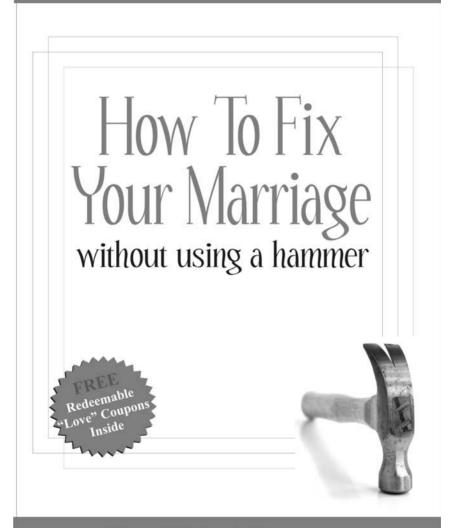
A Complete Guide To 50 Proven Ways To Improve Your Marriage



Dr. Mikel Brown



How to Fix Your Marriage

Without Using a Hammer

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All scripture references are from the King James Verison of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

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VIII

DEDICATION

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This book is dedicated to my lovely wife, who has been my inspiration and dream come true. To my children whom I love with all my heart...you are my motivation. I cannot forget the many people that have allowed themselves to become my laboratory to develop and test ideas for helping to better their marriage. Keep growing!

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SPECIAL THANKS

1

My heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation to the following spiritual sons and daughters, and friends whose financial seeds have enabled the consummation of this project. I Love You!

Nicole Almeida Charles & Talisha Bennett Brian & Cindy Harris Joshua & Shavon Boyd The Harris Family DeAndra & Melissa Hawkins Victor Jackson Savaslas & Tracey Lofton

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PREFACE

Marriage is definitely a labor of love and sometimes, more precisely, just plain hard work. However, the more work you put into your marriage the more joy you will receive out of it. So often couples point the finger of blame at their spouse as if he or she is solely responsible for the state of decay in the marriage. Not only is this unfair but it is also highly unlikely. Let's just keep it real, no one is all that! You both are a work in progress, flawed and imperfect. Can two flawed and imperfect people make a marriage work? Yes, absolutely, and without a doubt!

The release of this book is so timely. We live in a society that is so self-oriented. The "it's all about me" attitude is totally destructive to the very foundation of humanity which is marriage and family... What about US? The very concept of marriage implies it cannot possibly be an individual thing but it must be a partnership. Oh, now that is a refreshing thought! Many things are key to a successful partnership; communication, compromise, commitment, loyalty, reciprocity, clearly defined goals and plans, etc. Do not expect more from your spouse than you are willing to give. That is not a realistic or appropriate expectation. However, it is realistic for you and your spouse to agree on and honor the

.....

terms of the partnership. It requires that you be decisive and choose to do what is necessary to make your marriage a success. You must make your marriage your top priority.

Whether your marriage needs a tune up or a complete overhaul, this book will provide the information, as well as the inspiration, to achieve your happily ever after. Dr. Mikel Brown, who by the way is my pastor, my husband, and my very best friend, deals with the subject of fixing your marriage in such a practical, matter of fact, and easy to understand manner that despite the condition of your relationship, it can be repaired. Read with a heart of expectation, be willing to do your part, apply the principles provided, and you will discover your labor of love will become more love than labor.

Debra A. Brown

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CHAPTER ONE

What's In A Marriage

Falling in love is easy; staying in love is laborious. -- **Mikel Brown**

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Redeemable Love Coupons

Love should not be earned nor solicited, but rather freely given and received.

-- Mikel Brown

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Redeemable Love Coupons

his chapter is more like a prudent admonishment to those who review this book. Every reader is encouraged to practice the marriage principles in this book on a continual basis. Do not be so quick to give up in your efforts to make your marriage better when things are not going according to plan. But continue working to improve yourself so that you can offer to your spouse the best you that you can be. If you are not yet married, please do not enter into the marriage covenant unadvisedly. Love is a wonderful thing, but it is difficult to detect its authenticity.

The redeemable Love Coupons offered in this chapter are not to be redeemed on an earned or merit basis. Your spouse should not have to feel as though they must work to earn special treatment from you of any kind, but that you should be willing to share the best of you. These coupons should be redeemed on selected days and it should be discretionary. Free days for redeeming your Love Coupons on weekdays should also be taken in consideration so that your weekends are not always scheduled but impromptu. These Love Coupons are designed to increase fun and

J
excitement into your relationship; Ready, Get Set, Go!
Disclaimer: Redeem your Love Coupons at your own risk. Pregnancy has been known to occur unexpectedly.
 167

ot Down The Things That You Enjoyed Then Using Your Love Coupons	
	'
168	



This love coupon redeemable for

Pillow fight!

(...followed by a little pillow talk!)

This love coupon redeemable for



A \$150 purchase

(...no questions asked.)



This love coupon redeemable for

An Evening of Wild, Abandoned, Passionate



This love coupon redeemable for



(...with or WITHOUT our clothes)

Please Cut Out & Present To Your Spouse to Redeem 170

Cut Here	

This love coupon is redeemable for



Uninterrupted conversation

Cut Here

...you listen ONLY

This love coupon is redeemable for



Dinner Just the 2 of US!

at my favorite restaurant...

Cut Here

This love coupon is redeemable for





One BIG wet kiss



or two or three or ...



This love coupon is redeemable for Uninterrupted



Sporting Event Watching

...with the fellas and snacks!

Please Cut Out & Present To Your Spouse to Redeem Please Cut Out & Present To Your Spouse to Redeem Please Cut Out & Present To Your Spouse to Redeem Please Cut Out & Present To Your Spouse to Redeem

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	-	-	Ze			-		

This love coupon is redeemable for

Romantic Evening

(...ALONE without the kids!)

This love coupon is redeemable for



A Day of House Chores

(... yours and MINE!)

Cut Here

This love coupon is redeemable for



You cook my favorite meal

...in a lingerie or briefs & you'll be my dessert! Cut Here

This love coupon is redeemable for

Get Out of the Dog House



(...ONE Night Only!)

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Please Cut Out & Present To Redeem

Please Cut Out & Redeem

Spouse to Redeem



This love coupon is redeemable for

GIRLS Night Out

(...ONE Night Only!)



This love coupon is redeemable for



One Evening of NO TELEVISI

(...after the children are in bed)

This love coupon is redeemable for

FELLAS' Night Out



(...ONE Night Only!)

This love coupon is redeemable for

Full Control Over The Remote Control

Cut Here (...ONE Night Only!)

Please Cut Out & Present To Please Cut Out & Prese'n
Please Spouse to Redeem

Cut Here 176

"Quotes" for Marital Bliss

CHA	PTER	1	
alling in	love is	s easy.	

Falling in love is easy; standing in love is laborious

standing in love is laborious.
Nations, whose families are fragmented, have no continuity and their fabric is ripping at the seams
A marriage is not held together simply because it is an institution; t is held together because of its right content
Marriage is not a war; it is a love affair7
CHAPTER 2 Expecting success without preparation is like preparing without an agenda.
Companionship is valuable, but not critical
The secret pains of your potential spouse will eventually become your public war, if you don't take steps to address them24
nvestigate, but don't interrogate!25
Financial illiteracy helps to form an unhealthy attitude about money.27
Trust is the foundation for a long, healthy relationship
Premarital abstinence may not be the popular thing to do, but it will certainly prove to be the right thing
t is not until you are fully immersed in the commitment of marriage that you can appreciate its benefits
An infatuation is an illusion of a self-manufactured assumption33
CHAPTER 3 Children lack the maturity to fully weigh the consequences of their actions. Therefore, if you desire a spouse, find a responsible man or woman, not a boy or girl

At least 86% of males confess to watching animated cartoons well into their twenties
For the first time in our society, women are approaching marriage just as irresponsibly as men because their focus is on careers and not the home. And as a result, no one is left to tend the home.
For this reason, you must avoid marrying a boy or girl; instead choose a responsible man or woman45
CHAPTER 4 Humor: A man explained how he and his wife learned to resolve their differences. He said, "I don't try to run her life and I don't try to run mine."
When communication is the problem, wives do not need a handy man any more than the husband needs a mother51
A person should never be defined by someone's image of him or her
When you have a longing to repair a defect in your spouse, it is usually the mirror you're looking at55
When you truly see what is wrong with yourself, your heart is open to what is truly right
Your weakness becomes your greatest asset because this is where your spouse is at his or her greater good5
You are of better service to your spouse with your arms embracing rather than your fingers pointing5
It is not fatal to accept criticism, but it can prove to be lethal to accept judgment59
You can change, if you are willing to change
Learn to confess without duress and you'll find your marriage truly blessed
178

CHAPTER 5 Where rules exist, discipline is inevitable
The marriage system will stand firm by itself, but the couple will crack under the weight of their ignorance67
The marriage institution is completely blameless69
Whatever is in the root is in the fruit70
A person should never hesitate to remove oneself from an abusive relationship because one's life may very well depend upon it
Don't avoid the hard and embarrassing issues because they can save your relationship
CHAPTER 6 Controlling your emotions during the pain of infidelity is the key to avoiding the suffering of it. Pain is inevitable but suffering is optional.
The release of anger will result in the destruction of its root cause
If your spouse tries to project his or her weaknesses and bad choices onto you, refuse the package and return it to sender88
Trying to forget the past doesn't heal the pain nor does it change the past89
CHAPTER 7 Couples don't necessarily have financial problems; they have discipline problems. A good steward of money is a responsible steward despite the amount
CHAPTER 8 Good communication is a prerequisite
to experiencing a good marriage
179

A major problem is that couples have a tendency to read body language instead of listening to audible articulation107
Body language should not be the focus of communicating; understanding audible articulation should be the main aim of both individuals
Serious problems creep into the relationship when partners continue to misread the body language of their partners109
A person can say the same thing as his or her spouse but in a different way
CHAPTER 9 If your priorities are out of order, so will it be with how you spend your time.
Procrastination is the greatest thief of time
Focused, quality time with your family is far better than distracted, quantity time
Balance is the key to knowing where and how to spend valuable time with your spouse119
CHAPTER 10 Love is not a fantasy; it's a reality.
Perception, not appearance, is the key to attraction129
It's not what you say, but how you say it that counts130
Sexual excitement is based on thought not on feelings131
CHAPTER 11 The secret to experiencing an exciting, healthy and wholesome sexual relationship between a husband and wife is to keep it a secret.
If you secretly compare, you will openly compete141
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The lack of knowledge and information is usually what prevents most couples from enjoying the kind of intercourse that is mutually gratifying
In our culture, to be married and not experience romantic love constitutes true deprivation
CHAPTER 12 Everything we do in life requires discipline
Romantic love alone lacks the resources to contend with conflicts successfully
Infatuation is as dissimilar from love as fantasy is from reality157
The rudiments of how to love each other should be discovered while spending valuable time together
Wives demonstrate love for their husbands by respecting them160
Love your wife like you love yourself; give your life for her and thus have no life remaining for yourself

CHAPTER 13

Love should not be earned nor solicited, but rather freely given and received.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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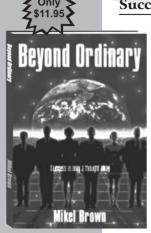
Dr. Mikel Brown is an author, businessman, and religious leader who resides in El Paso, Texas, with his wife and two children. He is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Ordained Minister with over 25 years of experience. He has helped people from rocky marriages to rocketing careers. Dr. Brown's "Just the 2 of Us Marriage Seminars" is the most requested of all his covered subjects and they are unforgettable. He is considered a real down-to-earth speaker who has the ability to make you laugh at yourself and yet serious enough to make you change.

Dr. Brown has helped many people achieve success in marriage, business or just overcoming bad habits. He is the President and CEO of CJC Enterprises and owner and CEO of Power Communications Network, through which he conducts seminars and special events. His much sought after style of communicating and humor has made him a favorite for business conclaves and church conventions.

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Beyond Ordinary

Success is Only a Thought Away



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is

"The Average Person's Textbook, The Rich Man's Manual"

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James A. Cox, Editor-In-Chief of the Midwest Book Review says, *Beyond Ordinary - Success Is Only A Thought Away* by Mikel Brown, is a solid, 'reader friendly', self-help, self-improvement guide to overcoming setbacks and negative thinking, changing one's life and realigning one's very thoughts toward success. *Beyond Ordinary* is a strongly recommended motivational do-it-yourself manual and a pageturning guide to personal improvement and workable approach in any aspect of domestic or professional life.

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