

# Strike the Original Match

Termites in Your Troth

EPHESIANS 5:13–21



## The Heart of the Matter

It is a proven fact that termites destroy more structures each year than fire does. Incredible as it may seem, tiny, silent, unnoticed insects create greater havoc than lashing, brutal, destructive flames—but it's always the fire that makes the headlines, not the termites. This is also true in a marriage. Most homes are not destroyed because of enormous, headline-making fires . . . but because of the quiet, gnawing, unnoticed, irritating *insects* that eat away at the troth, or trust, in a relationship year after year. This message exposes five of the more common species of relational termites that weaken and ruin the inner walls of a home.



## Discovering the Way

1. Inspection Report (Song of Solomon 2:14–15)

We must make it our habit to examine our marriages, ensuring that they are protected from destruction.

2. Destructive Termites (Ephesians 5:13–21)

Paul outlined five common “termites” that work quietly to destroy marriages: the confused termite, the busy termite, the dull termite, the running termite, and the stubborn termite.

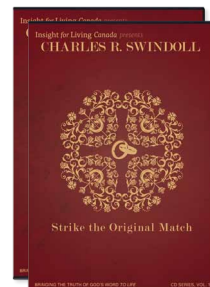


## Starting Your Journey

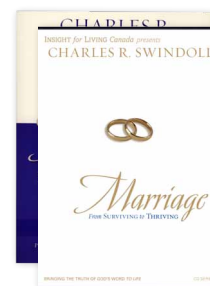
Overcoming the pests that threaten our marriages involves honesty about their presence, a willingness to sacrifice for their removal, and the discipline to start immediately.



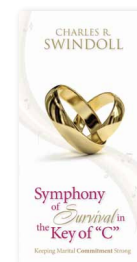
## Tools for Digging Deeper



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