

# Fireproof Faith

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I recently rented Fireproof to see what the craze was all about. What was it about this movie that was causing the Christian masses to reevaluate their marriages? I had heard how this movie was to change the way we view marriage in our culture.

A co-worker told me how everyone involved in the project did not want Hollywood's money because they believed in the movie's message and in God's love. I have to be honest, when I rented the movie; I was looking for a good chick flick for a single gal's *night in*.

We have all been bombarded by television and movies about how love, relationships, and marriage should be so I wasn't expecting anything less from this movie. It would be those same messages and themes, just on a smaller budget. What I got by the ending credits was so much more.

The movie's main characters are the Holts; a young married couple that could fit in Any Town, USA. In fact, the couple could be any married couple out there: hard working and with their share of problems.

Most romantic movies get caught up in how the two main characters will find and fall in love with each other, then ride off into the sunset. (In these romantic movies, I often find myself getting caught up in the drama of it all, wondering when the girl would put down her pride and finally realize the man who obviously loves her.)

The biggest difference about this movie from the rest out there is this: Fireproof picks up where most of mainstream romantic movies end. Fireproof is many years after the couple has ridden off into the sunset. The movie focuses on how the Holts have neglected each other and their marriage, which results in the marriage falling apart. It also pinpoints how through genuine acts of selflessness and forgiveness centered on Christ, the two can fall back in love with each other.

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Fireproof is more than just a guide on how to have a successful marriage. The movie also drives home a point that is essential to Catholic teaching. Before we are ever married to another human being; we are already in a relationship with Christ.

We as Catholics make up the body of Christ, which is the bride of Christ. We are in a covenant with Christ, a sacred bond that cannot be torn apart; exactly like marriage.

Just like the Holts, we often neglect this relationship by putting our needs and wants ahead of the relationship. Key elements to a successful relationship are to have open communication as well as commitment.

With Christ, we have to be willing to honestly talk about what is going on in our lives. The difficult part is we have to be open to how Christ responds. We also must be committed enough to follow Christ, even if the path He is leading us on is not what we like.

In a marriage, spouses must sometimes sacrifice, compromise their own wants and remain committed. They must do these things especially in the difficult times. Christ, as our spouse, has already done all of this for us. He has already been the ultimate spouse by dying for us so we can live. How often do we die to ourselves for Christ? How often do we sacrifice what we want in order to have a successful covenant with Christ?

By the end of the movie, I realized that I got more out of a single girl's *night in*. I realized before I could have a successful relationship with anyone else, either romantic or platonic, I would have to rebuild my relationship with Christ.

I could not be a good friend, sister, or daughter until I made my way back to Christ and ask for forgiveness. The Holts had to work around busy schedules to come back together and rebuild their relationship. For me, I did not have to wait for Christ to find a free moment because he has been patiently waiting all along.