



The
Point
by Ron and Beth Wells
Centrepoint Ministries

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1968 BETH AND I WERE MARRIED by Dr. Bill Shamburger in the Chapel of First Baptist Church Tyler (a few blocks from where Centrepoint is now located). Meeting on a blind date my second year at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, with Beth studying nursing at Texas Woman's University, we both felt we had met our "forever soul mate" and grew deeply in love. We would face many life-challenges—financial valleys, communication trials and the parenting of three very independent children.

In a few days, we plan to travel back to the Ozarks to explore and enjoy the places we visited on our honeymoon over nearly half a century ago.

Chuck Swindoll shared of his June 1st Marriage Anniversary to Cynthia: "May God be praised for the genius of marriage and the thrill of celebrating it annually with the one that I love."

There are some important principles God gave us as guidelines that we use in our own marriage, as well as in mentoring couples at Centrepoint.

1. Marriage commitment is never 50/50 but always 100/100 percent.

Things We've Learned in 45 Years of Marriage

This counsel Dr. Shamburger gave us in our brief pre-marital counseling became foundational over the years as we loved and forgave each other beyond the point we often thought we should have to do. God reminded us of His expectations to do as Christ does for us on a daily basis.

2. Marriage is not just a horizontal contract between two humans; it is a vertical covenant between three.

The Lord Jesus is the third person in a Christian marriage relationship. Solomon states in Ecclesiastes 4:12: "Two strands are easily broken, but three cannot be broken." The Lord is the third strand holding our relationship together even when life gets tough.

From Song of Songs 8:7: "Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned. [for it is not enough]"

3. It is the Lord alone who sustains us. The moment we are pronounced "Man and Wife," the Holy Spirit gives birth to a brand new organism that has never existed before. Jesus promises to provide us all the resources. John 15:5 says: "I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me." Our relationship can only prosper as we are connected to Christ.

4. God gives us a relational model to follow. Our promise of "Until death do we part" is not possible without the two "Chapter 13s" in the Bible. The first (John 13) is Jesus' definition of love when He



takes a washbasin and towel and proceeds to wash His disciples' feet—establishing a Servant/Leadership model for His followers. Later, Paul (1 Corinthians 13) explains the "Nature of Love" with words like patience, kindness, and forgiveness. Though the world has a different view of love and marriage, this portrait has never changed, and is impossible to achieve without a vertical connection with God between a man and woman.

5. The Holy Spirit yokes us together. "Be willing to serve each other out of respect for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21) is perhaps the most practical truth that has carried us through our 45 years of marriage. Marriage is sustained by a couple equally-yoked with Christ who mutually

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Discipleship Ministries
CENTREPOINT



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submit themselves to Christ's Lordship—praying together, reading God's Word together and being obedient and submissive to the Lord together. This is the Gorilla Glue that holds marriage together.

*Someone asked an older couple recently: "How long have you two been married?"
to which the husband smiled and answered: "Not nearly long enough!"*

It is our prayer that you will celebrate the marriage God has given you with joy and with contentment.

And that is the Point!

Ron + Beth

Ron and Beth Wells

Centrepoinc Activities

- Dec–May** Interim Pastor at Westwood Baptist Church, Tyler, TX
- Jan 17** Cowboy Church Youth Ministers Gathering, Tyler, TX
- Feb 8–10** Speaker, Marriage Retreat, Sidney James Mountain Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN
- Mar 9** Speaker, Carmel Baptist Church for Men's Prayer Breakfast, Lindale, TX
- Apr 12–14** Speaker, Woodland Heights Baptist Church Marriage Conference, Jacksonville, TX

UPCOMING

- June 1** Ron & Beth's 45th Wedding Anniversary
- June 6–14** Pastors Conference, Adventure Experiences in Colorado
- June 11–21** Family/Marriage Lectures, University, East Asia
- July 10–21** Speaker, Salmon Frenzy, Anchorage, Alaska
- Aug 2–4** Speaker, Family Weekend at Fortified Hills, Dallas, GA
- Aug 18** Leadership Training, Arp Emmanuel Baptist Church, Arp, TX

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