, “Love isn't a fight, but it's something worth fighting for. If we try to leave, may God send angels to guard the door.”

*M*AY GOD AND HIS LOVE  
ENABLE YOU TO TRULY  
FIREPROOF YOUR MARRIAGE.



## God's Love

— THE ULTIMATE “FIREPROOFING”

If you haven't already entered into a lifelong relationship with God, you can do that now and use His great love for you to build lasting relationships. We love because He first loved us, and His love doesn't require perfection or complicated steps. Although sin separates us from God, God has made a way for us. Jesus came to bridge the gap between a perfect God and imperfect mankind. As the Bible states it,

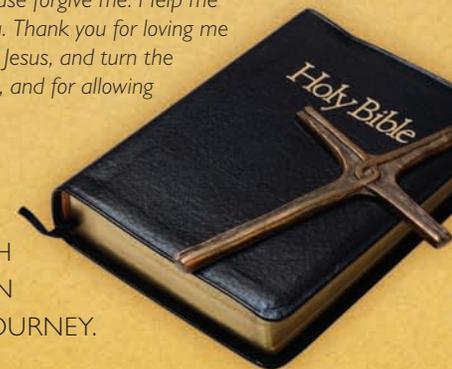
“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

That's all it takes—just an acknowledgement of your sins, your need for God's love and the sacrifice Jesus made for you. If made with a sincere and open heart, this confession will bring God's presence into your soul and give you eternal life with your Creator.

If you want to receive this gift of love from God, simply pray a prayer like this:

*Dear Jesus,  
I don't know why you love me so much that you were willing to die a terrible death just for me. But I know that you did it so my sins could be forgiven and I could enter into a relationship with God. I know that I have sinned against you and that my sins separate me from you. I am truly sorry—please forgive me. Help me avoid temptation and sin as I follow after you. Thank you for loving me and dying for me. I offer my life to you today, Jesus, and turn the reins over to you. Thank you for your sacrifice, and for allowing me to know your perfect love. Amen.*

*W*ELCOME TO THE FAMILY  
OF GOD! PLEASE VISIT  
YOUR LOCAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
FOR SUPPORT AND INFORMATION  
AS YOU BEGIN YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.





*F*OR THIS REASON A MAN WILL LEAVE HIS FATHER  
AND MOTHER AND BE UNITED TO HIS WIFE,  
AND THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH. SO THEY ARE  
NO LONGER TWO, BUT ONE.

– *Matthew 19:5-6*

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