

# How To Build A Hedge Of Protection Around Your New Marriage

Courtesy of eHarmony Marriage

As you already know, a strong, dynamic marriage can be a real blessing and add all kinds of meaning, significance, and wonder to your lives. And you probably also know that it takes a great deal of work to develop, maintain, and enhance this type of relationship. But what not all newlyweds realize is that it's also important to protect your marriage from outside influences that have the power to undermine all of the love and hard work you are bringing to your growing relationship.

In order to build a hedge of protection around your new marriage, we suggest that you follow a simple three-step plan that will help insulate you from the dangers that virtually every married couple faces from day to day.

## Step 1: Communicate

One of the first things you two need to do is to talk with each other about what you expect from each other and from yourselves. How will you each protect your marriage, and what would you like to ask each other to do? For example, are there certain behaviors you want to highlight that make you somewhat uncomfortable because of the temptation they present? Maybe you want to point out the dangers inherent in going out to lunch with a person of the opposite sex. Or you might want to discuss ways you can let other people know that you're happily married, like mentioning each other often and always in a positive light.

The idea here is simply that you brainstorm together about ways you can guard yourselves and your marriage and fully live out your commitment to each other—your commitment that offers so much in terms of trust, freedom, and abundant living.

## Step 2: Pledge

Write a pledge to each other about what you will each do, personally, to protect your marriage from infidelity. This is where you take the ideas you brainstormed about in Step 1 and commit to putting them into action. Look at your list of protective actions, and decide which ones seem wise to you. Which ones seem most helpful? Which ones fit your particular needs, temptations, and expectations? Write them out and verbally commit to acting on your pledge.

A quick note of caution here: be realistic as you choose the pledge you make to each other. For example, it's not going to be possible to avoid ever talking to someone of the opposite sex. But you *can* avoid saying anything that could be construed as flirtatious, or as critical of your mate.

### **Step 3: Pray**

This third step is the most important of all. Pray daily for God's protection over your marriage covenant. The obvious benefit you will receive from your joint daily prayer is that with it you will avail yourselves to the power of God as you seek to grow deep together and develop a meaningful and significant marriage. But another important advantage to daily prayer is that it will consistently remind you of your own priorities. It's going to be much more difficult for either of you to explore a relationship outside your marriage if you are sitting with each other in daily prayer.

Marital indiscretions take place all the time. And as we know, affairs occur in Christian marriages, not just in those of nonbelievers. So as you begin this wonderful journey together toward what can be a joy-filled and blessed union, guard yourselves. Avoid complacency and arrogance by putting into place this plan that will help you build a hedge of protection around your new marriage.