

Marriage Essentials

Marriage should emphasize the spiritual companionship of a man and a woman on their pilgrimage to heaven (I Cor 9:5).

I. GODLINESS

- A. Godliness with contentment is great gain and essential for a happy, peaceful life (**I Tim 6:6**; Heb 13:5).
- B. Two Christians by the nature of their new souls cannot have a good marriage while playing with sin.
- C. Godliness includes esteeming God's Word highly and hating false ways in your marriage (Ps 119:128).
- D. Godliness leads to a God-blessed and happy life, which is the basis of a good marriage (I Peter 3:10-13).
- E. Selfishness, bitterness, moodiness, anger, defrauding, adultery, and all disruptions of a marriage are sin.
- F. Two spouses living godly lives will have God's blessings on their union and treat each as He prescribes.
- G. The highest love between two sinners depends on the degree they spiritually approach Christ in their hearts.

II. ROLES

- A. The woman was made for the man: she should daily remember her life's purpose (Gen 2:18; **I Cor 11:9**).
- B. Her sin in Eden aggravated her situation and put her under rule (Gen 3:16; I Tim 2:11-14; I Cor 14:34-35).
- C. Reverence (Eph 5:33), obedience (Tit 2:5), submission (Eph 5:22), and diligence (Pr 31:10-31) are obvious.
- D. Leadership (I Cor 11:3), protection (II Tim 3:6), knowledge (I Pet 3:7), and fidelity (Pr 5:19) are obvious.

III. LOVE

- A. The best definition of love is found in **I Corinthians 13:4-7**. Two people observing this would be great.
- B. Forget the sound and rhythm of these oft-quoted phrases; get their sense and meaning and do them today!
- C. Love, even ravishing love, is a choice and a commandment, which we choose to do by grace (Prov 5:19).
- D. Rather than vacation spots, a new dress, pizza delivery, sex more frequently, or other superficial changes.
- E. "Soul love" (Deut 13:6; I Sam 18:1-4; 20:17) has its best chance between two believers in love with Christ.

IV. COMMUNICATION

- A. Two people cannot even begin to have a relationship unless they communicate to agreement (**Amos 3:3**).
- B. Jesus defined friendliness as communication of intentions (Jn 15:15), and Solomon did similarly (Pr 20:5).
- C. Be quick to hear. Don't be an oaf; listen to your wife; let her teach you to be the world's greatest lover.

V. SEXUAL

- A. Our Lord's New Testament commandment is for spouses to give the other due benevolence (**I Cor 7:1-5**).
- B. Each spouse owes the other all they want, the way they want it, and when they want it with cheerful love.
- C. There is no room for modifying this standard, and there is no difference between men and women's rights.
- D. Marriage makes all sensible lovemaking honorable, yet all other avenues are condemned (Hebrews 13:4).

VI. PRIORITIZE

- A. Compromise in your marital relationship will hinder your prayers and create a lean, bitter soul (**I Pet 3:7**).
- B. Women must avoid "affairs" with their children as mothers; men must avoid "affairs" with jobs as workers.
- C. It requires much hard work, so it cannot be waited for from Cupid's bow or other influence of pagan Fate.

VII. PERSONALIZE

- A. When Paul taught about marriage, he addressed each party as responsible for their actions (**Col 3:18-19**).
- B. You cannot excuse yourself in your marriage, because your spouse is not all that you think they should be.
- C. If both parties wait for a change from the other, nothing happens. If both make the change, love happens.

VIII. GRACIOUSNESS

- A. If we forgave one another as Christ forgives us, there would be nothing left but tender hearts (**Ep 4:31-32**).
- B. The odious woman is hated by all (Prov 30:21-23); the gracious woman is esteemed by all (Prov 11:16).

IX. GIVING

- A. Jesus taught that giving is more blessed than receiving, yet most couples forget this easy lesson (**Ac 20:35**).
- B. The "golden rule" of our Lord's gospel was to do unto others as you would have done unto you (Lu 6:31).

X. RESTORATIVE

- A. Marriages can be restored with three steps taught by Jesus – remember, repent, do first works (**Rev 2:5**).
- B. Giving up on a marriage is wrong (Phil 4:13). God exhorts us to believe His restorative grace (Joel 2:25).