



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 9 - Day 3

Checks and Balances

by Chris and Amanda Watson

Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 19:20-21

It's so easy to get caught up in thinking our way is the only right way. But sometimes, there are other 'right' ways to solve a problem. And hard though it may be to admit, occasionally we're flat out wrong. When we 'get over ourselves' and accept that there may be other, better, ways to solve a problem or address an issue, we open the door to learning other solutions, seeing other perspectives, and considering other outcomes. It also makes us more enjoyable to be around, too! This is what we see in these verses:

- Fools discount direction and instruction, but the wise welcome it;
- Make all the plans you want, but ultimately the Lord will have his way in your life—you get to choose whether to come along graciously or rebelliously

A marriage is a system of checks and balances—sometimes you're the one causing the deficit, other times you're picking up the slack from your spouse's shortfall. It ebbs and flows throughout the days, weeks, months, and years. The best marriages have times when one partner shines brighter while the other tends to the background issues and then, as circumstances change, the two switch places, allowing the other to give more, do more, be more.

It's a dance that goes on throughout the seasons of a marriage.

The wisdom in all of this comes when each spouse seeks the guidance of God, first, and then of those who have gone before them, second. The wisdom of God can come through time spent in the Scriptures, in worship, in prayer, and alongside a spiritual mentor. The wisdom of others can usually be most beneficially when it comes from those who are a bit further down the road than you—in marriage, in careers, in child rearing, or in their faith. They've 'been there, done that' so to speak and probably picked up a few pointers along the way, too.

It's wise to be prepared and to make plans. It's motivating to make goals and work towards them. It's just plain responsible to look ahead and make provisions. Go to town with the day planner, the forecaster, and the calendar on your phone. Make the plans, but hold them loosely. In doing so, you allow God to steer your marriage down the best possible path.

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of household tasks do you enjoy most?
2. Where do your personal gifts and talents lie?

Action Steps:

Complete a Spiritual assessment to determine your gifts and talents. Decide how you can use your gifts and talents to best serve your spouse.

Prayer:

Lord, you are the source of all that we have. Please hear our prayer and guide us in your wisdom. Please uplift our hearts so that we may appreciate all the many blessings that we have while searching for your abundance in our lives.