

Book of the Month

December 2010

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

Love & War: Finding the Marriage You've Dreamed Of.
John and Stasi Eldredge. Doubleday. New York. 2009.

John and Stasi Eldredge have captured the reality of what marriage truly is in their new book, *Love & War*. (I love the title!) Describing it as "perfect madness," they paint a picture of marriage that leaves the reader both full of apprehension and hope. The book's message can be succinctly captured in three short phrases: Marriage is hard. Marriage, with God's help, can be done. Marriage is worth it.

You'll enjoy the humor of a book that describes marriage as taking Cinderella and Huck Finn, tossing them in a submarine, and closing the hatch! With candid illustrations from their own lives, John and Stasi explain that no marriage can become healthy and strong unless the "defining wounds" from the past are healed and unless the spiritual attacks that come against your home from the outside are shut down. They make it clear that the greatest thing any spouse can do for their marriage is to develop a vital and authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. Perhaps the greatest contribution of this book is its insistence that every marriage needs a mission, a cause greater than itself.

A beautiful you and a beautiful me in a beautiful place forever is not the right vision for a marriage. It backfires on you; it betrays you. For one thing, it ain't gonna happen. Not until heaven. You will feel hurt and you'll look for someone to blame if you hold on to this as your life's goal. And besides, the vision is too self-centered, too inwardly turned. Like a bad toenail. It doesn't provide the sense of a shared mission God created us for. (p. 114)

John and Stasi tell the story of how their marriage was transformed when they began to seek first the Kingdom of God and dream of how their relationship might bring the Gospel to the world in a fresh way.

Pastor Stan Key