

Maintaining a Good Marriage

Eph. 5:33

Introduction:

- A. Not merely maintaining a marriage, but a *good* marriage.
 - 1. Are in it - can be happy or miserable.
 - 2. Can have a marriage without any of these things, but not good.
 - 3. Absence of these things cannot nullify a marriage - still bound to all obligations.
 - 4. Alternative to these things.
 - a. Miserable in marriage
 - b. Sinful breakup – maybe even leading to more sin.
- B. Four important scriptural **ingredients** in a good marriage.

Discussion:

I. Love

- A. Not “Soap Opra” or “fairy tale” brands of love.
 - 1. Not uncontrollably falling in and out of.
 - 2. Not living happy ever after with no effort.
- B. But, real love that can be taught, learned and cultivated.
 - 1. Husbands taught to love wives. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19).
 - 2. Wives taught to love husbands. (Tit. 2:4).
 - 3. Love cultivated and demonstrated by deeds. (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John. 3:18.)

II. Peace

- A. Wedding ring should not be symbol of fighting ring (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
- B. Weddings can be followed by peace if:
 - 1. Will not let disagreement degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk).
 - 2. Will work for peace. (Not 50-50, but 75-75).
 - 3. Will communicate.
 - 4. Will resist outside agitation from family and friends. (“Leave & cleave.”)

III. Consideration

- A. Each tries to make the God-given role of partner easy to fulfil.
 - 1. Wives make it easy for husband rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5).
 - 2. Husbands make it easy for wife to submit and obey in all things.
 - a. By treating her as a partner, not a servant. (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28).
 - b. By not being overbearing, or too demanding. - put self in her position.
 - 3. Wives make it easy for husband to be a breadwinner. (1 Tim. 5:8).
 - 4. Husbands make it easier for wife to be keeper at home. (Tit. 2:5)
- B. Each willingly attends to the biological needs of the other (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
 - 1. Failure at root of infidelity and breakups.
 - 2. Failure not grounds for either infidelity or breakup.
 - 3. Failure often caused by being too busy or too involved with other things.
- C. Each make other’s role as parent easy - rearing mutual responsibility.

IV. Spirituality

- A. Mutual respect for God will make a good marriage.
- B. Bible re-enforces each duty in marriage with a spiritual reason.
 - 1. Peace because God has called up to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
 - 2. Love and submit like Christ and church. (Eph. 5)
 - 3. Behave lest word of God be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
 - 4. Behave because it is in sight of God a great price. (1 Pet. 3:4)
 - 5. Behave lest prayers be hindered. (1 Pet. 5:7).

Conclusion:

- A. If you are a Christian, you will do all you can to make a good marriage.
 - 1. You will love.
 - 2. You will be peaceable.
 - 3. You will be considerate.
 - 4. You will be spiritual.
- B. If you both are faithful and dedicated Christians, no excuse of bad marriage.
 - 1. No need for counselor, if both decide to obey God.
 - 2. Need only the Scriptures on the subject pointed out, obey like all other scriptures.