



What Did You Expect?: Redeeming the Realities of Marriage

By Paul David Tripp



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Somehow, somehow, every marriage becomes a struggle.

Everyone's marriage morphs into something they didn't intend it to be. At some point you need something sturdier than romance. You need something deeper than shared interests and mutual attraction. You need changed expectations, you need radical commitments, and, most importantly, you need grace.



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What Did You Expect?: Redeeming the Realities of Marriage By Paul David Tripp Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #51966 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-03-24
- Released on: 2010-04-15
- Format: Kindle eBook



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Editorial Review

Review

“At once deeply theological and practically relevant, this is one of the top books on marriage I have ever read. Paul Tripp allows readers to examine marriage through a biblical lens so that we understand how God can graciously heal our hurting homes. As a pastor, I will implore our people to read this book as soon as it is available.”

—**Chris Brauns**, author, *Unpacking Forgiveness*; Pastor, The Red Brick Church, Stillman Valley, Illinois

“What I’ve come to expect from Paul Tripp is consistently deep, transparent, biblical, wise, practical, gospel-driven counsel. Rather than muddying the water with self-focused strategies designed to meet our ever-multiplying needs, Paul, as the seasoned soul-physician he is, correctly diagnoses our problems and provides the cure—humble faith in Jesus Christ. I wasn’t disappointed. You won’t be either.”

—**Elyse M. Fitzpatrick**, author, *Because He Loves Me* and *Comforts from the Cross*

Review

“Noel and I listened to most of this book driving in the car! Wise words. Authentic experience. Provocative application. Turned a long trip into a fruitful two-person marriage seminar.”

—**John Piper**, Founder, desiringGod.org; Chancellor, Bethlehem College & Seminary

“When Paul Tripp teaches, preaches, or writes he does so through the lens of the gospel. In *What Did You Expect?*, Paul faithfully and brilliantly lets the gospel bear its weight on the messiness and beauty of marriage. I, personally, found the book to be helpful, and we use it extensively at The Village.”

—**Matt Chandler**, Lead Pastor, The Village Church, Dallas, Texas; President, Acts 29 Church Planting Network; author, *The Mingling of Souls*

“The reason *What Did You Expect?* is so powerful is not because Paul Tripp is a marriage expert with tips and tricks to fix your problems, it’s because his teaching is drenched in the gospel and the Word of God. This honest book will help you see yourself and your spouse in a new light as it shows you who Jesus is and how to connect his redeeming grace to the daily realities of your marriage. Singles and engaged couples will benefit from it, too.”

—**Joshua Harris**, Former Senior Pastor, Covenant Life Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland; author, *Dug Down Deep*

“At once deeply theological and practically relevant, this is one of the top books on marriage I have ever read. Paul Tripp allows readers to examine marriage through a biblical lens so that we understand how God can graciously heal our hurting homes. As a pastor, I will implore our people to read this book as soon as it is available.”

—**Chris Brauns**, Pastor, The Red Brick Church, Stillman Valley, Illinois; author, *Unpacking Forgiveness*, *Bound Together*, and *When the Word Leads Your Pastoral Search*

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the cure—humble faith in Jesus Christ. I wasn't disappointed. You won't be either."

—**Elyse M. Fitzpatrick**, counselor; speaker; author, *Found in Him*

"Paul Tripp brings many years of counseling, growth as a husband, and deepening discovery of the liberating power of grace to this realistic and challenging guide to God's engagement in redeeming marriages that are threatened by complacency, misunderstanding, and selfishness. The Bible's message of the humbling and healing power of Christ's mercy and the powerful presence of his Spirit in our homes comes through loud and clear. The daily practicality of gospel doctrine is made crystal clear by Tripp's transparency about his personal missteps in becoming a Christ-reflecting husband and the many examples of couples who have discovered that they are sinners married to sinners. But that the third, divine Party in marriage gives hope and change when unrealistic expectations are shattered and when we confront our sin. But be warned: Tripp's diagnostic questions are downright uncomfortable. Even those with strong marriages by God's grace will find their deep tendencies toward self-coronation challenged!"

—**Dennis E. Johnson**, Professor of Practical Theology, Westminster Seminary California

"Paul Tripp issues a challenge for couples to roll up their sleeves, get to work, and do what it takes to build a God-honoring relationship. He presents six commitments for couples to make, and contained within each is insightful, practical, and effective advice on how to construct a loving, growing, grace-soaked marriage."

—**Mary A. Kassian**, Professor of Women's Studies, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; author, *Girls Gone Wise in a World Gone Wild*

About the Author

PAUL TRIPP is the president of Paul Tripp Ministries, a nonprofit organization, whose mission statement is "Connecting the transforming power of Jesus Christ to everyday life." This mission leads Paul to weekly speaking engagements around the world. In addition to being a gifted communicator and sought after conference speaker with Paul Tripp Ministries, Paul is on the pastoral staff at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he preaches on Sunday evenings and leads the Ministry to Center City. Paul is also professor of pastoral life and care at Redeemer Seminary in Dallas, Texas. He is the director of the Center for Pastoral Life and Care in Fort Worth, Texas, and has taught at respected institutions worldwide. As an author, Paul has written eleven books on Christian living that are read and distributed internationally, including *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*; *War of Words*; *Broken Down House*; and Crossway's *Whiter Than Snow*. He has been married for many years to Luella and they have four grown children.

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