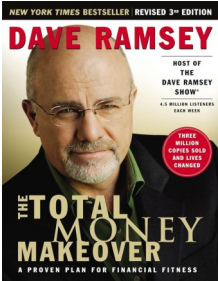
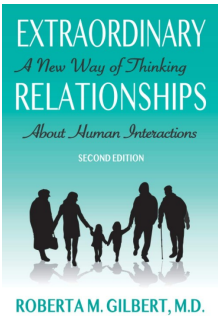


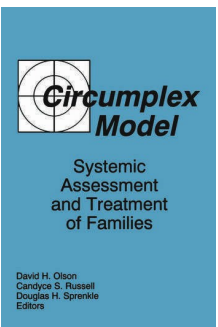
Pastor Phil's Recommended Books on Marriage



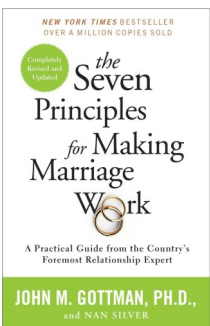
The Total Money Makeover by Dave Ramsey. When a couple learns the communication, transparency, and partnership skills necessary to get on the same page and succeed in the financial aspects of their marriage, they quickly learn to apply these skills to the benefit of all other aspects of their relationship. Ramsey presents a plan (not a divinely inspired plan, but a proven one) to help couples (and individuals) reach financial peace.



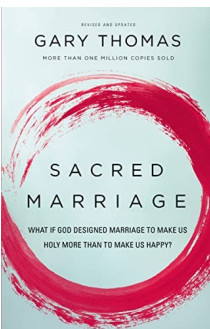
Extraordinary Relationships by Roberta Gilbert, M.D. Drawing on the insights of family systems theory pioneered by Dr. Murray Bowen, this book provides an unpretentious primer on family relationships. This book not only helps improve a couple's relationship but also can assist them in understanding and improving relationships with extended family.



Circumplex Model: Systemic Assessment & Treatment of Families. Edited by Olson, Russell, and Sprenkle. This book is intended for therapists and counselors, so Pastor Phil recommends just reading the first chapter. Why? First, because one of the editors was a personal friend and member of one of his former calls, and second, and more importantly, understanding where you and your spouse fall on the "Family Map" (explained in chapter one) can yield insight into potential relationship conflicts.



The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work by John Gottman, Ph.D. Based upon extensive research, Gottman offers seven practical principles to improve your marriage. These are: Enhance your Love Maps, Nurture Your Fondness and Admiration, Turn Toward Each Other, Let Your Partner Influence You, Solve Your Solvable Problems, Overcome Gridlock, and Create Shared Meaning. Great practical insights.



Sacred Marriage: by Gary Thomas. Written from a biblical perspective, Thomas argues that one of God's primary intentions in marriage is to foster our personal holiness and not merely our personal happiness. Thus, Marriage is a Spiritual Discipline with eternal reward.

Pastor Phil also suggests you and your spouse start by choosing one of the books from this list, reading it together, and discussing what the author is saying.