

## **Eps 9 Marnie Swedberg – Christian Ministry**

40 years and 1000s of ideas later, Dave and Marnie Swedberg are still going strong. Both Dave and Marnie are powerhouse leaders (i.e. - stubborn, bullheaded, and strong-willed), ideators and entrepreneurs. Marnie joins us to share strategies for making a marriage work when all odds are against it!

<https://www.Marnie.com>

<http://www.HolidayStrategies.com>

Connie's Gift – Why Loving Couples Argue & Fight

<https://www.theextraordinarymarriage.com/pl/2147559250>

**Unedited Show Notes transcribed by “Headliner”**

### **Longtime Friends Share Marriage Wisdom**

**Discover real life stories and a path to overcome the pitfalls every marriage encounters**

Speaker A: Are you ready to open the door to more romance, fun, and adventure? Or maybe it's compassion, support, and strength you're looking for. Discover real life stories and a path to overcome the pitfalls every marriage encounters. Welcome to the extraordinary marriage all. Ah, right. So I welcome my friend Marnie today. And, Marnie, how are you? We haven't talked in a while. I know.

Speaker B: It's great to be here. Thanks, Connie. I'm doing great.

**How long have you been married and where did you meet your spouse**

Speaker A: All right, so today we are here to do my podcast. And before I have done your podcast, and the first thing I'm going to ask you today is, how long have you been married and where did you meet your spouse?

Speaker B: Oh, my goodness. I love this question, especially right now, because we just celebrated 440 years right now.

Speaker A: Yeah.

Speaker B: So really fun. Yeah. Met my spouse at a megachurch in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I had attended there with a girlfriend who wanted me to just check it out. I was looking for a new church, and, she wanted me to come with. We went to a singles event at this church. Were about 600 single adults in there.

Speaker A: Wow, that's a lot of singles to choose from.

Speaker B: It was. And, I lost my friend Don. Where could Don be? And all of these people. And at one point, I looked over the top of a racquetball court, and there she was. There was Don, playing racquetball with my now husband. And, ah, that's how we met. Was over the top of a racquetball court. They weren't dating or anything. They were just having fun playing. You, know, the rest is history.

Speaker A: So did your friend already know him or just met him that day?

Speaker B: I have no idea. I don't really recollect that part of the story. All I know was that, neither of us were particularly interested in him at the moment. I was just looking for her. She was there. She said, oh, Marnie, this is Dave. Dave, this is Marnie. And then they went back to playing, and I, went on with the evening, and it was later that we started dating.

Speaker A: Well, you know, Marnie, I've been married 44 years. You've been married 40 years, right. And so, yeah, those memories start to get just a little distant sometimes I joke to my husband and I say, you know, I need a new memory chip.

Speaker B: Yeah, right. I know. Can we just trade this on? I want to transfer all the data onto the new chip. I just like it to work a little better.

Speaker A: Or a thumb drive. Like, put some of those things on a thumb drive so I can make room for the new things. Right, absolutely. Well, I'm going to get right to it.

### **Marnie says putting Christ first in your life makes a great marriage**

Speaker A: So whenever we're talking on the extraordinary marriage, we want to put out some of the different things that we've had go on in our lives that, encourage others. And so I'm going to ask you right off, what do you think makes a marriage work?

Speaker B: Hm? Definitely, I'm just going to say definitely putting Christ first in your life. because so many times, that gets a little mixed up, right. That it's supposed to be my spouse first, right. But the problem is that we can only grow and excel in anything, any relationship, in any job, in any project, whatever. We can only grow and excel to the point that we are actually aware of who we are in Christ and how he wants to flow through us uniquely. And when your spouse married you, I'm going to talk to girls now. If you're a guy, make opposite, but when your spouse married you, he was thinking that you were just the best thing ever, right? And, he is so excited to marry you for who you were. What happens in the relationship then is he sees somebody else that's got something else going on than you do and he's like, whoa, do you think you could do that? Do you think you could do this? Do you think you could be that? Do you think you could be that? And what happens is that we, at least for me, I just would try to morph into more of what he, envisioned that I might be. And that's not a good plan. It's not going to work long term, right. You can maybe pull it off short term, but long term, it's going to cause trouble. So what's more important is that you get with God. Spouse, comes in and says, do you think you could do this thiNg? That baby is beyond your capacity for whatever reason. And you go to God and you say, wow, God, do you think I could do that for him? And if it's, a no, that the one relationship that you have to get the well done in is the God me relationship. Because when you get the well done from God, God's going to help your spouse as well. And you're going to be able to come back and be the best you you can be. And that's who you actually fell in love with was the best you you were being. And so I think that's, to me, keeping that relationship with God really on the straight and narrow is going to keep your marriage on the straight and narrow.

Speaker A: Well, Marnie, what I'm kind of hearing, as you say, that is, we come into marriage with a different set of confidence sometimes. And hopefully, I don't know about

you, if that's really what you're saying, but it makes me think about, for me, not, that much confidence whenever I first got married and through the years. So, ladies, if you're out there, and you're younger and you're thinking, I don't have great confidence, it's okay. Because guess what? You can grow your confidence, and continue that growth personally and in your marriage. But I'm kind of like you, Marnie. I was, raised, with the Holy Bible was the foundation of everything else. And something that's going on here in the month of December is Christmas. And so often people forget, the real meaning of Christmas. I was teaching voice lessons, five, six, seven years ago. And, I decided to do some Christmas music. And so I was pulling out away in the major silent night and some of those different songs and the kids didn't know them.

Speaker A: They just didn't know the songs. And since I had always sang those songs, I had no idea. A little town of Bethlehem, I had no idea that everybody didn't even know what Christmas was really about.

Speaker B: Right? Yeah, that's for sure. As the mom and the wife and the home, we have this amazing opportunity to keep weaving that, have it be the foundation, but Also keep weaving it through everything that's happening during the holidays. I just love the holiday season.

Speaker A: Since I mentioned of that.

## **What's one of your favorite memories of Christmas for your family**

Speaker A: What's one of your favorite memories, for your family, for Christmas?

Speaker B: Oh, there are so many good ones. I think I'm going to go way, way back to when I was a child and my mom, we never had much money. There were four girls, no boys, we never had much money, but my mom was pretty good at watching for special deals or, we had Barbie dolls. And my poor Barbie doll really didn't have very much hair left on her head when I got her, but she was my favorite ever in the whole world. And one Christmas we came down, from upstairs in our house to find Barbie clothes all over the living room. She had worked for months with little pieces of fabric to sew us little adorable Barbie clothes for all of our barbies. And I remember being overwhelmed. It was just like I had gone to, I think, you know, we have this opportunity as a mom, we have this opportunity to make Christmas a

bit magical for our children. It is so, the thought that Jesus would come to earth and give himself up in that way for us is just beyond imagination. And I think that that is the core of what we're trying to communicate with all the running around we're doing. But my heart for you guys, my heart for me is that we would keep the focus on Jesus. And as we find ways to really inspire that moment of wowness into the holidays, that would be, like, what he has done for us. And I think that's our motivation should be there. Instead of trying to impress somebody or get five stars from somebody, it is to bring in that awareness of the amazing thing that he's done for us.

Speaker A: I like that.

### **You have three adult kids homeschooled all the way through**

Speaker A: Well, so tell us a little bit about, you have kids, you have grandkids.

Speaker B: What you got? Yeah, we got three adult kids homeschooled all the way through, and they're now adults, and they're all doing great. our daughter Karen is married, and we have two grandkids who live 20 minutes away from us. So I'm a pretty spoiled mama in that our boys are, in Utah and Atlanta. But other than that, we get to be by the grandkids, which, if I had a druther, that would be my druther.

Speaker A: Well, I'm here in Atlanta, right on the outside of Atlanta. I didn't realize that one of your kids lives here, and you're in.

Speaker B: Yep, yep. St. Petersburg.

Speaker A: Yeah. I was thinking you were in Florida.

### **Setting boundaries in marriage is hugely important, you say**

Speaker A: Well, whenever you think about marriage, what do you consider a big challenge or frustration that sometimes couples have? And how do you overcome that one?

Speaker B: For me, definitely was setting boundaries. I was not good at that in my marriage. I was really good at it in the business world and other places, but not in my marriage. And so

that took a lot of decades to figure that one out. And it's really important that you set clear, boundaries. Jesus set, God. I like the boundary. Just one of them that God set. The sea shore only goes this far, and. No, you know, boundaries are just. From the beginning of time, God has set boundaries, and so it's important for us to set boundaries. I say that's hugely important. If you haven't learned how to do that, read the books. boundaries in marriage. that one is fantastic.

### **There will come things in your marriage that are your number one fight spot**

Speaker B: If you already know how to do that one, I want to just tell you that there will come things in your marriage that are, like, your number one fight spot. It's, like, in our marriage. It was ridiculous, Connie. But for probably close to two decades, in our number one fight was, where is the blank? My husband would say to me, Marnie, where's the whatever. Whatever it was, he's looking for. Where is the blank? And I would go into immediate panic zone because I need to find that thing right now, and I don't know exactly where it is. And I'm right in the middle of making supper and, oh, my goodness. And I would go into this panic mode. And then, because he thought he needed right then whatever he was asking for, and I thought I needed right then to get it for him, we would go into crazy cycle, right? So we've all heard that phrase, the crazy cycle. Yes. And this was our number one fight in marriage for so long. I don't know how long. It was well over a decade until paper Tiger. paper Tiger was a system that she promised, and I don't even know if it's out there anymore, but, she promised that if you use her system, that you could put your hand on anything within 30 seconds. And I'm like, wow, that's amazing. And I'm like, one of the most organized people you'll ever meet. And I thought, I wonder if this could work? And she said in her introduction, she goes, the people who need this the most are the most organized people. They have the hardest time finding things. And it's like, how is this possible that the most organized people have the hardest time finding things? But it was true. And when I did her system, which took hours and hours and hours and hours to set up, we never had that fight again, ever. And you know what I realized? It wasn't because I could find everything in 30 seconds. It was because I went from being intimidated, scared and pressured to being confident. And you just said earlier, you guys, if you're younger in your marriages, you maybe don't have as much confidence. And even if you're older in your marriages, you

maybe don't have as much confidence. But I am telling you that when you get clear and when you get confident, things change. That's the beauty of that. Beauty of boundaries. It's the beauty of, where's the blank? Having a system that works. But it's also the beauty of walking very tightly with Jesus, because as we are walking tightly with him, knowing that I am doing exactly what I was created to do and that he's going to give me a well done at the end of this day, or if I don't deserve that, at the end of this day, I'm going to be asking him for forgiveness, and we're going to be right back on track right away. So I think that the confidence piece in marriage is huge. It's huge. it lets you stand in who you are, do the best you can, and call that a day, and not worry about what you couldn't do.

Speaker A: Well, I have to say to you that that is the first time I've ever heard anybody say, like, for 20 years, that was their biggest fight. And I can't help but think, Marnie, you were putting that pressure on yourself, don't you think?

Speaker B: Oh, it was totally me doing it. And I think what I want to bring up here is some of you are listening, and you got stuff like this going on in your life, and you don't even know it. You don't know that you're stuck. You don't know that anybody else is doing it a different way. one of the things I love about living now in the 2020s, coaching is available, and you can have people come in and speak into your life, some clarity. Like, you don't even see that you're having a recurring fight. It's just like, well, I just try so hard to find it for him.

Speaker A: Well, and I also do that where I coach using communication skills and how people think, act and respond differently. So what I'm seeing with you and your husband is that, was he actually demanding or this was something that you brought in with you, that you felt like you needed to jump when he asked for something.

Speaker B: Isn't that a great question? Right. Because there was a little bit of both of that going on, but definitely he got more demanding as I became more trying. Right. It's the crazy cycle. It's the crazy cycle. It's just crazy. And so I think what I really love about life, about it's one of the huge advantages to being married to the same person for a long time.

Speaker A: Is that you actually get to grow.

Speaker B: Up a little bit together. And when you come together, at first, you're not mature, you're very young, you're as mature as you are. But you actually get to grow up together. And

there's so much space for Grace. And I love that. God is gracious. As you were saying. You said something like, Marnie when you were telling me that. And as you said that, what came into my mind, Connie, was actually the miracle that our biggest marriage fight was something so ridiculously.

Speaker A: That's kind of what I was thinking.

Speaker B: Yeah. Right. And the gift of that. And some of you have really big stuff going on in your marriage, but wherever you are in your marriage, one, Corinthians 13 talks about what love is, and love is really amazing love is patient and kind, and it doesn't quit believing that there's hope for something better. So no matter what you're in and how long you've been in it, there's so much hope in Christ for you, for your marriage.

Speaker A: So sometimes it's simply being aware that there is a problem, because at first, you weren't aware that you did not need to just jump every time he said something. And the more you did it then, the more he expected you to do that.

### **One of the biggest things in marriage is to use your manners with each other**

Speaker A: Now, let me ask you, and hopefully this isn't too personal, but it's like in your mom and dad. Did your mom jump when your dad said, hey, honey, I need this? Hey, where's that?

Speaker B: I don't remember that conversation ever happening in my home. so I don't know about that. My mom was a very wonderful wife. She tried really hard to just keep my dad really happy. That was her main goal. And I have a sister who's been married for now. I think they're at 44 years or so. And, she always says that her and her husband, they have a contest going on who can spoil the other one more.

Speaker A: And that's what we like to hear, isn't it?

Speaker B: Yeah.



Speaker A: Right? It sounds so ooey gooey, but my husband, he is a pleaser, he's a supporter, he's a servant. And, my mom taught me, my mom and dad taught me to be nice and have good manners. And I find one of the biggest things in marriage is to use your manners with each other. Often people start to, they're nice out in public, and then when they go home, they just let their hair down and get all stinky with each other. And to be honest, it's important to like your spouse, especially when you've been married this long. Right?

Speaker B: Well, hopefully, we like and love and cherish and depend on and all those many things. When you were talking about that, you and your husband, I was thinking, boy, Dave and I, we are both strong willed, bullheaded. Like, I mean, we are so stubborn, both of us, and our kids are stubborn and strong willed, and so, we have one kind of laid back, but the rest of us, we're just like in, a dogfight all the time. that's how in our heads go. So there's a lot of work that happens here to actually, be gentle with one another, to be very, flexible, to not always demand our own way when we're pretty sure it's the right way and all that. but when you have strong leaders, that's what you have, and it's a gift from God. It gets a lot accomplished in the world, but it is harder on the relationships to get to the point where you're just really comfy with each other and all that.

Speaker A: Okay, so I'm going to take that a little further because what I'm seeing here is you are two strong willed people who butt heads and my husband and I, I'm pretty strong willed, too. I actually don't really like to be told what to do. I'm not sure if, I remember seeing pictures whenever I was a kid and, my mom was telling me to do something and I would have my head kind of ducked and I would be kind of looking up through. And I wasn't very happy about being told what to do, but I learned to listen. But my husband's really good about not doing that with me. But when you have two strong willed people and somebody out there's got strong willed kids too, but strong willed people, you do have that opinion. And they are usually leaders. And so they are very busy, they have many things going on and, they both like to make decisions. And so you do buttheads. And so sometimes, like, Marnie, you've done good, because sometimes people don't make it whenever they're both very strong minded.

Speaker B: Absolutely. Yeah. One of the best trainings I ever had was, on the three different kinds of men. And there's like 3% of men are strong, strong leaders, like, military commanders. And just really, I mean, that is their thing. They have to have people who say,

hi, should I jump? Where should I jump? When should I jump? Should I jump again? They need people following them. Strong, strong leaders. I married one of those, and then we have the second kind of guy who's the idea guy, and there's maybe twelve to 20% of men who are in that. And these guys drive you crazy because they've forever got an idea going on, just forever. New ideas, new ideas. And I'm married to that man as well. and then you've got the steady guy who likes to sleep in the same bed and get up and go to the same job. And he's very steady. And my man is actually fairly steady as well. We've only ever in our marriage lived in three houses now three in 40 years. I mean, he's very steady, but there's lots of that other stuff going on. And so the challenge then is to identify, okay, how do I come alongside and help him? Be the best him he could be while not getting lost and buried and run over in the process there. And so, yeah, for us, it's really been a ride. The first year was really pretty tough. I think we were both shocked at how strong willed we both were and how this was going to. Yeah, the first year was not a honeymoon. I, think we had our honeymoon much later.

Speaker A: But, you know, what I hear with that is that you persevered and so was communication a part of that? Did you both probably, you both communicated loudly and strongly.

Speaker B: I'm not a very loud person, so I would mostly go cry and he would explode and I would go cry. So that was not a healthy situation. But I just encourage you guys, if you will continue to go forward with Jesus and keep the commitment to your spouse. But before God, and I've heard so many people who have had, maybe harder marriages, but have made it, even to the point where one spouse or the other spouse was unfaithful or things like that, and they've made it, what they always say is that, the commitment to God is what held them together. You have this commitment to each other, but the commitment before God is what is the glue that holds you together. And if you'll just keep going back to God every single time, he will give you wisdom right in the moment of how to go forward, and you'll get better at hearing. And, one of my mentors, Nancy Missler, she's at home with God now in heaven. But, she taught me that spiritual maturity has really nothing to do with what's going on. And she was married to such a strong willed man. He was such a leader. I mean, I'm trying to think of his name right now, Nancy. I know it so well, but I can't think of. I mean, amazing. He's in blue letter Bible all over. I mean, he's fantastic preacher teacher, and he was a huge, business leader, but he was like a super commander guy. And when I met her first, she had

written a book, and she was on one of my, expos? And I met her and I was like, whoa. I think this lady could really understand my life. And she sewed into my life that spiritual maturity has nothing to do with what's going on right now. It has everything to do with how long it takes me to run it to Jesus.

Speaker A: And that's prayer, right?

Speaker B: Yeah. It's not just me talking to him, it's me listening to him. It's that conversation that's saying, what do you want me to know right now? What do you want me to do right now? I just want some wisdom here. I don't know how to handle this person, this situation, this whatever. And, God is so faithful, and so that's where I believe our marriage made it. Because, I spent a lot of time running to Jesus.

### **Prayer brings you closer to God when there are difficult challenges**

Speaker B: And, Jesus is really, I always would say, all through the say, I would always say, God, I'm so grateful that you are fighting for this marriage, because even more committed than I am, he is. He's more committed to your marriage than you are. And that gave me a lot of comfort.

Speaker A: Well, I have taken to prayer, for family members that went on for years and years and years. And to be honest, it brings you closer to God whenever, there's terrible, terrible challenges in life. but you kind of have to find your way around it as you pray. Then you also have to find your team of those people who lift you and encourage you and that you can find joy with. That's where we call, like for us, his girlfriends, right. You can't go find another guy friend because you got to find girlfriends, right. to kind of get some support, along through there. But prayer is a very big thing there. But, strong personalities, and it sounds like his was a little stronger than yours. But you know what? Somebody listening today is going, oh, my gosh, that's my spouse. But sometimes somebody's listening and we realize it's us. I will say this on the strong minded person. what happens in that is that anger is the top emotion for those folks. And so we take it personal, just like you cried. I would, too. and so anger is the top emotion, and that means that. That personality style, literally, they're so strong, they're so able, they are so talented. But anger is what they feel when they're exhausted, when there's stress, when they are getting mad instead of just processing and thinking whatever about

whatever is making them mad, anger. And it just explodes. It's like they can't really control it unless they've learned to control it. And that's where I say, use the pause button. And that's something that sometimes, you might need to talk with your spouse about that and about how it feels when that anger explodes all over them. And talk about using a pause button sometimes you could use a funny word like monkey. So if I say monkey, that means things are getting too serious and we need to pause and we need to think about this. just one way to overcome that because the folks who are like that, it is, like, ingrained. But sometimes they're good to have around. Whenever somebody needs to speak up and say something, and the rest of us are just holding our tongue and something needs to be said, that is the person who will step out and say whatever needs to be said. All people have their great things, and then they have their challenging things, and we just kind of have to figure that out.

Speaker B: Right, exactly. I had somebody at church come up to me two weeks ago and said that he'D been in a little tussle with my husband. And he said, and I don't know what to do. And I said, well, what we do is we extend Grace. Just like we hope he will extend Grace to us when we're not perfect, just extend grace. And that's really, in a marriage, that's really what we need to do, is our partner is not going to see things the same way we do all the time. He's not going to process the same way we do. Some, of us need more time, less time, more volume, less volume, whatever. and just to recognize that God put us together and God is committed to helping us stay together. And so always just running back to him and asking for help there. And I love what you said about girlfriends, too. girlfriends, it's so important to have girlfriends. And guys, it's important for them to have men friends. But one of the things that I discovered not too terribly long into our marriage was that one of the things that made me the most crazy about Dave was he didn't behave like my girlfriends. No, because, my girlfriends are so intuitive. And they see, even before I ask, almost, they'll notice she needs help or she needs something. And I have three sisters. And so, boy, I grew up in a very intuitive environment where we were all just all about seeing in advance what the other people needed and taking care of those things. And he's a hunter, Fisher builder, car repair man. I mean, he's like macho man, and he just doesn't have that at all. And so, what was so beautiful, though, was that I realized I really didn't want to marry a girl. In the end, I was happy to have him and that I could deal with this because I could go to girlfriends for those kinds of things. And this is how God set it up. When we go into our marriage, thinking that one person is going to satisfy every need that we have emotionally, friendship wise, it's unrealistic. And if they come in expecting that from us, that also is unrealistic. we're all

expected to go to God for our serious needs. And sometimes God uses our spouse. SometimeS he uses a friend, a counselor, a pastor, ah song ah on the radio. He uses all kinds of stuff.

## **Find out your spouse's love language and to know your own love language**

Speaker A: So whenever you do get married, though, it is that you need to put your spouse as number one. And one of the things I like to say is now, I don't mean past God, right? But number one in the household, the saying that whenever we leave our father and our mother and we marry our spouse, that is one of the most important things, is that, number one, everybody has a sign around their neck that says, make me feel important. And your spouse has that sign that says, make me feel important. How are you making your spouse feel important? And it's important to know those love languages, because sometimes that love language is not a gift. It's not maybe doing something for somebody, but it is what is their love language. And so it's important to find out your spouse's love language and to know your own love language, because that contributes a lot. my top love language is time. And so anytime my husband would start getting too busy, because I would be busy too, we would get too busy. Let's see.

Speaker A: I would start having a deficit of, I guess, attention or time with him or whatever. And, I'm trying to think what I used to call that. My, time ometer. My love ometer. I like to make up words and, I say, I can't remember now, my love ometer is getting a little low or whatever. I need a little time. I need a little attention. We need to do something together. We need to do something new. And earlier you said like that third type of man, where he's satisfied, he's satisfied, he doesn't need much change. He just doesn't need much. But, others of us need a little change. We need a little stepping it up, whether it's going on a trip or, just paying attention to each other. But that sign around people around our spouse's neck is everything, because we all wear that sign around our neck.

Speaker B: And I think we talked about kind of coming back full circle. Then we talked about confidence earlier. And honestly, the more confident that we are in who we are in Christ, the more available we are to help other people feel special and loved, because we recognize just how amazingly loved we are. And you can't ever give away something you don't have. If you don't feel loved, you're actually not going to do very well. At making others feel loved.

Speaker A: And as you say, confidence. Having confidence helps us not pay so much attention to ourselves and to pay more attention to the other person because we are confident. Now, I go in and out of confidence sometimes. high energy, very confident, low energy, no confidence that way.

## **You've been married 40 years; what have you learned about marriage**

Speaker A: Well, one last thing. Would you like to share? As we're thinking about Christmas, you're thinking about your 40 years of marriage. what else would you like to share?

Speaker B: I think one of the things we learned, because we are both so strong willed and opinionated, and I always say I have an opinion about pretty much everything. Me too. I just don't need anybody to hear them all. I have them, but I don't need to have it my own way every time or even to voice them all. But I have so many opinions. And so what would help us is that, before, if we could know in advance that this was going to be a tough topic, or if we got going and realized, oh, we're getting in over our heads, know, kind of like your monkey, we, would just pause and pray. And what happens is that when you pray, you recognize that both of you are just standing as sinners at the bottom of a cross where Jesus died to cover all of that with grace, with love, with mercy. And then, as we would communicate further, we would be communicating on an even playing field where we're both just sinners saved by grace. And it was like we don't actually go around seeing ourselves as sinners, but that's where we were. We were sinners. And God brought us into this position of child, of the king. And as we would go into our communication that way, we would come in much more humbly, humbly than when we came in thinking, I have an idea. This is how it should go.

Speaker A: And that's your system, right?

Speaker B: Kind of. That's kind of what we do.

## **Many people don't realize what Christmas even is**

Speaker A: Well, today's code word, because I'm going to have a code word for, all the first seven episodes. And Marnie's code word is blessing. And as you see, she has shared, ah, her

true faith. And that takes me back just for a second, to Christmas, because so many people don't realize what Christmas even is. It's not just buying gifts, know, being overwhelmed with parties and gatherings and shopping. But Christmas began with Jesus and Jesus birth. And Christmas is the birth of Christ. And that's why December every know Christmas is a special, special time, and it's pure and it's clean. And Jesus came to take away our sins.

## **Marnie hosts a Christian women's speakers business called Holidays Strategies Summit**

Speaker A: And so Marnie I want you to share a little bit about your business, because you have a special Christian women's speakers business, and, heaven knows what else you do. I think you do a million things well, for sure.

Speaker B: And I think. Are we giving away, a summit pass here today, I think, to the Holidays Strategies Summit?

Speaker A: Oh, yes. If that's what I want to give it, yeah.

Speaker B: So if you guys, we just had a, ah, holiday Strategies Summit with twelve trainers all talking about ways to keep Christ in the center of Christmas, but also how to reduce your stress, save time, save money, enjoy your family, kind of work with some of those tricky family members, host parties, things like that. And so I want to gift you guys, they're usually \$37 for the summit sets, but Connie said I could give you a free gift. And so that's what we're giving away today, is access to that whole set. And the trainings are available right now, so just go ahead and wherever the link is for that, go ahead and get that. And then, what else? So I host summits, which are always for women. we have attendees from all over the world, and many of our speakers come from womenspeakers.com, which is a site that God put in my heart to start in 2002. So we're like, 21 years old, which is crazy. And we have 1400 speakers over there being booked. a lot of our speakers live around the world, being booked to travel around the world. It's just so fun to just sit on the backside of that and watch what God does and how he actually connects everything and gets all of everything done around the whole world that needs to be done. It's just so amazing to serve him and to work with him. But I love that. I've written 14 books. They're mostly how to books. my most recent book might be perfect for someone, you know, for Christmas, which is spiritual growth. This is a safe place

to explore your spirituality. And this is for people who have ruled out Jesus for whatever reason, and they don't want anybody to talk to them about Jesus anymore. And this book is for them. It goes to 31 days of just asking simple questions about what are you really looking for in a spiritual guide? And then at the end, it has a religion, comparison guide that just compares all the different options that they, you know me, I just know Jesus wins hands down, and God can communicate to any seeking heart. And so, for those of you who have loved ones who've ruled out Jesus, we've just been seeing amazing things happen with this book as people are able to, in the quiet of their own heart, actually be honest about what they're looking for in a God.

Speaker A: And, Barney, I loved that in your book, because I always think Jesus goes back 2000 years, and many,

Speaker B: Religious.

Speaker A: organizations have come forward between here and there. And so I loved looking at all the different religious, organizations and, yeah, how they were. So I really enjoyed that in your book.

### **Connie Durham welcomes Marnie to The Extraordinary Marriage podcast**

Speaker A: All right, so let me tell you today, like I said, actually, this is episode nine. Now that I'm thinking about it, it is episode. You know, this is just my second month of doing the podcast, and so I'm kind of getting confused. But, so this will air in December. And, Marnie, I just thank you so much. Since I hooked up with you a couple of years ago, we did a summit together, and we've talked in between and we've done things, and I just appreciate you so much and respect you so much. you're a leader in your field and a great example to many, and I thank you for being with me today.

Speaker B: Oh, thanks, Connie. I love you. I love your heart, and I love what God's got you doing in the world. So thanks for having me here.

Speaker A: It's fun continually growing and giving out to others, right? Thanks, Marnie. If you've been encouraged today, please hit subscribe and help me spread the word by sharing with your friends. You'll find show notes and how you can connect with today's



guest@theextraordinarymarriage.com. Get ready to uncover the best kept secrets of happy, healthy marriages and gain the power of understanding how you and your spouse think, act, and respond differently. Learn more about the unique communication secrets for marriage at, theextraordinarymarriage.com. This is your host, Connie Durham, and I'll see you next week.