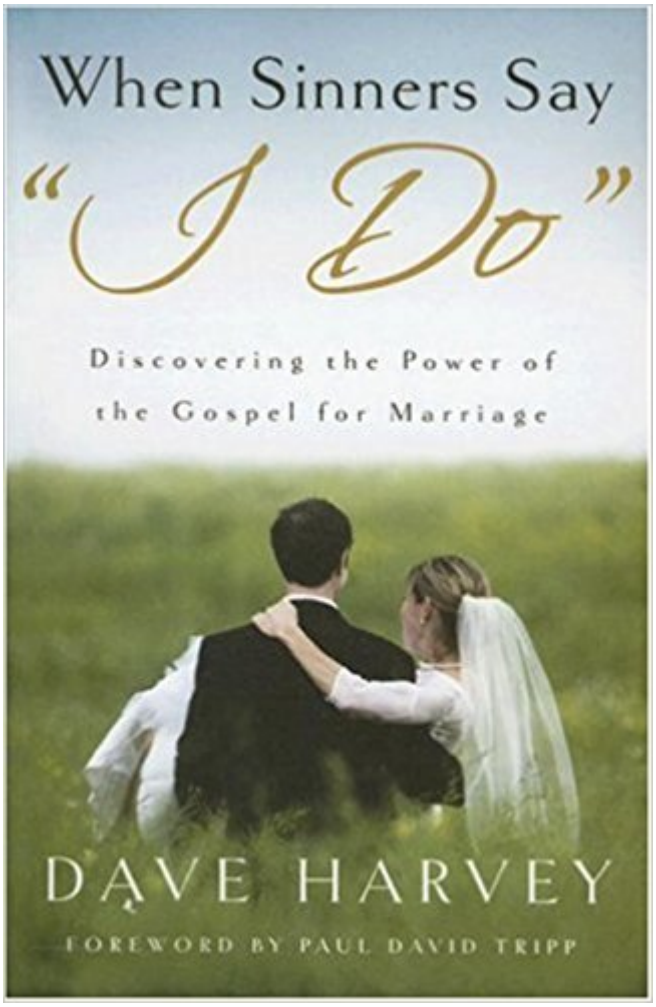
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When Sinners Say "I Do": Discovering The Power Of The Gospel For Marriage



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Synopsis

Marriage is the union of two people who arrive at the altar toting some surprisingly large luggage. Often it gets opened right there on the honeymoon, sometimes it waits for the week after. The Bible calls it sin and understanding its influence can make all the difference for a man and woman who are building a life together. When Sinners Say "I Do" is about encountering the life-transforming power of the gospel in the unpredictable journey of marriage.Dave’s writing style embraces the reader as he speaks honestly, and sometimes humorously, about sin and the power of the gospel to overcome it. He opens the delightful truth of God s word and encourages the reader to see more clearly the glorious picture of what God does when sinners say "I do."A DVD series of When Sinners Say "I Do" is also available.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful book. It is honest, refreshing, practical, and above all biblical. These carefully written pages spill over with truth and grace. This book is liberating, Christ-centered and hope-filled, pointing the way to God-empowered marriage. --Randy AlcornDave Harvey not only offers a biblical diagnosis of marital strife, but prescribes the cure as well - the gospel. When Sinners Say "I Do" provides clarity in conflict, hope in despair, and points the way to a joy-filled, God glorifying marriage. --C.J. Mahaney

Dave Harvey is senior pastor of Covenant Fellowship Church (Glen Mills, PA), part of a family of churches called Sovereign Grace Ministries.

Foundational for Harvey is for spouses to recognize that they are sinners (see the entirety of chs. 2 and 3, pp. 33-59). In a chapter ending with an emphasis on humility (ch. 2), Harvey pens an effective and pithy statement: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Until sin be bitter, marriage may not be sweet.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (38). However, before the irrationality of sin causes us to behave toward our spouses in calculated, uncharitable ways, Harvey wants readers to think soberly about their place before GodÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s throne, the beatific vision permitted only to those who are justified by grace through faith in Christ (47). The real enemy of our marriage is not sleeping ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“on the opposite side of the bed,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• but within our very own hearts. This foundation acknowledges that all sin is an affront to Holy God, the often unacknowledged member in marriages (22-28, 41, 103-4).Practically, this would often mean forbearance (88). Mercy covers sin. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I need to look for how sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s battling it, try to encourage rather than critique. . . What a privilege to represent the love of our Savior in forbearing the sins of my spouse.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (89-90). ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Forgiveness is costly, and sometimes it costs more than we think we can giveÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (106). However, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“We all need someone to stand between us and the just wrath of God.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (104). As one whose burdensome debts have been forgiven, it is not within our privilege to exact from our debtors, our spouses. The gospel of grace ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“encompasses her sin as well asÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• mine (109). This is the only way forward when sinners say ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I do.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (113).This soteriological wisdom of a God who deals with us by grace cannot be taken casually, for in it exists the means of reconciliation for spouses experiencing marital troubles (63, 120-32). One can hardly do better here than quote Harvey at length: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“. . . sanctifying grace teaches us how to replace the passions of this world with godliness. As a result we grow in charitable thoughts, patience with our spouse, self-control instead of angry words, love, joy peace. . . and actions that look increasingly like the character of Christ and combine toÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• make a beautiful marriage (142). This is gospel pure and simple.HarveyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s wisdom is also demonstrated by carefully placing the chapter on sex (ch. 9, pp. 151-68) after the chapter on grace (ch. 8, pp. 135-50). Harvey presents 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 and takes on surprisingly difficult topics, including ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Sloth,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Bitterness,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• etc., as they all relate to marital sex. Lastly, chapter ten (pp. 169-83), ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“When Sinners Say Goodbye,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• far from being about divorce, is about caring for the aging spouse, even suffering their death. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s endearing, charming, wise and practical, as much of the

book has been.I see no reason to fault the author for his work. I found the overall portrait, as my survey reveals, extremely compelling. The focus on gospel-like sacrifice, HarveyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ability to inspire charity in the reader for their spouse, and his pithy, biblical wisdom mixed with occasional wit leave the reader feeling somewhat disheartened upon completion, as though the last page of a marvelous novel was just turned.

My fiancÃƒÂ© and I are reading this together right now as part of our pre marital counseling. We are reading several books and we like this one the best. It’s just filled with SUCH great information that we feel is really helping prepare us for marriage. The author is so funny and I find myself giggling quite often. He writes in a way that is very easy to understand and I love how he uses many examples from his own life, making the book feel more personable, real and relatable.

This book was easy and fast to read. It had timely reminders about sin and grace, especially in marriage. The writing was a little redundant at times, but the style was very readable. I was blessed by this book, but probably won’t come back to it again. And, it didn’t crack my "best books on marriage" that I recommend to friends.

This is, by far, one of the best books on the subject of Christian marriage that I have ever read. As a pastor, I will ask any couple I counsel or officiate the ceremony for to read this book. There is also a Bible study workbook to go along with the book that would make it a fantastic Bible study for a discipleship class or small group. As a husband of over 20 years, I can say confidently that this book made my own marriage better.Want to make a difference in marriages in the current culture of divorce? Buy a copy for yourself today, and gift a copy to every young couple you know and love.

This book has helped me realize several things that I, as a husband, should be more proficient at: grace, forgiveness, preference, selflessness, more giving-less taking and many more. I "proof read" this book to see where the author would take his reader. I quickly found out: Scripture, and the effectual love and grace of our Savior and how that is the example and picture of a godly marriage. Harvey reminds the reader, whether a husband or a wife, marriage is the picture of Christ and the Church. Inasmuch, we are both sinners with a profound problem: sin.This book is profoundly practical and Harvey has a very practical way of counseling the reader, helping him/her discover that practicality. I’ve studied a lot of theology, but have been a failure in many areas of marriage. The author explains from the get-go that marriage is theology and each spouse better put their

thinking caps on and discover what God’s Word says in this regard. "Study to show yourself approved."I openly admit that I’ve not thought highly of marriage books, even Christian ones. However, this book is overwhelmingly delightful to read. It’s thorough enough on most of the subject that grieve our spouse, at least it was for me. All in all, we spouses must recognize that if we desire change it begins NOT in the opposite spouse. It depends on YOU. I’ve pointed the finger of blame far too frequently at my wife. This book pointed it right back at me.Thank you for a wonderful read Dave Harvey.

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