

Marriage is For Men and Women Who Love God and One Another

Pt. 5 Your Marriage Can Be Successful

Int.

1. Aim: To show the principle that will make marriages successful
2. Eph. 5:21-33 V. 33 "Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."
 - a. Husband = love wife
 - b. Wife = respect, reverence husband
3. Successful
 - a. Not only those which avoid divorce
 - b. One that reaches the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual levels which God would have marriages to reach.
4. Much value to be gained from successful marriages
 - a. Married partners will have a better life
 - b. Lives of Christians will be enriched
 - c. The Church will be improved
 - d. Whatever helps the church also helps the homes in which there are members of the church.
5. I believe the Bible not only provides the answers to the question of "What must I do to be saved?", but provides man with the answer to his problems of daily living.
6. The importance of building a successful marriage cannot be overestimated.
7. Three main parts: (1) What Both can do (2) What Husbands can do (3) What wives can do to make your marriage successful.

Discussion

I. WHAT BOTH CAN DO FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

A. Christian Character

1. You can't build a strong brick house out of rotten wood
2. You cannot build a successful marriage out of people who have poor character
3. Each person coming to marriage should bring a pure mind and a pure body
4. There is not a double standard - one for men and another for women
5. The standard is: Become a Christian, then live a faithful dedicated Christian
6. Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
7. Christian character is essential to a successful marriage
8. Divorce is unknown where both partners are faithful Christians !

B. True Love

1. Both must recognize the importance of Christian love - 1 Cor. 13
2. Paul explains how people will act when their hearts are filled with love.

C. Expect your love to grow

1. Honeymoon is soon over - heat of passion subsides
2. Love grows deeper and becomes more profound as the years pass by if your love is Christian love
3. A fellow "falls in love" with an airplane and is thrilled at flying it.
4. After a while the newness wears off and he settles down to flying but still he enjoys flying and it becomes more meaningful as he becomes more experiences.

5. Honeymoon in marriage passes but two mature Christians pass into something more profound and more meaningful !
6. Any living organism that does not grow will die.
7. True love grows - this is a requirement of a successful marriage !!

D. Recognize that selfishness is at the bottom of most marriage problems

1. Think about it a while before you deny it.
2. Sometimes other things are involved but most times selfishness is involved.

E. Prepare yourself for marriage

1. Make Christian preparation and you may save yourself a lifetime of sorrow and an eternity of torment
2. If you young people will only date those who will make a good partner, you are making good preparation.
3. Choose someone for marriage who has prepared themselves for marriage

F. Wait until you are mature.

1. Wait until you are mature - physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually
2. Story of a mother who came to a preacher and told how her daughter and boy friend had torn up the marriage license in an argument and thrown them in the fire. She had saved part of the license. She asked the preacher if he would marry the young couple, because they had made up and wanted to get married.
3. Marriage before you are mature may end in the divorce court before you are grown.

4. Then your life may be ruined. You may be unable to remarry again with God's approval. Matt. 19:9 Matt. 5:32-33

5. Marriage that is successful must involve two mature partners.

G. Must learn how to properly handle financial affairs

1. Must learn how to live within their income

2. Put Lord first in financial affairs - decide first what part of income goes to the Lord.

3. We are stewards of everything God gives us - all we have really belongs to him - we are judged by the way we use these things.

H. Do not be led into situations where you are tempted to do evil

1. Paul said "Flee fornication" 1 Cor. 6:18

2. Run away from situations where you might be overly tempted

3. Avoid tempting situations and you will never be guilty of violating the vow you took to be "faithful unto death."

I. Avoid the little quarrels

1. Avoid the quarrels about things that do not amount to much

2. Usually big quarrels are the accumulation of resentment which came about as the result of many little quarrels

3. When you have big quarrels, feelings are hurt, hearts are wounded, and it is sometimes hard to ever recover from them.

4. Avoid the little quarrels about little things and you'll not be likely to have big quarrels about big things.

J. Fight for not against one another

1. You two have become one
2. You two have become one against the world - there are many battles to be fought in this life.
3. Fight with each other not against each other.

K. If you do battle each other, don't do it where others can see or hear.

1. Discuss your problems privately. Don't fuss or argue in front of others.
2. A cutting word hurts bad enough if no one hears, but when others hear it can wound deep enough to seriously damage your marriage
3. Don't criticize each other in front of your children.
4. Best to discuss problem as two Christians who love each other and avoid the squabbles and quarrels

L. Learn to compromise on things that do not really matter

1. Learn to give and take
2. Do not be afraid to admit your companion has a better idea than yours
3. Don't be hesitant about apologizing - sometimes the three little words "I am sorry" can be the most important words you could utter.
4. False pride has caused many to fail to say "I am sorry" when the saying of it would have saved their marriage. Learn to forgive and ask forgiveness

II. WHAT THE HUSBAND CAN DO TO HELP BUILD A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

- A. Continue his courtship after marriage
 - 1. Many women complain "As soon as you are married, they take you for granted"
 - 2. Husbands ought to continue courtship - it's not that you have to win her again and again
 - 3. But you constantly fan into brightness the flame which is already burning
 - 4. Be thoughtful and courteous, like you were before you were married
 - 5. Remember birthdays, anniversaries and special days

- B. Show appreciation for the many things the wife does
 - 1. To be a good housewife a woman must work long and hard
 - 2. Many husbands take all this for granted and do not appreciate the work their wife does
 - 3. Cure - let the husband keep the house and care for the children for about two weeks or even less.
 - 4. Compliment wife on her work and let her know you do appreciate it.

- C. Stop complaining so much
 - 1. With some husbands, nothing is every right
 - 2. They will find some little thing to complain about
 - 3. Illustration: Wife fixed husband two eggs, one fried and one scrambled. He said: "You scrambled the wrong one."
 - 4. Stop grumbling, count your blessings.
 - 5. "...and be ye thankful" Col. 3:15

D. Husband can be real leader

1. God designed man to be the leader in the home - Eph. 5:22-23
2. The wife and family need a strong husband
3. Strong - not just physical strength, but mental and emotional strength
4. They can provide courage, and strength and independence !

E. Gain the right conception of marriage

1. Some have a wrong conception of marriage
 - a. Think of wife only as a sexual partner - think of wives only as a body and not as a person
 - b. Think of wife only as a household servant
2. He thereby reduces woman to a mere tool and the matter of sex to the level of the use made of it by animals
3. Marriage cannot be happy when the husband has such an attitude
4. A wife is like a violin - in the hands of one who is a master musician, a violin is an instrument of beautiful music, but in the hands of anyone else it is nothing more than a squawk box.
5. The husband who understands and has the right conception of marriage will have a wife who is an instrument of beautiful music.
6. Ignorance and selfishness in the husband causes unhappiness and sorrow for the wife as well as the husband.

F. Let your wife know she is essential to your happiness

1. God gave woman to man because He saw it was not good for him to be alone
2. Husbands need their wives and they need to let the wife know that she is needed and wanted.
3. Husbands ought to give their wives security and affection

III. WHAT THE WIFE CAN DO TO HELP BUILD A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

A. Encourage the husband to continue the courtship

1. Wife may be unappreciative when he remembers her or brings her flowers.
2. She may not allow her husband to be courteous for her and to her - let him open the door for you, and do others things special for you.
3. She may allow her physical appearance to degenerate unnecessarily
4. Some wives expect their husband to continue the courtship after marriage but do not give them much grounds for doing so.
5. A sloppy appearance upon the part of the wife is destructive to any romantic inclinations the husband might have.

B. Try to make the house as attractive as possible

1. No husband likes a house that is not well kept
2. Keeping a neat house also helps to keep courtship alive
3. No marriage can be what it ought to be in a house that looks like the after math of a tornado.
4. The husband and children should help with the work around the house.

C. Make certain that your husband can be sure of you

1. A husband ought to never give a thought to the fidelity of his wife
2. A wife who thinks she can keep her husband interested in her by flirting with other men is making a tragic mistake
3. No successful marriage can be built on suspicion and jealousy
4. Be sure your husband can be sure of you
5. It is a terrible sin to be unfaithful to one's marriage vow, and it involves a great many person's in heart-ache beyond description !

D. Have the true conception of marriage

1. The wife can also have the wrong conception of marriage
2. Some women carry reserve into marriage and do not understand that God gave sex as the added language for husband and wife to express their love to one another
3. Sex outside of marriage is ugly, sordid and sinful - but some mothers have instilled into their daughters that all sex is something sordid and ugly
4. When this idea is brought into marriage there is going to be unhappiness
5. Paul taught in I Cor. 7 that for either partner to withhold himself from the other is to be guilty of fraud.
6. Wives ought to gain the right conception of marriage even as husbands ought.

- E. Do not allow problems of running the house cause you to be irritable with your husband - some wives work outside the home
1. Wife with several children to care for all day works hard and it is tiring
 2. Wife makes a mistake if she greets her husband when he comes home as if he were the cause of all her troubles and problems
 3. Share problems and discuss with husband but do not let them become a source of being irritable with one another.

CONCLUSION

1. Let both husband and wife faithfully serve and worship God
 - a. Obey Christ - become members of his church
 - b. Live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world keeping pure and unspotted from the world
 - c. Worship God publicly and in your home daily.
2. To any who are having trouble in marriage, try this suggestion
 - a. For the next 30 days read the Bible together and pray together each night
 - b. See what happens to your marriage
3. Let each of us try to become more adequate persons and thereby become more adequate partners
4. We stand side by side trying to help each other to so live as to spend eternity with God when this life is over
5. If our marriages are successful then our entire lives will be successful. Or vice / versa.
6. If our marriages are successful then we can be practically assured of success in rearing our children.
7. Your marriage can be a successful one.

“What greater thing is there for two human souls, than to feel that they are joined for life - to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to minister to each other in all pain, to be with each other in silent, unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting.” George Eliot - NDT. P. 396

Source:

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