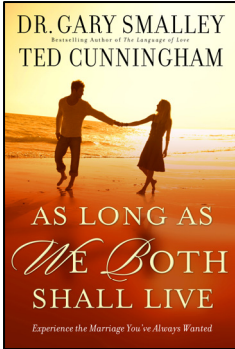


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Contact:** Brynn Thomas / Pure Publicity
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The Great Expectations of Marriage **Deepen Your Marriage with Honesty, Empathy and Respect**



(Branson, MO): Every couple has expectations with regard to themselves or the other person, planted in their minds and hearts from romantic films, song lyrics, TV programs, family histories or the lives of other couples. Expectations can be healthy when mutual needs are met, but when they're not met, it can be devastating on a marriage, leaving a couple questioning their compatibility and decision to marry.

In a time when marital discourse, divorce and affairs are rampant, relationship counselors and authors **Dr. Gary Smalley** and **Ted Cunningham** believe there is lasting hope for marriages. In their latest release, ***As Long As We Both Shall Live: Experience the Marriage You've Always Wanted***, they address marital expectations, commitment and the oath of the marriage vows.

“Compatibility happens *after* marriage... too many people marry before acquiring and understanding the skills to meet their mate’s emotional, mental and physical needs,” says Cunningham. Smalley and Cunningham believe relational conflicts are healthy for a marriage if handled properly. “You have the freedom and responsibility to change yourself, but not the other person,” says Dr. Smalley. “By attempting to change your mate, you create an unsafe environment for your marriage.”

The authors believe that couples struggling with relational disappointment and undisclosed expectations must address them one at a time rather than lumping them together, or it will become too overwhelming for them. *As Long As We Both Shall Live* will guide couples on how to resolve unrealistic expectations and unexpressed assumptions, in addition to the following:

- Honor the four keys of commitment in the “till death do us part” vow.
- Understand expectation influences (personality differences, previous romantic relationships, parental marriage and generational views on marriage and relationships).
- Participate in unexpected acts of love (redeem airline miles for a surprise trip, help with the chores, buy a surprise gift, fill your spouse's gas tank or go on an unplanned date).
- Take “The Great Expectations” quiz: 78 common expectations for marriage.

Smalley and Cunningham also encourage men to take the initiative to address marital issues before the marriage is damaged. “Many husbands make the mistake of waiting for their wives to change first. Women know when their husbands are doing the right things for the right reasons or when he is doing them to get his own way,” says Cunningham.

Cunningham cautions couples not to assume that a second marriage may be easier. “Second marriages are by nature more complicated and prone for divorce than first marriages,” says Cunningham. Additional resources from the authors include a *As Long As We Both Shall Live* Bible study guide and companion DVD with a new interactive web site at **www.tripfire.com**.

As Long As We Both Shall Live: Hardcover: 256 pages Publisher: Regal (January 15, 2010)
ISBN-10: 0830746803. ISBN-13: 978-0830746804
DVD edition. ISBN-10: 0830752374. ISBN-13: 978-0830752379
Study guide: Paperback: 128 pages ISBN-10: 0830746811. ISBN-13: 978-0830746811
Audio CD: Publisher: Christian Audio Seed (December 2009) ISBN-10: 1596448059.
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Gary Smalley is president and founder of the Smalley Relationship Center, which presents conferences nationwide and provides resources for families and family churches. Combined, his books have sold over six million copies. Smalley has been a guest on numerous national TV shows, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Larry King Live* and *The Today Show*.

Ted Cunningham is the founding pastor of Woodland Hills Community Church in Branson, Missouri. Cunningham is a speaker with the Smalley Relationship Center all around the country. He's a graduate of Liberty University and Dallas Theological Seminary and has been married to his wife Amy for thirteen years and they have two children.



Ted Cunningham

Interview Topics from *As Long As We Both Shall Live*:

Understanding the four personality types and how their differences can bring expectations in line.

1. The Precise Personality
2. The Pleaser Personality
3. The Party Personality
4. The Powerful Personality

Four Key Steps to Realign Your Expectations:

1. Bring Your Expectations to the Surface
2. Work on What You Can Change
3. Release What You Can't Change
4. Align Your Expectations with Reality

Resolving Personality Expectations:

1. Accept the Personality Difference
2. Avoid Judging or Criticizing Personality Differences
3. Allow for Misunderstandings and Trial and Error
4. Look for Balance

Four Styles of Parenting

1. Dominant Parent
2. Neglectful Parent
3. Permissive Parent
4. The Loving and Firm Parent

Suggested Interview Questions for Ted Cunningham and Dr. Gary Smalley, authors of *As Long As We Both Shall Live*

1. *As Long As We Both Shall Live* examines expectations spouses bring into a marriage. What is the impact of unmet expectations on the relationship?
2. What are some examples of realistic and unrealistic expectations that spouses place on each other in a marriage?
3. Why do so many couples forget that God wants a healthy marriage as noted in Ecclesiastes 9:9, where it says, "Enjoy life and marriage"?
4. You are an advocate of marriage for younger people. What is the benefit of marrying at a younger age?
5. How does a parents' marriage influence their children's view on marriage?
6. Explain the four styles of parenting and, their impact on children?
7. What are some "Unexpected, unaffordable, immediate acts of love"?
8. You believe a person's birth generation is also an influence on their expectations in a marriage. What are the generational differences and their influence?
9. What are the different personalities in a marriage, and what are their strengths and relational needs?
10. How can couples re-align their unhealthy expectations to healthy expectations?
11. Submission is a misunderstood role in marriage. How is it intended to serve both the husband and wife? What are some ways to honor your spouse?
12. Do you believe more couples are not committed to their marriage vows? What are some suggestions for married couples who want to adhere to their vows?