



*Home of the Maryland Marriage Initiative*

*It's no secret: Marriages are hurting.  
The family is in a freefall. This ripple effect is  
impacting all areas of our culture. It's clear that...*

## *Marriage Matters!*

MREC is a local, faith-based organization, committed to Biblical marriage, and strives to **partner with churches** to strengthen marriages, families, and communities.

*How does MREC partner with churches?*



The Maryland Marriage Initiative, a project of MREC, exists to **inspire, connect, and resource** churches so they are equipped to build Kingdom families through a sustainable marriage ministry.

### **Inspire**

Helping pastors and their team with the **vision, skills, and support** to launch or multiply their efforts and to ignite their communities with the Gospel of Christ through strong marriages.

### **Connect**

Providing pastors and their team with opportunities to network and link arms with like-minded churches, organizations and individuals who share a passion for marriage. This is accomplished through Community Round Tables, our website, and special events for pastors.

### **Resource**

Serving ministry leaders and those with a heart for marriage with tools and resources to inspire and strengthen marriages in their communities.

Check out a few free resources located on our website by scanning the QR code below.

- 10-Step Guide to Establishing A Marriage Team
- Sharable Resource: Ideas to Grow Your Marriage Year Round
- Q&A Resource: Sample survey to understand the health of marriages in your church



# What We Know

**One out of five** couples in the church are struggling in their marriage.



**Less than half** of Christian young adults today had parents stay together through their childhood. **They are not seeing marriage done well.**



Children coming from divorced homes are **50%** more likely to have severe depression and are at higher risk for an increase in anxiety, issues at school, drug and alcohol addiction, suicide, teen pregnancy - and more.

## Marriage Matters TO KIDS!

**Resources to invest in marriage are limited!**

94% of churches report spending **zero percent** of their budgets on marriage ministry.

Source: JP De Gance, Communio Fall Report, 2023

“Marriage Education operationalizes the gospel as couples learn ‘how to’ love each other well. This leads to church growth and the restoration of families.”

Amy M. Gilford, MREC & Maryland Marriage Executive Director

“God cares deeply about families and the church should be doing everything in [its] power to strengthen and enrich them. The more we do relationship-specific events, the more and more people come.”

-Chris Kaskel, Lead Pastor, Crosswind Church

## Ready to get started?

[www.mrecenter.org](http://www.mrecenter.org)  
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