

STRIKE THE ORIGINAL MATCH
WHO SAYS THE HONEYMOON MUST END?
GENESIS 1:27–28, 31; 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1–5



The Heart of the Matter

Immediately upon the mention of the word *honeymoon*, most people picture a time of intimate romance and unrestrained physical affection between newlyweds. Our culture promotes such a concept. We think of that period of passionate ecstasy as the *beginning* of a marriage—the time between the wedding and the return to the responsibilities of life. There is nothing wrong with such a concept—except for what it implies: namely, that such a show of physical affection is brief . . . is only for newlyweds . . . and is necessarily temporary, passing away with the passing of time. But God’s plan is that married couples enjoy such delights without shame or reluctance until “death do us part.”



Discovering the Way

1. Review of Major Principles (Genesis 2:24–25)

When there is severance, permanence, and acceptance in marriage, intimacy flourishes.

2. Biblical Facts about Marital Affection (Genesis 1:27–28; Proverbs 5:1–4, 15–19; 1 Corinthians 7:1–5)

Five key biblical facts inform our understanding of intimacy. God created intimacy in innocence and declared it very good, He made intimacy for more than just having children, He designed it for the husband and wife only, He deemed that intimacy express unselfish affection rather than selfish desire, and He decided that intimacy should not be interrupted for long periods of time.



Starting Your Journey

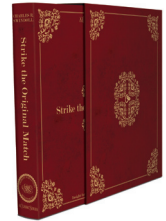
When marital affection wanes, there are many causes, but there are also cures. Seek out the cure for whatever ails your marriage.



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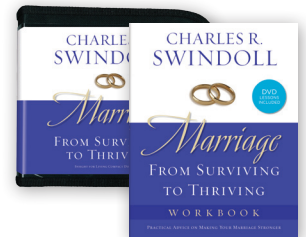


Tools for Digging Deeper

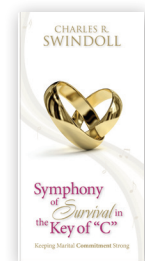


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