

A Recipe for a Good Marriage

Eph. 5:33

Introduction:

- A. Not merely recipe for a marriage, but a good one.
- B. God marriages needed to prevent divorce, which God hates (Mal. 2:16)
- C. Five important scriptural ingredients in a good marriage.

Discussion:

I. Legitimacy.

- A. Such a thing as unlawful marriage. (Mk. 6:17,18)
- B. Such a marriage is adulterous (cf. Matt. 5:32; 19:9)
 - 1. Regardless of good may seem to be otherwise.
 - 2. Regardless of efforts to “sanctify” it.

II. Love.

- A. Not Soap Opera or fairy tale variety.
 - 1. Not uncontrollable falling in and out of love.
 - 2. Not living happy ever after without effort.
- B. But, real love that can be taught, learned and cultivated.
 - 1. Husbands can learn to love wives. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19)
 - 2. Wives can learn to love husbands. (Tit. 2:4).
 - 3. Love demonstrated by deeds. (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John 3:18)

III. Peace.

- A. Wedding ring shouldn't be symbol of fighting ring. (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
- B. Wedding bells should not signal beginning of round one.
- C. Wedding ceremonies can be followed by peace if:
 - 1. Will not let disagreements degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk)
 - 2. Will work for peace. (Not 50-50, but 75-75 proposition)
 - 3. Will resist outside agitation of family and friends. (“Leave & Cleave”)

IV. Consideration.

- A. Make role of partner easy to fulfil.
 - 1. Wives make it easy for husband.
 - a. To rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5)
 - b. To be a breadwinner. (1 Tim. 5:8)
 - 2. Husbands make easy for wife.
 - a. To submit and obey. (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28)
 - b. To be a keeper at home. (Tit. 2:5)
 - 3. Each makes other's parental role easy.
- B. Attend to partners's basic needs. (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
 - 1. Failure results in, but no excuse for infidelity and broken marriages.
 - 2. Failure often caused by being too busy with other things.

V. Spirituality.

- A. Mutual respect for God and His will makes a good marriage.
- B. Bible re-enforces marital responsibility with spiritual motives.
 - 1. Peace because GOD has called us to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
 - 2. Love and submit like CHRIST and THE CHURCH. (Eph. 5)
 - 3. Behave lest WORD OF GOD be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
 - 4. Behave because it is a great price in GOD's sight. (1 Pet. 3:4)
 - 5. Behave lest PRAYERS be hindered. (1 Pet. 5:7)

Conclusion:

- A. If you are a Christian
 - 1. You do all you can to have a good marriage.
 - 2. You will be loving, be peaceable, considerate and spiritual.
- B. If you are both Christians, no excuse for bad marriage.
 - 1. Need little counseling, if both decide to obey God.
 - 2. Need only to have Scriptures called your attention.