

# Making Ministry Marriage Work

Dr. Jeff Iorg  
President, Gateway Seminary



# Ministry marriages are unique – but not as unique as you think!

---

- All things you teach and preach for other couples to do – you should do them as well.
- You are not the only one who has to handle vocational challenges to marriage.





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

**Be yourself and be the couple God made you to be.**

- Pressures to conform to the expectations of others can be:
  - Based on the previous couple in their setting.
  - Based on their followers “ideal” ministry couple image.





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

**Be yourself and be the couple God made you to be.**

- Healthy ministry couples live who they are, not who they “ought” to be
  - Shared model
  - Compatible model
  - Supportive model
- Maximize your strengths as a couple





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

## **Set boundaries separating your ministry and personal life.**

- Well meaning church people will take from you all you will give.
- You are responsible to set the boundaries in your ministry.
  - If you don't set the boundaries, no one will.
- Failure to set boundaries sends a powerful message to your family.





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

## **Set boundaries separating your ministry and personal life.**

- Areas where boundaries are required:
  - Days you will work; days you will be off.
  - Office time you are available; study time you are not.
  - Tasks you will do: tasks you will delegate (or leave undone).





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

## **Set boundaries separating your ministry and personal life.**

- If you expect boundaries to be respected:
  - Keep the schedule you post.
  - Work when you are supposed to be working.
  - Produce results which give evidence of time well-used.





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

## **Set boundaries separating your ministry and personal life.**

- Hints to keeping the boundaries in place:
  - Disconnect from technology when you are off from work.
  - Separate your work space from personal space.
  - Communicate with your family and your church about your boundaries, so that both have realistic expectations.





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

## **Manage expectations you have of marriage in the ministry.**

- Unrealistic expectation will make you “heart sick.”
- Realistic expectations you have to accept:
  - Money
  - Time Demands
  - Emergency response
  - Loneliness





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

**Nurture your marriage by sharing life around something other than ministry.**

- The foundation for intimacy is commitment.
- Vulnerability can be discovered only in the safety of commitment.





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

**Nurture your marriage by sharing life around something other than ministry.**

- Three ingredients for intimacy in marriage
  - Time alone together – without children
  - Conversation
    - What are your dreams?
    - What are you afraid of?
    - What communicates love to you?
    - What are your needs?





# Issues that Require Special Focus

---

**Nurture your marriage by sharing life around something other than ministry.**

- Sexuality
  - Dismiss self-serving fantasies and live in reality.
  - Solve medical, psychological, and spiritual problems.
  - Focus on the needs of the other person, not your needs. Sacrifice to meet those needs (1 Cor. 7:3-5).







# GATEWAY SEMINARY

*Biblical • Missional • Global*



[www.gs.edu](http://www.gs.edu)



[@Jeff\\_lorg](https://twitter.com/Jeff_lorg)