

New Man Story

Craig Brown — Victory in the Valley

Craig Brown is President and Owner of the Greenville Drive, a Minor League Baseball team and Class A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. Upon moving the team to Greenville, SC, Craig led the construction of the team's downtown stadium—a "mini" Fenway Park. Prior to purchasing the Drive, Craig had spent 23 years as a senior executive in the advertising industry.

Craig was raised as a Presbyterian in a family which attended church most Sundays. If you had asked him at that time, he would have said he was a Christian—but without knowing the full meaning of what that meant. It wasn't until he went through a difficult "valley" experience as an adult that he came to understand that being a Christian was much more than identifying with a denomination.

About five years into Craig's marriage, he and his wife Vicki had two children and from all appearances were the happiest couple around, were leading the perfect life. However, appearances can be deceptive. Craig was traveling a lot in his career by then and was not at home as much as he should have been. His expectations about family life were based on how his parents lived. That was very different from Vicki's expectations. They weren't meshing and a crisis was brewing.

This unrest drove Vicki back to her Christian roots and she began attending church again—something she and Craig had not done because of his travel and the demands of a young family. Knowing that following Vicki to church was likely the only way he could keep his marriage and family together, he went to church. That was the best decision he ever made.

Shortly thereafter, they attended a video-taped marriage seminar conducted by Dr. John MacArthur. Over a six week period, MacArthur shared God's plan for marriage. Craig had never known there was a "God's Plan" for marriage. He came to understand that love in the context of marriage has much more to do with commitment than it does with emotion—the kind of commitment Jesus made to us by loving us in an unconditional way. Nothing we do changes that.

Those six weeks changed Craig from a "Presbyterian" to a true "Christian" and redirected his attitude and behavior toward loving his wife in the way that Jesus loves him.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you had a "valley" experience that drove you back to church or to take your faith seriously?
2. Have you always considered yourself a Christian? Has that always been the case?
3. What prevails in your marriage—emotion or unconditional commitment? How is that working out?

Click below to watch a 7 minute clip of Craig's MGF talk

<https://vimeo.com/424352187>