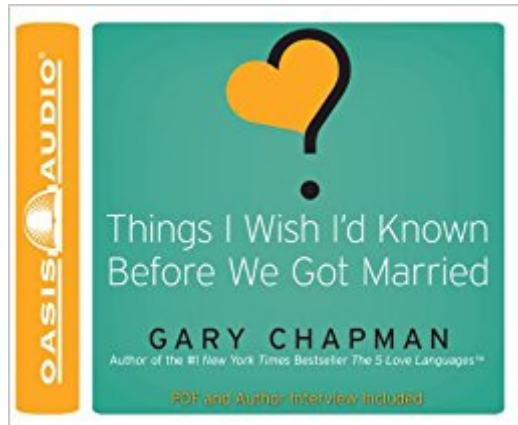




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# Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married



## Synopsis

Before you plan your wedding, plan your marriage! Wish you could know what you're getting into when you say "I do"? Now, with *Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married*, you can. Dr. Gary Chapman, #1 New York Times best-selling author of *The 5 Love Languages*, has spent the last thirty-five years counseling couples. In *Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married*, he shares what he and these couples have learned from experience. Among the twelve things you should know: that being in love is not enough to make a successful marriage, that romantic love has two stages (and how to make the transition), that mutual sexual fulfillment is not automatic, and that personality profoundly affects behavior. The stakes on marriage are high, but the rewards of preparing are even higher. Whether you're single or dating, this audio can be your relationship blueprint and help you decide if and when you're ready to tie the knot. If you're engaged, even recently married, it will help you examine your relationship foundation and learn the skills necessary for building a successful marriage. *Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married* was written to help you realize your goal of marital happiness. But don't just listen to it • experience it. Grapple with the practical tips and ideas discussed, honestly share your thoughts and feelings, respect each other's opinions, and find workable solutions to your differences. The more you do so, says Chapman, the more you will be prepared for marriage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Chapman provides a compact discussion of the skills couples need to manage the challenges

involved in a mature marriage. The veteran counselor and author, whose Christian sensibilities are more loving than doctrinaire, uses his own early marriage struggles to illustrate how easy it is to underestimate the work that long-term partnerships require. Succinct chapters on topics like family-of-origin habits, attitudes about money, sexual fulfillment, household chores, and making apologies unfold seamlessly with the help of narrator and fellow Christian radio personality Chris Fabry. His appealing enthusiasm makes this wisdom sparkle with promise. Questions for premarital conversations follow each chapter and can help couples see where the challenges will be when being "in love" evolves into the daily work of emotional intimacy and issues of compatibility." — T.W. © AudioFile Portland, Maine

Gary Chapman is the author of the bestselling 5 Love Languages series and the director of Marriage and Family Life Consultants, Inc. Gary travels the world presenting seminars, and his radio programs air on more than 250 stations.

Dr. Chapman is the author of the best-selling book, "The Five Love Languages".

WHAT READERS CAN LEARN FROM THIS BOOK

1. Feelings of being "in love" cannot sustain a marriage, since the average life-span of these feelings is about two years. What sustains a marriage is spouses learning to communicate love in the forms that are most received by their partner.
2. We will often develop uncanny similarities to our parents, including their drinking habits, communication patterns, energy levels, and appearance.
3. Resolving marital disagreements without arguing. Truly listening to the other spouse in order to give an adequate summary of his or her perspective. Agreeing to disagree. Learning to compromise.
4. The importance of spouses making effective apologies for wrongdoing. Learning to speak your spouse's language of apology is more effective than just saying you are sorry. The five different ways of apologizing are 1) expressing regret, 2) accepting responsibility, 3) making restitution, 4) genuinely expressing the desire to change your behavior, and 5) requesting forgiveness.
5. Forgiveness is one's decision to offer grace instead of demanding justice.
6. How spouses can agree on doing which household chores.
7. How spouses can most effectively manage their money, and what common major mistakes to avoid, such as purchasing a home they cannot afford, going out to eat too often, buying new cars, and buying too much alcohol. How to live on 80% of your income, give 10% to charity, and save 10%. How couples can agree not to buy something over a certain amount without consulting the other.
8. Resolving common sexual difficulties. Overcoming the myth that husband and wife must reach climax together. A husband should spend sufficient time caressing his wife. A husband participating in household chores will

often increase desire in his wife for him. Spouses should only engage in sexual acts they are both comfortable with.<sup>9</sup> How spouses can develop good relationships with their in-laws, by learning to listen empathetically to them, speaking their particular love languages to them, and alternating holidays with them.<sup>10</sup> Spiritual compatibility in marriage has more to do with what each spouse believes in the way God speaks to them and what He has said.<sup>11</sup> How spouses can live with a partner who has very different habits, including Morning person vs. Night person, Optimist vs. Pessimist, Neat vs. Messy, Talker vs. Non-talker, Passive vs. Aggressive, Logical thinkers vs. Intuitive person, and Organizer vs. Spontaneous person.<sup>12</sup> Having a balanced dating relationship by attending to these areas of growth: Intellectual, Emotional, Social, Spiritual, and Physical.

Not as good as his other books. It's fine, but I could have done without it. It didn't add anything to my relationship or prepare me for marriage any more than those "100 questions you should ask before you get married" or pre-cana questionnaires you can find everywhere online for free. Moral of the whole book IMO? Talk to each other and listen... You're welcome.

I ordered this because I've been dating same guy for some time. We've both been married before and I wanted us to either have some premarital counseling or do a couple's study together before we make any "major" decision. I highly respect Gary Chapman's wisdom and godly advice and this book showed up in my Googling. I just finished the first chapter, and am waiting for the boyfriend and I to discuss tonight. My best girlfriend has already asked for a copy of this book, and she's on her second marriage.

What a great book for couples who are considering or planning for marriage. We have used this material for premarital couples counseling. Its a very easy read and extremely practical.

I read this book a couple weeks before getting married and Gary Chapman is quickly becoming a favorite authors! Simple and down to earth writing style makes it feel like I'm having a conversation with a friend over a cup of coffee rather than reading a book. This book helped me to have more realistic expectations of what the first few weeks and months of married life would be like and the challenges we might encounter so I was better prepared to handle them and even confronted them before they became an issue at all! I would recommend this book to anyone considering marriage or even planning their wedding only a couple weeks away! Great read!

This book has some really important things for anyone to make note of if they are in a serious relationship and are looking forward to getting married. If you are already married, like me, you should still get it. It really does make you think about a lot of things and how you should look at those things or how you can attempt to fix it. The five love languages and five ways to apologize are both very important. If you can understand and use these concepts and also get your partner to understand and apply them, you're on your way to an awesome marriage.

A real eye opening on minute things that make a huge difference in marriage and can either make or break a home. I see this book as a reference point that will help to talk thru things we usually won't see as relevant discussions in relationships but they really are. I look forward to utilizing some of the great concepts in future relationship n marriage.

Exceptional book; every engaged and married couple should read this!!

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