

Writing a mission statement for your life and relationship can be extremely beneficial, as a mission can help to guard you from burnout and personal crisis; however, there are things you'll want to keep in mind when you're drafting it to keep from accidentally creating specific goals.

The difference between mission statements and goals are simply:

- **Mission Statement:** a combined, unified expression of what you are all about — what it is you really want to do and be — and the principles you choose to govern your life. In short, it's your reason for existing. *So: Why do you or your relationship/marriage exist?*
- **Goals:** desired markers for specific, measurable results along the way in your life which help you accomplish what you've stated in your mission. (i.e. "by year 5 we want to buy our first home and begin a family.") *This is worded very differently from your mission statement!*

So now let's begin to write your Mission Statement! Below are two major things to think about incorporating into yours.

Creating Intentional **Culture** in Your Marriage

Here are some questions to ask yourselves if you need to spark some thoughts:

- *What is the purpose of our marriage?*
- *What kind of partners do we want to be?*
- *How do we want to treat each other?*
- *What kind of feeling do we want to have in our home?*
- *How do we want to resolve our differences?*
- *How will we support each other in our future goals?*
- *What principles do we want to teach our children to help them prepare for adulthood and lead responsible, caring lives?*
- *What roles will each of us have?*
- *How can we best relate to each other's families?*
- *What traditions do we want to keep and create?*
- *How do we want to give back?*
- *What makes you want to come home?*
- *What do we want to be remembered by?*

Identifying the **Core Values** in Your Relationship

Jim Collins defines a core value as: “something so central you would say, ‘Even if it’s harmful to us, we would still hold on to this value. Even if we had to pay penalties, even if we had to punish our children for violating it, even if we had to deny something that would bring us pleasure, we would still hold to it.’” So what are yours? Here are some ideas to get you going:

- *Adventure*
- *Community*
- *Creativity*
- *Discipline*
- *Education*
- *Faith*
- *Fun*
- *God*
- *Health*
- *Honesty*
- *Hospitality*
- *Humor*
- *Integrity*
- *Kindness*
- *Service*

Examples of Mission Statements

To give you some ideas on what a family mission statement could look like, here are a few examples:

Our family mission is to:¹

- *Value honesty with ourselves and others.*
- *Create an environment where each of us can find support and encouragement in achieving our life’s goals.*
- *Respect and accept each person’s unique personality and talents.*
- *Promote a loving, kind, and happy atmosphere.*
- *Support family endeavors that better society.*
- *Maintain patience through understanding.*
- *Always resolve conflicts with each other rather than harboring anger.*
- *Promote the realization of life’s treasures.*

¹ from *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families*

Our family mission is to:²

- *love each other*
 - *help each other*
 - *believe in each other*
 - *wisely use our time, talents, and resources to bless others*
 - *worship together*
- ... forever.

We ...³

- *love and serve God.*
- *strive to make our home a refuge from the cares and troubles of the world.*
- *do hard things.*
- *are creators, not consumers.*
- *stay hungry and humble.*
- *face adversity with stoicism.*
- *show kindness to our family members and others.*
- *help each other reach our potential.*
- *are devoted to life-long learning.*
- *know that sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven.*
- *face life with a sense of humor and a lot of laughter.*

² Ibid.

³ from artofmanliness.com/featured/creating-a-family-culture-how-and-why-to-create-a-family-mission-statement