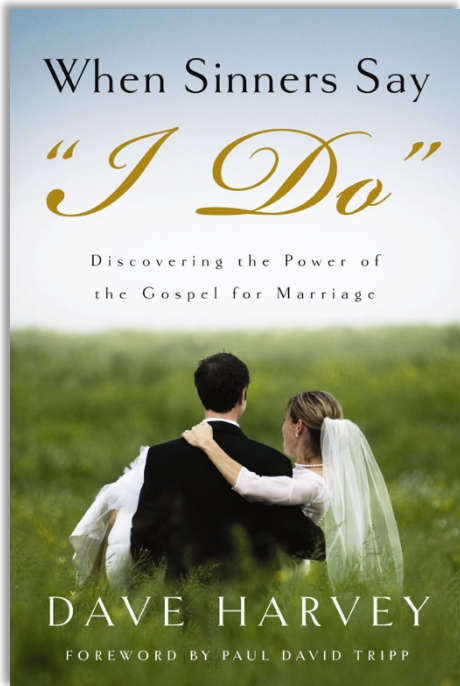


book of the month

When Sinners Say I Do-Dave Harvey



When Sinners Say I Do has proven to perhaps be the most influential book besides the Bible in my life. While the book is written particularly with marriage in mind, it is must read material for all. In very easy-to-read fashion, Dave Harvey lays out how the gospel should impact your relationships with other people. This book is all about *how to apply the gospel* to relationships, and it accomplishes that goal very well.

What would happen in your marriage—what would happen in your interactions with your kids, parents, coworkers, neighbors, others in the church, even the cashier or customer service agent—if you were to go into those interactions more aware of *God’s grace toward you* than the other person’s sin?

The result is that I am quicker to see my own sin, quicker to repent, quicker to forgive, and better positioned to love, to help my spouse/friend/neighbor fight sin, and glorify God together.

The book begins by laying out the truth that you are a sinner. Not just as a theological abstraction, but in reality, I am the biggest sinner I know—and I have sinned against God! This would be horrible, depressing news if not for the good news, the gospel, of God’s grace-filled salvation of sinners. Knowing the depth of my sin will make me quick to suspect myself in the midst of conflict and quick to

forgive. It is the one who has first seen and dealt with the log in his own eye who is well positioned to get the splinter out of his wife’s eye.

The result in my own life and marriage has been increased joy in God, more peace at home, less sin, greater forgiveness, improved freedom in conversation, better devotion, and truer love. I have read this book more than 10 times and have benefited each time.

There is no book I recommend more highly about marriage. It is easily read in one month.

Jacob Hanila

Plan: How will you complete this book in one month? Consider reading with your spouse, making time each week to discuss.

Read:

Week 1

- Preface
- 1. What Really Matters in Marriage
- 2. Waking Up with the Worst of Sinners

Week 2

- 3. The Fog of War and the Law of Sin
- 4. Taking It Out for a Spin
- 5. Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment

Week 3

- 6. Forgiveness, Full, and Free
- 7. The Surgeon, the Scalpel, and the Spouse in Sin

Week 4

- 8. Stubborn Grace
- 9. Concerning Sex
- 10. When Sinners Say Goodbye

Think: When reading (the Bible or anything else), it’s wise to read with a pencil in hand and your mind on, interacting with what you read. Mark up your book as you read. Each week answer at least the following questions and discuss with somebody.

Week 1: -How does a robust and accurate view of your own sin improve your marriage?

- What does it mean to think of yourself as “the worst of sinners?” How will seeing yourself this way help your marriage?
- What regular practice will help you remember and apply what you learned here?

Week 2: -What is one way that you most see God’s grace at work in your spouse? Tell him/her.

- What is one way that you most see the law of sin at work in your own heart. Confess this to your spouse.

Week 3: -What is forgiveness? In light of chapter 6, how does “forgiveness” in your marriage need to change?

- Consider pp 124-6 “Diagnostic Preop” thinking of last time you addressed sin in your spouse. How did you do?
- Ask your spouse “How do I most need to grow in my ‘surgical’ skill in addressing your sin?” Answer this for yourself too.

Week 4: -What does “For one look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ” mean? How must this affect your life and marriage?

- What is/are the most influential thing(s) you need to remember from this book? How will you ensure that you will remember and be applying it a year from now?