

# THE IRON BRIEFING



DECEMBER 2020

## THIS MONTH'S SCRIPTURE:

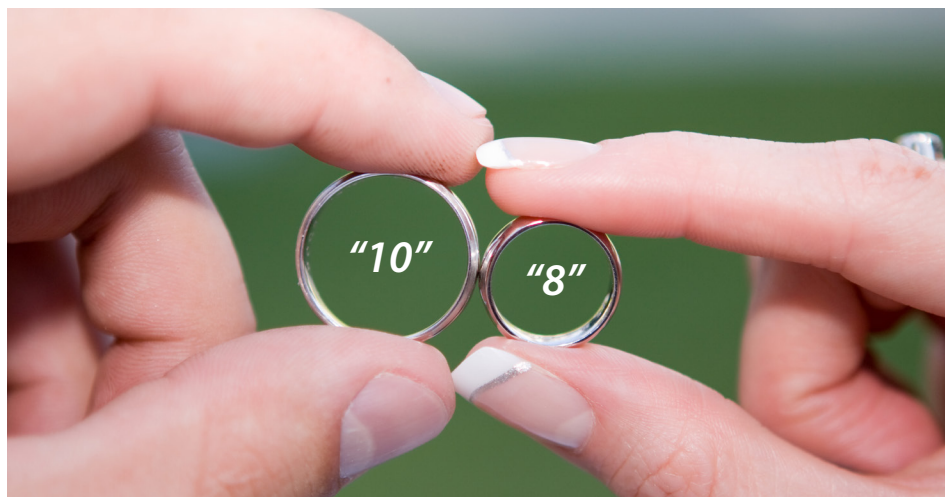
I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

- Ephesians 1:18-19

*We are reminded that our hope is in being called into a relationship with Christ and with it we receive the riches of His glory and great power.*

## "Oneness in Marriage — Don't Just Keep Score"

- BARRY LUSK, IRON FORUMS FACILITATOR



How do you approach the "marriage" portion of your monthly Snapshot? In full transparency, there are some months that I feel like Tracy and I are doing so good that I fill out my Snapshot days before I need to, just so that I can get our marriage scores down before I blow it! Then there have been other months that I approach it like I used to approach a bad progress report that required a parent signature. As soon as it was time to head to the bus stop, I'd run upstairs with promises to "do better" and my mom would hastily have to sign her name, or even worse, it was so bad that I would sign her name for her. Can you relate?

We need to remember the marriage portion of our snapshot, is not primarily about the score, it is for us to have a conversation with our wives that leads to a deeper marital oneness. During this pandemic, the enemy has fought against this oneness in a variety of known and unknown ways in our marriages and it is time for us to rise up and fight back for the oneness God calls us to. We may need to pursue her in a fresh way, we may need confess our apathy, we may need to carve out time and money for a date night or even a weekend getaway! We may just need to turn off our devices, sit face-to-face and have a conversation about life, faith, feelings, hopes and dreams. I want to encourage you think and pray about doing this for your own marriage.

In February, several of our in-person forums are going to invite our wives to a combined lunch/content session focusing on biblical oneness in marriage. Look for an email soon, and your facilitator will share more details.

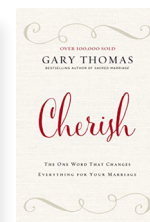
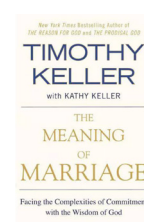
In the meantime, I offer up these resources to Google and find some help in this area (whether you need it or not). 😊

### RETREATS TO LOOK INTO:



**WinShape Marriage**

### BOOKS TO CHECK OUT:



## FORUM UPDATES

Please continue to pray for our new Forum opportunities as we seek the Lord's plans for our new Alpharetta GA, Kinston NC, and Virtual Forums.

The **Alpharetta Forum** successfully launched with 11 men in September, and had 2 visitors in October and 3 in November.

The **Kinston Forum** is still being formed, and we are praying for a launch in early 2021.

The new **Virtual Forum** is scheduled for every 3rd Friday of the month from 7:30-11:00 am. This Forum is designed to help build community for those men who can't join an existing Forum.

## BOARD MEMBERS

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## TRACTION TIP



Many companies use corporate values in their marketing plans to attract customers. They're missing it. Your corporate values describe your culture, the way you are inside the four walls — not how you want the outside world to view you. Discovering and using your values to nurture your culture gives vision to every employee, creating a sense of belonging.

Values are not selected from a list — they are discovered. You evaluate what stands out to you about those you respect and enjoy working with. Those characteristics are your values.

Values must be clarified. Simply putting "Responsiveness," for example, on a list isn't enough. Your entire team should know what you mean when you say "I want you to be responsive." Describe it. Tell stories about it. Tell them what it isn't. Bring clarity so that it's easy for everyone to know "what it's like us to do" when it comes to responsiveness.

Values also help you filter candidates, recognize and reward your employees, and, if necessary, to identify those who are toxic to your organization and help them move on to another culture that would be a better fit for them.

Do you and your team know your values? Are you using them to hire, fire, review, reward, and recognize people to nurture the right culture? I'd be happy to talk to you about it.

**Brent Stromwall;**  
**bstromwall@odigos.llc.**

## Iron Forums Lawn Party 2020

We defied the odds and a great time was had by nearly 60 Iron Forums members and wives as we enjoyed an outdoor party at Gary and Margaret Smith's house in Suwanee on Sunday, Nov. 8th. This is what the Iron Forums community is all about — sharing as the Body of Christ in family and business leadership.



## Every Word 2021

One of our core values in Iron Forums is TRUTH. Jesus prayed for us to be sanctified by the truth (John 17:17) and He told us that we do not live on bread alone but on EVERY WORD that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). We want to invite you to take a journey through the entire Bible next year. Whether you have done so multiple times or perhaps never before, we believe God will bring great transformation in the lives of all who will participate. For more details, please contact **Barry Lusk** at **blusk@ironforums.org**.