

# *The Three Stages Of Marriage*



*How To Make It To Stage Three*

A study a few years back found the average length of a marriage was only 7.2 years. What is going on, why are marriages falling apart and dying prematurely? We don't know or understand how marriage works.

## **“How To Build Strong & Healthy Relationships” “The Three Stages Of Marriage And How To Get To Stage Three”**

*“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;  
Through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.”  
Proverbs 24:3-4 (NIV)*

### **The Three Stages Of Marriage**

**Stage 1: The** \_\_\_\_\_  
Song of Solomon 2:2-10, 16, 4:2-11

**This Stage is about** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Words That Characterize This Stage**

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**Stage 2: The** \_\_\_\_\_  
Proverbs 19:13; 25:24

**This Stage is about** \_\_\_\_\_

*“A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day; restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand.” Proverbs 27:15-16 (NIV)*

*“Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife...Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.” Proverbs 21:9,19 (NIV)*

#### **Words That Characterize This Stage**

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**Stage 3: The \_\_\_\_\_**

Proverbs 19:13; 25:24

**This Stage is about \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)*

**This Stage Is Characterized By T.R.U.S.T....**

**T** \_\_\_\_\_  
**R** \_\_\_\_\_  
**U** \_\_\_\_\_  
**S** \_\_\_\_\_  
**T** \_\_\_\_\_

**To Get Out Of Stage Two And Into Stage Three...**

**We Must \_\_\_\_\_ Up**

*“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” James 5:16 (NIV)*

**We Must \_\_\_\_\_ Up**

*“With regard to your former way of life, put off your old self ... be made new in the attitude of your minds ... put on the new self.” Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)*

**We Must \_\_\_\_\_ Up**

*“Grow up in Christ.” Hebrews 6:1 (Message)*

**Accept** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adjust** \_\_\_\_\_

**Avoid** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adapt** \_\_\_\_\_

# Personal Study

August 6, 2006

## Getting Started

Depending on how long you have been married, think back to the early days of your marriage relationship. What "Happy Honeymoon" attitudes, actions and other things characterized your first days, weeks and months?

Take time to sit down together and focus in on, discuss and evaluate Stage Two characteristics in your marriage right now. How strong are these unhealthy behaviors in your marriage?

### **Dullness ...**

**Boredom, complacency, lifeless, predictable, ho-hum**

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### **Disagreements ...**

**Continually clashing, fighting & arguing with each other**

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### **Defensiveness ...**

**Blaming, accusing & excusing yourself from responsibility**

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### **Disapproval ...**

**Loss of respect - focused on spouse improvement**

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### **Disappointment ...**

**Discouragement, feeling trapped, hopelessness, depressed**

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

What attitudes & actions need to stop happening in each of these five areas for you as a couple to move on to stage three?

## Going Deeper

After reading 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 together, take time to sit down to discuss and evaluate the level of T.R.U.S.T. (Stage Three Characteristics) you have in your marriage right now.

### Tenderness & Time

We are GENTLE not JUDGMENTAL with each other.

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### Respect & Responsibility

We have CONSIDERATION not CONDEMNATION for each other.

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### Understanding

We ACCEPT not ANTAGONIZE each other.

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### Security

We have HOPE not HESITATION with each other.

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

### Truthful & Trusting

We are OPEN not OBNOXIOUS with each other.

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1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

What attitudes, behavior, actions are preventing you from experiencing stage three in your marriage? Make an action & prayer plan to grow each of these areas in your marriage.