

An Impossible Marriage

What Our Mixed-Orientation Marriage Has Taught Us About Love and the Gospel

November 3, 2020 | \$17, 220 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4793-8

“This book is the gritty, real story of two people laying down their natural defaults toward not oneness with each other, thereby demonstrating to a watching world how the impossible marriage between them and God is possible.”

—Matt and Laurie Krieg

Mixed-Orientation Marriage, Love, and the Gospel

Laurie and Matt Krieg are in a mixed-orientation marriage: a marriage in which at least one partner’s primary attraction isn’t toward the gender of their spouse. In the Krieges’ case, Laurie is primarily attracted to women—and so is Matt.

Some find the idea of mixed-orientation marriage bewildering or even offensive. But as the Krieges have learned, nothing is impossible with God—and that’s as true of their marriage as anyone else’s. In *An Impossible Marriage*, the Krieges tell their story: how they met and got married, the challenges and breakthroughs of their journey, and what they’ve learned about marriage along the way. Christianity teaches us that marriage is a picture of Jesus’ love for the church—and that’s just as true in a mixed-orientation marriage as in a straight one.

- Tells the story of the authors’ mixed-orientation marriage
- Wrestles with the theological, spiritual, and practical questions around the phenomenon of mixed-orientation marriage
- Considers what Christian marriage is in the context of our culture’s changing definitions



LAURIE KRIEG is a writer, speaker, and ministry leader whose mission is to teach the church how to approach sexuality with the gospel.

LaurieKrieg.com

Follow Laurie on Twitter: @Laurie_Krieg

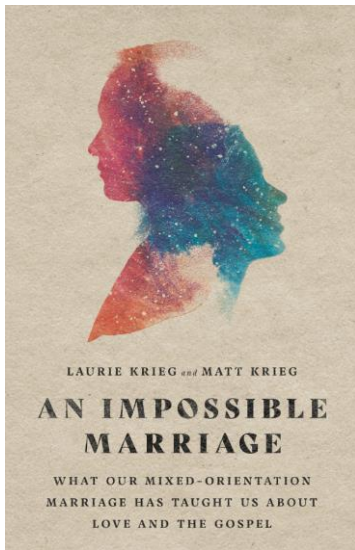


MATT KRIEG is a licensed professional counselor and director of counseling at Caring Well Counseling. Together Laurie and Matt host the *Hole in My Heart* podcast. They live with their three children in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



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Q & A



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“People Say Our Marriage is Impossible.”

Why did you two decide to write this personal book about mixed-orientation marriage?

Laurie & Matt Krieg: This wasn't the book we wanted to write. It's super controversial. We didn't think we wanted to share that story. It didn't make us look good: I almost left him for a woman. He almost imploded our marriage with porn addiction and deceit.

But our impossible marriage did make God look good—and that is the focus of our lives. So, after much prayer, we hesitantly pitched a proposal to IVP. We were surprised from a human perspective that it got green light so quickly but were not surprised from a spiritual perspective: We really believe God wanted this book published right now, and our very hesitance in putting it out there makes us all the surer. God gets the glory.

What is the story and message behind *An Impossible Marriage*?

Laurie & Matt: People look at our marriage and say, “That’s impossible.” My default sexual attraction is toward women, but I’m married to a dude. How does that work? “That’s . . . impossible.”

Yeah. It is. And it’s absolutely impossible if the glue holding marriage together is natural attraction to your spouse.

But ask anyone married more than two seconds if they are always naturally attracted to their spouse. Likely, they aren't. And that's kind of the point.

The primary purpose of Christian marriages is not sexual fulfillment stemming from natural attraction.

The primary purpose of Christian marriages is to serve as a billboard to tell the world, “God loves you this much.”

“‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.” (Eph 5:31-32 NLT)

The “great mystery” is not that two people are attracted to each other and get hitched. The “great mystery” is that God wants to marry us.

Jesus laid down his life to be one with us. We are called to lay down our lives to be one with him. Are you always naturally attracted to God? No, but we are called to be one with him. Is he naturally attracted to us, the church? Yes, because he is a perfect God.

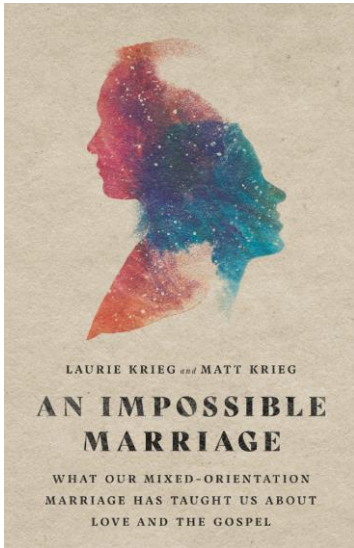


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However, we imperfect married people are called to serve as a metaphor of this gospel reality: Husband and wives—regardless of attraction—are to lay down their lives to be one with each other to show the world how much God loves them.

Attraction has very little to do with this.

The gospel has everything to do with this.

But, how does this metaphor work in our real-life impossible marriage? Matt and I open up the gritty and glorious reality.

What do you hope readers discover through your story and *An Impossible Marriage*?

Laurie & Matt:

- Human marriage is a metaphor of the marriage between Christ and the church.
- Mixed-orientation marriage isn't so different from heterosexual marriage.
- The greatest issue for MOMs is that we don't feel safe talking about our issues with straight-only couples.
- All biblical marriages are impossible without Christ.
- Sex is not the primary glue of marriages.
- Male/female gender difference in marriage is not a cosmic joke but cosmic design. It's a metaphor of the ontological difference in the marriage between God and humanity.



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