



BEING THE 'VERY BEST VERSION' FOR YOUR SPOUSE

with Chris and Karla Hines

▶ FOCUS VERSE

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:8

▶ DISCUSSION

- 1. Think back to the first real relationship you had as a teenager or college student.**
 - a. How long did it last?
 - b. Did you think at the time that you'd be "together forever," or were you more realistic about the relationship's prospects?
 - c. Did you learn anything from that relationship that has continued to be meaningful for you as an adult?
- 2. Chris and Karla both freely admit that they hadn't prepared themselves to be their "very best versions" for each other before they got married.**
 - a. What are some things you wish you'd done, particularly things you wish you would've learned or ways in which you wish you'd improved yourself, before you got married?
 - b. What challenges did that create, and how did you work through them?
- 3. Chris says some of their early struggles were caused by living more for themselves than for Christ— "chasing the American dream, the white picket fence, things of the world."**
 - a. Did that resonate with you?



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b. Have you ever succumbed to the temptation of pursuing the financial or material trappings of marriage/family at the expense of strengthening your marriage or growing spiritually?

4. As they've worked with couples through their Marriage in Focus ministry, Chris says he's seen many people make the mistake of either being stuck in the past or racing too hard to get to some future season or life goal.

a. Do you have the tendency to do that?

b. If so, which one is the greater temptation, and what is it about the past or future that you find more attractive than the present?

5. Chris and Karla stress the need to raise “not just great kids, but great adults.”

a. What are some things you're doing now—or could be doing—to prepare your children to be successful in adulthood and adult relationships?

6. Along the same lines, what are some things you're doing now (or could be doing) to ensure your home is a place where your kids will enjoy spending time, even once they're adults and no longer *have* to be there?

7. What are some characteristics of your parents' relationship that made the biggest impression on you, good or bad?

a. How has that affected you in adulthood?

8. Inside or outside your family, who's the couple whose relationship you most admire?

a. What aspects or traits of their relationship do you find most admirable or worth emulating?

b. Have you tried to mirror that in your own marriage?

For more information about Chris and Karla's ministry, please visit marriageinfocus.org.



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