

How birth order affects who you are and the marriage of your dreams

“And why worry about a speck in the eye of a brother when you have a board in your own.” Matthew 7:3 TLB
When we get real and understand our differences, then we have an opportunity to communicate and work things out. Our job is to love people the way they are with all their spots and blemishes.

First-borns and babies are the best marriages. If you are a first-born, watch your critical eye. First-born are the guinea pigs of life. We practice on them. Only children are like first-born in triplicate. Middle children are squeezed right in the middle. Middle children are the most loyal people in the world. The baby of the family tends to be manipulative, social, and outgoing. Only children usually relate to older friends rather than to their peers.

God makes every person unique

Our job is to love people the way they are with all their spots and blemishes. Every person brings to marriage an unwritten but highly developed rule book. Think about the unwritten rule books you and your spouse brought to your marriage. Every married couple should exchange rule books. It will help you realize whether or not you are playing by the same rules and discuss ways to work through them.

Some couples make life miserable for one another by “majoring on the minors,” by nitpicking and focusing on a spouse’s flaws. Dr. Leman says that perfectionism is “slow suicide” and is a great way to defeat yourself. The critical eye will destroy the person who has all the ability to get somewhere.

Prayer

Ask God to help both of you grow and mature as a couple and as parents. Consider praying this prayer:

Lord, I know that I am far from perfect, but I also know that I can grow and mature. Please help me to understand myself more fully and to show more grace to my spouse and children.

I commit to You that I will strive to AMEN.