

A NOTE TO COUPLES

Wives, understand and support your husbands by submitting
to them in ways that honor the Master.

Husbands, go all out in love for your wives.

Don't take advantage of them.

Colossians 3:18–19 (MSG)

It starts with acceptance.

During the first few years of my marriage I had to learn to cherish my wife rather than try to change her. God calls me to love her like nothing else, but I have to admit it was a steep learning curve for me. One of the things that dramatically helped me to understand and support her was discovering her unique S.H.A.P.E. You know what I found out? She was nothing like me! The fact was, she was the opposite of me. Her gifts were different than mine. Her heart beat for topics that I had little interest in. Her abilities and mine seldom matched. A few of her personality styles were the opposite of mine. And our experiences were totally different. Yet no matter how different we were, God still called me to accept her with my actions and affirm her with my words.

Today, we both are committed to accepting and appreciating each other so we help each other fulfill our unique purpose in life. Specifically, we focus on three things:

Cherishing Each Other's S.H.A.P.E.

The first thing we had to learn about each other was our uniqueness. We took tests, attended classes, talked to other couples, and spent a lot of time just learning about things we had in common and things we didn't. These investments have helped us understand each other better than we ever have before.

Championing Each Other's Kingdom Purpose

Once we learned how God made each of us unique, we started to discover our individual purposes for life. My wife feels that one of her major contributions is being a world-class mother, which she is. She uses her S.H.A.P.E. to cultivate our kids in so many great ways. She also has a few other kingdom passions that she expresses from time to time. I try to champion all she dreams of doing for God's glory. Conversely, my wife constantly champions my purpose in life, which is to empower every believer in the world with proven tools so they can find and fulfill their unique purpose in life by embracing and expressing their God-given S.H.A.P.E.

Cheering for Each Other Constantly

Besides cheering for our kids, we love cheering for each other. We want to be each other's biggest fans with our words, with our actions, and most importantly with our prayers. We pray that God would use both of us individually and collectively to make a kingdom difference for his glory.

If you are married, I strongly encourage you to not only discover your S.H.A.P.E. and purpose for life, but give a copy of this book to your spouse to do the same. Then the two of you can cherish, champion, and cheer for each other and make a significant kingdom difference together!