



New Beginnings Marriage Ministry

Living Joyfully and United as One

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one." Matthew 19:5-6a

Kristen and Lawrence Clark
Married November 19, 2005
Houston, TX

In our effort to live joyfully and united as one, Lawrence and I like to interview couples about the success of their marriage. One of the questions we ask every couple is "How did you two meet?" Recently, we were asked that very question and we thought it might be fun to share a little about that experience with you.

Lawrence and I met through eHarmony. eHarmony is an online dating service that uses their patented Compatibility Matching System® to narrow the field from millions of single men or women to match interested parties with a highly select group of compatible singles -- singles who have been prescreened on 29 Dimensions™ of personality (scientific predictors of long-term relationship success).

If you can't tell, we're big fans! Anyway, before canceling his service, Lawrence sent to me the following email. I think it best explains how we first met. I hope you enjoy it!

Dear Kristen,

This is my last day on eHarmony, so I thought I'd write you a brief note to let you know why I am canceling my membership.

When I joined eHarmony, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Having recently ended a 2-yr long, off-and-on, extremely dysfunctional relationship, I had spent several months getting my spiritual and emotional house in order. Through prayer, meditation, and self-reflection, I came to the conclusion that I needed and wanted someone to share the rest of my life with. I knew I was not ready yet for another committed relationship, but I knew that if that were to EVER happen again in my life, I was going to do it the RIGHT way, with the RIGHT person, and with GOD's blessing and support. If not, I was content to remain single for the rest of my life, if that were to be God's will.

My initial experience with eHarmony was quite overwhelming. I received no matches at all for the first wee; then they began pouring in at an almost alarming rate! Although I received hundreds of matches and dozens of requests for communication, I was very picky about who I would communicate with and



New Beginnings Marriage Ministry

Living Joyfully and United as One

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one." Matthew 19:5-6a

who I would actually meet in person. Over a 4 month period, I managed to personally meet several attractive and interesting women, but after 1 or 2 dates realized that none of them were worth pursuing.

On October 19th, though, I had dinner with a beautiful, intelligent, funny, and most importantly, Godly young woman with whom I felt an immediate rapport and strong comfort level. I knew at that point that there was something very special about her.

After the second date, which lasted 4 or 5 hours, I decided that she was not only worth pursuing, but that I would do everything in my power to do so and felt a strong leading from God that this was the right thing to do. The funny thing is that nothing ever felt forced on either end. She seemed to be just as attracted to and impressed by me as I was with her, and I was very glad about that!

By the third date, I knew for sure that this incredible woman was going to be a part of my life for a very long time to come. I had already put off meeting or communicating much with any of my other eHarmony matches, and shortly after wrote them each a "Dear Jane" email.

Now, two months after our first meeting, I am overjoyed to say that my first impressions and thoughts about this woman have been confirmed in many ways. I have fallen in love with the woman of my dreams, with someone especially designed by God to meet my needs, excite my desires, comfort me, build me up, and be a fellow servant to Christ and "doer" of His Word.

I hope you will understand that I will no longer be communicating with you through eHarmony, as this wonderful woman has captured my heart and my imagination. I hope that eHarmony has been as life-changing an experience for you as it has for me.

I'll see you in the "real" world, my love . . .

Lawrence

Sweet, isn't it? One year later we were married, and that was nearly four years ago.



New Beginnings Marriage Ministry

Living Joyfully and United as One

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one." Matthew 19:5-6a

Finding this email was a special treat for me. I thought it might be for Lawrence as well, and so I showed it to him and reminded him about how we used to send each other sweet and slobbery love notes when we first started dating, like this one. (The word slobbery was what came to mind to describe the type of love letters that drip and gush with love and excitement.)

His response? He licked me across the cheek, then said, "Emphasis on the word *slobbery*."

Yes, I love this man!