

Love, Courtship, and Marriage

By: Todd and Jenny Lewis

Speaker 1: Good afternoon. If everybody wants to kind of find a seat. And what's left you guys can crash on the aisle, too, if you like. Afternoon. A couple that I just found out was only married two years, so they're newlyweds. That's really exciting. Love is definitely in the air with Todd and Jenny Lewis. And Todd is the forensics team coach, and he's in. I hear he's great. Yeah. Is he. Is he great? Okay. Yeah.

Speaker 1: I think the national rewards will prove that. But and his wife, Jenny, is in the accounting department here, and she is a joy to work with. Very helpful. She is in charge of the cash flow. If anyone wants to know, she's got the money. And we'd like to welcome Todd and Jenny Lewis. They're speaking and sharing kind of how they met. And their experience is a married couple. They're going to open it up to questions, so take some notes and write some questions down. They're going to open that up for you. And don't be shy. They're a great couple. Welcome Todd and Jenny Lewis.

Todd Lewis: I find it very ironic that I have been asked to be a part of this particular message, given the two years of authority that I now have for love, courtship and marriage, actually, the courtship part of it. I probably have lots of experience. Those of you that have had me for class and know about all the stories and things. There's lots of experience on that side. But Jenny and I are still learning well. She's had a lot more experience in the marriage part than I have, and I'll let her tell her story, and I'm going to tell a little bit of mine.

Todd: And then we'll probably mention some topic areas that maybe that you'd like to ask us some questions about. The forensics team is not allowed to ask those questions, or else we'll give specialized answers for those questions. But again, we'll try and do our best to help you with the topic, because really, we think some practical areas and where you are wanting some questions and answers. Not that we have the definitive ones, but that certainly we could have a discussion today. I think back to when I was a student at Biola and along about the time that I was about 21, it started becoming very important for me to think about being married.

Todd: And I started a ritual unbeknown to me that would keep going for another 20 years. Every New Year's Eve, I would pray that the Lord would send someone for me to marry that next year. Okay. Now the Lord gives an interesting response. He sometimes says yes to your prayers. He sometimes says no, and, you know, believe it or not, yes or no, answers to prayer are really very easy to handle. You may not like the no answer, and sometimes when he says no, you find out later.

Todd: That was just a great response. Because the video said, yes, you might be in more trouble. But the most difficult answer is weight, because Wait doesn't necessarily have a direction with it. I am so grateful that God, in his infinite wisdom didn't reveal to me through some kind of revelation. When I was 21, he said, you know, I love you so much. You're going to wait 21 years to get married because I probably would have entered it right there. I would have just like this. And over the years, students have come into my office not only to talk about communication courses and practice speeches for the forensics team, but sometimes they come in and they talk about struggles that they've been having with dating relationships and so on.

Todd: And I remember one student that came and he goes, you know, he said, I was going to talk to you about this, but I don't want to talk to you. He says, look how old you are. You know, you're not going to get married. I go, Well, thank you very much. I really appreciate that. Several years ago, when we had a reunion here of my graduating class, they asked me to MC that, and I was amazed. I'm glad Jenny wasn't there because somebody raised their hand and said, I want to reminisce about the time that you took me out in the date.

Todd: And then there's about ten other hands that went up. So I must have dated the entire class for probably an average of about three weeks. Okay, my track record wasn't real good. I call that my idiot period. And I had a lot to learn. And maybe that's why the Lord took 20 years to sort of help with the rough edges. But believe it or not, Jenny and I met on a blind date set up by a friend of ours. I was on my way to a forensics tournament in Sacramento, and a mutual friend of ours decided that it would be nice to match us up.

Todd: And the first time we were supposed to go out on this date to dinner was a November tournament, and I got deafly ill with the flu and never made the trip. (Jenny: He was chicken). The people on the forensics team came back and said, you are such a dummy. They don't have any respect for me. And they just said, you know, you really blew it. This is a really nice lady. So in January, we went back up there for a tournament. We went to a restaurant. Very nice restaurant.

Todd: But you can't believe how difficult it was to go out on a date when you're at a speech tournament with 25 other chaperones checking their watches to make sure you either don't get home too early or too late because they had comments for both of those. But from that inauspicious beginning, we kind of hit it off then we started writing letters, and we were both firm believers in letter writing because it sort of developed a relationship over the miles, and we discovered, as we got more interested in each other, I started making more frequent trips to Sacramento and and Jenny and her two sons started coming down here on occasion, and sometimes the sons didn't come at all and that was nice, you know, it's it took me, what, two and a half years, three?

Jenny: To what, get married or engaged?

Todd: Well, to feel like it was time and it was okay and safe to get engaged.

Jenny: Oh, that was two and a half years.

Todd: Okay. And I'll let Jenny tell her side of the story at this point.

Jenny: It took another year to get married. Okay.

Jenny: Well, here I was up in Sacramento. I'd been a widow a couple of years. I'd been married 17 years when my husband died of cancer, and I had a seven year old and a 14 year old. And through that experience, I had come to realize that the God I had known upside down and

backwards was certainly not the God I was beginning to know who was much more than I ever anticipated. And so I realized that God certainly was in control of the whole thing and obviously had a reason for taking the Steve home to be with him.

Jenny: And so the week of the funeral, I locked myself in the bathroom, which was the only place you could go in the house for privacy and said, God, I don't understand this. First, I have a seven year old and a 14 year old, both of which are at ages where it's important to have a father and you've taken their father. And second of all, I am great wife material. I have always had a male companionship. And here you're having me go through a period where there is nobody, and I don't handle this real well.

Jenny: But obviously you can help us through this because you've put us here. I don't know why you have. And the only two reasons I can come up with are one that you can use me more efficiently as a single person or two there is somebody else out there that you are getting ready for me and that you need to mold me and change me to make me ready for him, in which case, I'm going to let you bring them to me because you know who it is, and that's why you've done all this.

Jenny: And so I'm not going to sweat it. To be on the safe side it would not be fair for me to go out looking for someone if you have done all this to put me in a position of being single for you. So I'm going to go ahead with my life as if you need me more as a single. And if there is somebody that you're getting ready out there, then you put him in front of me where I'm going to fall on him. So I know that's the one.

Jenny: And that's why it's going to be. So I stayed in our Church were the only single man over the age of 32 was 97 years old, and he was not interesting. I did not join any special clubs. I did my thing day in and day out. And almost two years after Steve died, this mutual friend mentioned about Todd. Now I've gone out once or twice before that and had no problem with that. And all of a sudden she's describing who this guy is and what he does and my goodness, his interest were my interests.

Jenny: And he sounded extremely interesting. And I thought, you know, this could be a really nice dinner. Of course. You know, this is really ridiculous because what can develop between here in Los Angeles and Sacramento. But then I got really nervous now. I haven't gotten nervous with the other times I've gone out, but I thought, oh, I have told God I'm not looking. What do I do? And I thought, okay, this is how I'm going to do this. She really wants us to go out. So I will go out for this one evening, and I will totally be myself.

Jenny: That way if he actually likes me, then obviously God has put him there. And if he doesn't, if it doesn't fly, then let's get the dumping done now, instead of playing the game and six months down the road, he gets to know who I really am and then dumps me. So let's just do it now. So went out that evening and it clicked. And we wrote and all of a sudden the Lord started having my sales meetings center in Los Angeles, where they've been in St. Louis for years before he suddenly had national get togethers in San Francisco instead of Claire Cross on the East Coast. Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm looked awfully inviting for vacations these days.

Jenny: And so we maneuver some time where we could actually go out for dinner once in a while and talk in person because there are only certain things you can learn in person. And the rest we did through letters. And here we are today.

Todd: I heard that, yes, some of you might want to ask the question, well, anticipate some of these, and then we'll maybe give some time for question. And if there aren't any, we have lots of things we could tell you, but some things we're not going to tell you about it all. But one of the questions is, how do you know when it's time to get married? And my side of the story continues by the fact that really when I first met Jenny, I had really come to the conclusion that at the age of 42, the likelihood of getting married wasn't really going to happen.

Todd: In fact, I was convinced that I probably would be the if that ever happened, I would probably be the oldest Bachelor that ever lived that got married. Until I realized that I don't think Abraham got married till he was in his 80 sometime. So I figured I had another lifetime. So it really wasn't quite that bad. But I really had come to the point where it was okay to be single. And, you know, with my little New Year's resolution things I really had wrestled with that.

Todd: And over the years, I have to tell you that the God is very gracious to take you through very difficult times when you just feel like it's awful being single. And then other times when you go, you know, and I look back on some of those things. Now, the Lord was very gracious to allow me to do some things when I was single. That wouldn't have been impossible when I was married. But being single made it a whole lot easier. And some of that involves getting an

education and graduate school and and some experiences and things that I hope and I feel make me a better husband.

Todd: But at the time, I needed to go through some of those things single. It's only now I'm starting to get a little bit of perspective that helps me realize that even during those time periods when I didn't like being single, it was okay because I was learning some very important things, some things I was blind to at the time. So I need to let you know that there are periods of time when you just go, it's awful being single. And in fact, I had people giving me lots of advice, like, well, you have the gift of being single.

Todd: And I know, but I don't feel like I have the gift and I don't want it. Can I give it back, you know, that kind of thing? And even while many people wanted to convince me that it was okay to have the gift of being single and celibate. And I didn't think I had the gift, but, you know, nothing was happening and everything that did happen seemed to be disastrous. And when you go through a number of disastrous relationships in which you get hurt, you think twice about getting involved again.

Todd: And so did I. And I would go through periods of time where I would go. I can't put myself through this again. And then I'd just be so lonely and subset. I say, I'll try so. But when I met Jenny, it was like it was okay just to go out because I really wasn't planning or expecting anything to happen. It was interesting and neat, because neither was she. And yet when it started to happen, then I had to go back and say, oh, Lord, I had this all figured out.

Todd: I was going to be single, and it was okay. And now you've introduced me to Jenny, and I don't know what to do. Well, what I discovered I needed to do is just let it happen. And I had lots of years of experience of moving very slowly. But I think maybe I was still a little bit scared to move right away, hence long period of dating. And when did you know you wanted to get married?

Jenny: I knew on the first night. I came home from, he's a little slower than I was, came home from the first date and said, I know nothing about this man, but I know enough to know that someday I'm going to marry this man. I didn't let him know that, though.

Todd: Meanwhile, a year and a half later, I'm going, Is this safe? Is this okay? And let me tell you that one of the best ways that, you know, that it's okay and that it's safe is to get the opinions of people who are very close to you. And I had a whole lot of people. I had an extended family not even being married, but an extended family of forensics team, people who had met Jenny. And they kept giving me nothing but positive feedback. They said, this is a wonderful woman.

Todd: It goes, if you don't make a move, you're really dumb, you know, kind of thing, you know. And and so everything that all the information I kept getting, even from people that knew us both was positive. And that really helped me, because I probably needed a lot of encouragement to make sure at that stage in my life you know that this is going to be okay. Now, even given all that and even when I decided that it was the right time to get married, I have to tell you, as the moment approaches, there's just incredible fear.

Todd: I decided to take Jenny back to the Rusty Deck Restaurant, which is the restaurant Sacramento, where we went for our first date, and I had gone down to I've gone down to a Jewelers and had a friend of mine who was much better picking out jewelry than I was go with me. And when I decided to buy the ring, I started hyperventilating. I thought I was going to pass out. So I walked out into LA and then went back in, finally decided to pay for it. And I go, Well, okay. Now I'd ask her for a ring size in June, but I didn't get up there to ask her until.

Jenny: Oh, it was October, and I was gonna sit him down in December and say, Buddy, you know what's going on? If he hadn't made him move by then, I kept waiting. And in the meantime, he bought some furniture, ticked me off. That was good ring money he was using.

Todd: Well, in October, it was a non tournament weekend. We didn't have a tournament that weekend. I decided I was going to drive to Sacramento. I'd only made this trip on hundreds of times just with speech turned on, going up to see Jenny and the boys. And so, in other words, I made the trip a lot. She lived out now El Grove, which is a suburb of Sacramento. And those of you that know the area I mean, it's growing, but it's fairly rural as well. Well, I was so nervous on the way out there that I got lost.

Todd: And I also felt like driving over the side of the road. And I almost was going to lose lunch. But I decided, okay, I'm going. So anyway, we're going to dinner. I had it all planned out that I was going to ask her to marry me at dessert. Well, I didn't make it through the salad without saying, I have to do this or I'm going to have a real bad mistake here. It started out. And you can

tell what your impression was when I picked you up because my mind was going, oh, I'm seeing trillion different directions.

Jenny: Well, I thought, well, maybe he's come around. Yeah, this could be it. And he walked in the door and he got how it is so nice to talk to somebody who's not in the midst of everything I have had a week! And we get in the car and all the way to the restaurant he's telling me these horrendous things that have gone on the weekend. I'm thinking, you know, this honestly could be the reason why he came up here. This is really sad. We got to the restaurant and the man was no fun.

Jenny: I mean, our table was not ready on the dot when we walked in. He was just like this. I mean, he kept saying, they said our table was going to be ready and he was just and I'm saying, oh, this is going to be a fun evening. And so finally we settled down to salad and then we couldn't eat. And so then it was fun.

Todd: I gave her the ring and we really didn't weren't hungry after that. And we kind of enjoyed. I enjoyed the moment being over. I was like, oh, all right. And you said yes. Oh, wow. You know.

Jenny: I did make him wait a little. He gave me the ring and I took it. I looked at it and then I said, yes.

Todd: Well, from that moment on, we got married July 6, 1991. So we're just a little bit after our second anniversary, and I think it's maybe at this point, you know, a little bit of our story. If we can't hear you or you're out there and your question needs to be repeated, I'll try and reword it or say it. And any of the topics that are here today. This is just the preliminary thing, and we'd like to ask you if you have any questions for us. Alright. Anybody have a question. We have other things to talk about. But we thought we'd give you an opportunity if you have something.

Todd: Repeat the question.

Jenny: He wanted to know if I talked to my sons about it. And how did that go? And they met Todd, and they like Todd right from the start. And I must tell you that my oldest when we started dating, he was 16, and he was as bad as your father. I come in from a date and he checked me out. Boy, why was I smiling? But they liked Todd, and they went for the idea because we were going to have to move my youngest down. The oldest was already heading off to College up north. He was all for it.

Todd: It was interesting for me, and actually, I'm starting to realize that becoming not only an instant husband but an instant father. And now the sons are 21 and soon to be 15. I get thrust into an immediate situation of parenting, which you're never really prepared for. But I suppose there are some advantages to skipping diapers, although when you have a teenager, sometimes you wonder. But one thing that's been good is the fact that we got to know Jenny. And then I've been getting to know my son's, too.

Todd: So that's been really good and exciting. And I've enjoyed that. But I have to say that in talking to other parents who meld and merged families, I really think that in one sense, it's a little easier because if you're melding families, whether they be widowed or divorced and you've got kids from both sides of the family together, come together. Sometimes it's very difficult. In my case, the family is there, but I'm not bringing an additional family into it with the exception of in laws and like that.

Todd: And I should tell you that the transition to having just our family be that way without me bringing other people in. It has been a lot easier than other people that I've talked to who have melded families. Not that that isn't possible, but sometimes it's a little more difficult. One thing, though, that has been very interesting for me is to realize that my own immediate family is rather small. I always tell everybody that when I married Jenny, I went from this real small family to mega family. Okay? Because I have one sister and she's married. She has two sons, and then I have one cousin. Jenny has you want to tell them about your family?

Jenny: Two sisters, a brother. They're all married and have two kids. Grandma's still alive. My mom and dad are still alive, and that's just immediate. We don't go into cousins and nephews, aunts, uncles.

Todd: Well, we got together for family pictures. Okay. My family has their picture on four by six. Okay. We have that in our house. Jenny's family is on an eleven by nine. Okay. And in order to catch everybody there. So when we were first engaged and probably after we first got married, you know, there's people that come by the communication office saying, hey, brother in law, you

know, and it's somebody I'm now related to, and I can't remember their name, you know? And it was really embarrassing. But now I'm doing a little better.

Todd: I just have all of a sudden this instant family it also proves interesting for our sons, too, because they have three sets of grandparents because clearly, Steve's folks, I wanted to make it clear that that they weren't out of the family just because I came along. In fact, I thought it was very important to tell everybody on Steve side of the family that just because I'm marrying Jenny doesn't make you any less a part of the family. And so I wrote letters to all of them saying, please do not feel like you're excluded because you're not.

Todd: And so the boys have Jenny's folks and Steve folks and my folks, you got three sets of grandparents around the holidays. I probably think they don't mind that at all. But I thought it very important, and I'm really glad that I took the time to try to get in contact with Steve side of the family to assure them. And, you know, it's been really great because we really developed a good relationship with them, too. I don't think they feel threatened at all by me. I don't sense that. And they are still very much included. Another question.

Student: Did you guys get premarital counseling?

Jenny: Yes we did! Went to one session, and he said, you're doing fine. You don't need to come back.

Todd: My dad recommended a person that used to work for. For those of you that don't know, my father taught at Biola for 30 years at Rosemead, and he felt he was a little too close to the situation to give us marital counseling. And so he decided he would recommend a person that had connections to Biola, but also was a partner with him for years, and that he trusted. And Ernie Pearson gave us very, very good advice, especially since we only had to go once. We appreciated that. And it was good.

Jenny: We went through the whole thing. We filled out the test. I don't know if any of you have done this, but you fill out the computerized test to see how compatible you are and where the hard spots are going to be, and a few things like that. So you get to know each other a little bit better, and it helps him to know what questions to ask us to get us to talking about. And he asked some real personal questions. And it's kind of embarrassing to be honest sometimes, but we did. And it was okay. And it was a good thing. I'm glad we did it.

Todd: We found out we had lots of things in common, but it's important that you marry someone who's not in a mirror image of you. I know that I took out several women when I was dating that I liked, but they seem just like me. And I thought that there wasn't really anything different. I mean, that seemed like marrying or going out with a mirror. And actually, that was very scary. As a matter of fact, I got to think I go, oh, but Jenny and I have very similar interests, but we also have some different things, too.

Todd: On the side, she likes to sell Mary Kay Cosmetics, I'm not into that. When she has her little parties and things, Rick and I split, we leave. On the other hand, she doesn't play golf, but

she lets me go play golf. And I do appreciate that and come back and I tell her my stories. But I found out that the similar interests have created oh, just some great times because there are certain things that you have to have in common. And you know, in the case of our situation, I'm so glad that Jenny like Star Trek because that would really be a problem.

Todd: So Monday night after my Monday night class and I've taped Star Trek Next Generation, we come from ten to eleven. We sit down and watch it together. So it's a family thing. So there's there's those things too. Any other questions?

Student: Oh, have you ever had an argument? And if you did, what was it about and how did you resolve it?

Todd: About two weeks or a week or two weeks or two weeks after we got married, I was out pulling weeds in the front yard. Is that a week?

Jenny: No, that was a couple of months because we were home from the honeymoon anyway.

Todd: Okay. Sorry, it's sort of blurred, but I'm out pulling weeds. And I had made a comment to Jenny, you tell your side of the story and I'll tell mine, this is good.

Jenny: We were in the process of finding another house and moving into a larger house, and it was understood that eventually I was going to have to go back to work. And that was understood. But we had discussed the fact that I needed to wait until after we had moved because there was

going to be a lot of painting and a lot of work around the new house that we had to do. And I needed to be there to devote my time to that. And then as soon as that was done, I needed to go out and find a job.

Jenny: And so we had not started to move yet. It wasn't to that point. And he walked in and said, Have you been checking the Want ads lately? And I said, no, but I could. And he said, Fine and left and I got ticked and I thought, what is he doing? First, he says, you shouldn't work until after we move and now he's bugging me to be checking them on ads and getting this job. And I marched at to the porch and I said, what did I say?

Todd: Well, I'm not pulling weeds and and I could sense vibrations that were not good. Okay, let's put it that way. They were very negative. Alright, I said, Are you upset at something. And I think you said you were upset at me. And as you explained that, I go, oh, I said, you know something? I said, I'm reading this new book for the Prag com class on Monday night, and it's called, You Just Don't Understand. It's the difference between men and women and how to communicate. And I said, you know, I said that's chapter two. I said, I just got there reading this I said, you thought I said this.

Jenny: And I said, yes, that's exactly it.

Todd: And I said, no, I said, I meant this. Oh, well, okay.

Jenny: So I went in and I put away the Want Ads and went back to my crossword puzzle. I didn't yell at him. I just was so frustrated. I went out and finally said I gotta confront him on this matter.

Todd: Well, we discovered very early on that sometimes men and women communicate very differently. And I really wasn't intending to make this an argument thing, but clearly what I intended and what was heard was two different things. And so we were able to resolve that. But this is not an advertisement, but I recognize that. I recommend that book. It's just you find out and the guys read that book go, yeah, yeah, yeah. How come you women don't understand that? That's what we and do. Then the women go, they don't understand that this is how we feel kind of a thing. And it's good. Yeah.

Jenny: I still have to finish the book.

Todd: Well, my explanation was the fact that I said, oh, I was just interested to know if you were eventually going to do that. Not that you had to do it right away.

Jenny: He was just trying to show an interest in my future work.

Todd: That you would eventually want to do that. I didn't know. I certainly didn't mean to say do it now.

Jenny: That's what I thought he was saying. Okay, we are not yellers, and we are finding that I can see a look on his face, and he will make a little comment, maybe about the shoe that was left on the floor, and I pick up right away and make sure the shoes are picked up. You know, we don't. We don't have to wait until it gets to the point where we have to really get upset about something.

Todd: I know I have very weird things about being single, and I think I was a very unusual single because I'm a very neat person. And when you get into a family, you have to make compromises. You have to go with the flow. And as I'm just begin to realize that there's some things that I've been able to do that are probably improvements, at least with the boys. But they're not exactly everything I wanted to do. But that's okay. I'm learning that's give and take to. But there are certain things that in terms of clothes being left here or that or whatever.

Todd: And I'm probably one of the only men around who can't stand to have toilet seats left up. I'm telling you. And maybe it's because of growing up in a family with a sister who used to bug me and a mother who did that. I got used to putting it now. Well, now I've sort of reverted the other way, so that whenever I see a toilet seat up like a pain like this. So maybe I'm a liberated male from the 90s. I don't know. However, that's very difficult in our family.

Jenny: There was a question over here.

Student: Ya, what was the name of that book?

Lewis: Love, Courtship, and Marriage

Todd: You just don't understand. By Deborah Tannin T-A-N-N-E-N have it in the bookstore.

Jenny: Any other questions?

Todd: Back there?

Jenny: Okay. Let me see if we're hearing you the times when we're not mad at each other, but we just disagree about things now. We're not miscommunicating, but we just simply disagree.

Todd: Okay. Yeah.

Jenny: And he says his view and I say my view and.

Todd: Well, the funniest thing is, I'm a registered Democrat living in a family of Republicans. It's really interesting to me. Okay. I know. And you're going to say at Biola. Oh, my goodness.

Jenny: I'm working on him folks.

Todd: And let me tell you that I think I'm becoming more of a conservative Democrat. So that's probably a move in the right direction.

Jenny: Actually, if we can compromise, we do. He's very good about not insisting that I agree with him on everything. He is allowed to have his opinion. I'm allowed to have my opinion. If it's

something where it involves both of us and we have to make a final decision. I personally feel that he needs to hear my opinion. But if he chooses to go with his opinion then I will go with him.

Todd: And let me respond to that by saying, a lot of times her opinion is better than what I came up with, and we go with it. It's not an issue for me. Well, because she's a woman. I can't do that because it makes me diminished as a male in the role. I don't feel that way at all. If she's got good information and she has a good reason, let's do it because it's stupid to do it the wrong way just because you're male and pig headed.

Jenny: But there are a lot of times when the reverse is true, and I have stayed in my opinion, especially when we're dealing with the boys at home. And I will say, no, they cannot do. And he'll say, no, wait a minute. What do you think about? And then go, well. Okay. So it works in reverse, too. I think it's real important that you both share your opinions. So you get both sides out. Both though. That's one reason why God put male and female together because we think different. And it's good to get the varying ideas out. And that way you have a variety to choose from, and you can pick the best one.

Todd: Yeah.

Student: I would like to have each of you answer by the major adjustment in the marriage, not just the relationship, once you were married.

Todd: You want to go? Thanks. The question is what is the major adjustment in getting married? Do you know we hesitate for that because it's been relatively easy, and we keep thinking that it has to be harder than this. And sometimes we go, are we not doing it right now? It's coming too easy to do this. I think sometimes some of the major adjustments come from that I felt was that when you're single and I was living in a house by myself all of a sudden have lots more people around gets very claustrophobic.

Todd: And I've had to readjust a living with people and you get real self centered when you're living alone or even with another roommate. It's not exactly the same as living in a family. And and there are more things that are collected. And you have sons that have hobbies and interests that take up the garage and things that you have to compromise here and there or whatever. And sometimes just the closeness of everybody around. You're saying, I got to get away from this for just a little while.

Todd: But there are ways to do that, too. And Jenny and I are committed to the fact that when we both start feeling that way, we just go off even if it's nearby to a motel for a weekend and keep the honeymoon going. And that's been kind of exciting, too. It's not enough just to say you get into the Parenthood stuff and then you check romance. It doesn't work that way. And I'm so glad it's really exciting.

Jenny: I think my major adjustment was coming from what I'd known as a marriage before with the man who enjoyed making all of the decisions and telling me how to do what I was to do and when and where and all that to the point where it was just easier to let him make all the decisions

because if I made a decision and it wasn't the way he would have wanted it, then I was wrong and he did it again, anyway. So then I marry this man who really enjoys the fact that I'm an independent woman.

Jenny: And I say, this needs to be done. And he says, Great, do it and leaves. And I'm going, how, tell me, who do I call? When do I call? How do I go about doing this? And he's assuming that I've got it all taken care of. And so for the first year, I had to do a lot of growing and learning how to research how to do things on my own without relying on him to do everything for me. And that's been a real growing experience. And I have appreciated it very much, although at the time, it was kind of frustrating. It's been a good move.

Student: Todd, what was your first immediate attraction to Jenny?

Todd: what was my first immediate attraction to Jenny?

Jenny: Make it good.

Todd: Well, believe it or not, and I don't want you to take this the wrong way. It wasn't physical attraction because, you know, when you're younger. That's the immediate thing that you see, it was very sad for me. And I am getting to the answer of the question. Okay. I had a roommate here at Biola who got married when he was here at Biola. It's very sad that their marriage didn't last more than about a year and a half, because for one thing, they're attraction for each other. And the reason to get married was purely physical, even to the point where he asked me one time

he goes, hey, don't you think she look good in a bathing suit? And when you take her out, not that you would, but, you know, and I go, Well, that's not really why you should go out with you while he did. And it didn't surprise me that didn't last. But I was the best man at the wedding. So you can imagine how hurtful it was for me when that didn't work out.

Todd: But I think as you get older, you realize that there are more inner dimensions of things that you see that you appreciate. And the things that attracted me to Jenny were one of the main things is the fact that I saw her as in fact, every time I saw her, people were attracted to her. She's a people person. She is someone who you could take to a strange crowd. And all of a sudden, everybody's talking to her and having a great time. And I always felt that that was sort of a weakness that I had, although I do lots of speaking to people.

Todd: But I wasn't really as sociable as I saw her. And I thought that would be something that would really be something to be attracted to. And it still is. I also saw someone who was very open and vulnerable and honest and rather forthright. And I liked all those qualities. And I also like the quality that she was rather independent because and I keep coming back to this. But God and his graciousness allowed me to date a lot of women of different types and kinds. And I discovered that the one type of woman I really didn't want was someone who was so clingy that I was the end all be all of her existence.

Todd: And I dated somebody like that and it was scary because I was having a difficult time figuring out what I want to do without having to live vicariously for somebody else. And I saw Jenny as the opposite of that. And yet somebody who wanted to be independent and yet enjoyed

being with me. And so those are some of the qualities I think really attracted me to her. Now the physical attraction was there, too. I'm not saying that that wasn't there because I think she's a very attractive woman.

Jenny: Good answer. June. Was I supposed to ask him?

Todd: Go ahead. Sorry. Bye.

Student: What attracted you to Todd?

Jenny: It was on our first date, and I sat across from this man.

Todd: It was my hair.

Jenny: Actually, at the time he was in Fiddler on the roof here, and he had his gorgeous, huge beard. But there was a sense of peace and a sense of contentment about his life and that radiated through. And you could just sense the spirit of God in him. And, you know, when you really got a solid, dedicated, neat Christian that you around sense that there's this difference and that there's this caring and just love of life. And like, it was just really comfortable with where God had put him. And I was really drawn and attracted to that. So that's what got me initially.

Todd: We have time for about two more questions right back there.

Student: What is the key to being patient and single in church and society that elevates marriage?

Todd: How is it possible to be patient and single in a Church that expects you to be married?

That's the Church and society. Well, that is a very good question. And I certainly felt the pressure not only at Church, but I had to set my parents down. Some families, the oldest son, you get the pressure from your mother. I was getting the pressure from my dad, who was very, very concerned, and I had to sit him down one time.

Todd: And I just said, I know you want what's really good for me. But I said, you have to let this happen if it's going to happen. And if it isn't, you have to let it go. Because I said, that's where I'm at. And when I talked to them about that, the pressure from them stopped. And it was then a lot easier. So I was picking up pressure from my family. My folks said, by the way, if there's anybody that you like, we like them immediately, it doesn't matter who they are. Okay.

Jenny: I went up and to visit his folks just before he gave me the engagement ring. And I told his mom, I said, if there's anything you want to ask about me, if there's anything you want to know. And she said, Honey, at this point, I don't care.

Todd: There are more churches nowadays that are providing activities for singles. But, you know, the problem isn't some of those cases. It's like a meat market in which everybody's on parade and you can't relax, you can't go and have a good time with everybody because everybody is trying to figure out and size up everybody else. And I got involved with some of those groups at some large churches around the area, and it didn't help me. But believe it or not, what did was

to have people who are out there looking out for you and introduce you to people that they think you'd like.

Todd: I am a firm believer in blind dates, although I've been on a lot of them that didn't work out. But this was a great one that worked out. But I think that sometimes you have to rely on friends who know you and know someone else. And then I think you have to keep reminding the Church that just because you're single doesn't mean that you're a second class citizen or that you don't have anything valuable to contribute. Let's just say that the Lord chose to have me remain single.

Todd: I think that there are lots of things that I was able to do within the confines of the Church through Ministry that would still continue to be there. And hopefully those doors do not close to you. But I think we have to re educate the people in churches about that as well.

Jenny: When I was single, let me just say something to that. As you get older, they really don't know what to do with you.

Todd: There aren't in study school classes for you.

Jenny: And so you need to be the person to take the steps to invite the people to your house. Invite the couples. Don't just limit yourself to singles, invite the people because they're not out to invite you, because then it's an odd number and they don't want you to feel uncomfortable so they don't know what to do. So they don't ask you. So you just kind of have to make up your

mind in this world of couples, which it is if you are single and choosing to be a single until the right person come, which is essential.

Jenny: Better to wait and be single and have it tough now than to marry a person that's no okay.

And then live with an okay marriage instead of a super great marriage for the rest of your life.

And so just go on the mindset that you are choosing to be single and that you will make the effort and you put a little extra energy into including yourself in those around you and enjoy the friendships that you can develop. But it will take a little more work on your part, but it's possible.

Todd: Yes.

Student: [question inaudible]

Todd: All right. That's a very good question about how do you last 42 years? That's the question.

Cut to the quick. Well, you take one day at a time. I started out by saying and we really come full circle here that if if I know that I had, I was going to have to wait 21 years, I think I would have just given up.

Todd: I'm serious because it would have just been such a despair. But God takes you through the difficult times. He kept me busy doing lots of things. And I think taking the sex drive and putting it towards graduate work towards, I'm serious transferring a lot of those things, other times when I'm by myself you know, I'm not going to go into details, but hey, God helps through times in other ways. But there are. I think the most important thing is that [break in audio]

Todd: ...Guidelines before we got married so that we wouldn't go past a certain point. So the honeymoon night would be something special to enjoy. And it was. And it continues to be. But we committed ourselves to that. But the letters allowed us to deal with some things that we talked about hypothetically and otherwise that if we talked about it in person, I think we both said, I think it's time we go home kind of thing. And so I think that helps deal with some of those situations, too. I had to rely a lot on Jenny to help me through the early parts of being married because I was I was a Virgin when I got married. And I'm proud to say that. And I'm saying that it is possible to last until you're 42 years. Oh, and maybe longer. But you don't think about it that way. You think about it day by day, hour by hour, sometimes moment by moment to get through the situation. But God is very gracious, and he does that for you.

Student: Jenny can you speak to how that was that he saved himself? What was that like for you?

Jenny: Well, I thought it was real special because that's sometimes it appears these days, it's few and far between. And God had saved a man for me. And I just was real grateful to God that I just kept saying, I can't believe that nobody's grabbed you up yet. And I had just been real thankful to the Lord for that. I thought it was real special.

Todd: Well, our time has come to an end, and we thank you for coming. Thank you very much.