

WHAT MAKES GOOD MARRIAGES (Ep 5:22-33)

I. Christianity.

- A. There is no greater marriage than that of two true Christians.
- B. A Christian spouse will work to make sure he/she is keeping his/her spouse happy.
- C. A Christian husband understands his role - head of the house.
- D. A Christian wife understands her role - his helpmeet.
- E. Two Christians understand that their 1st priority is to please God.
 - 1. This will lead to the fulfilling of other priorities.
 - 2. In striving to please God, we will please our spouses.
- F. Two Christians will seek to fulfill Ephesians 5:22-33.
- G. Amos asked ...(Amos 3:3)
 - 1. It is extremely difficult for a marriage to succeed when it is religiously divided.
 - 2. Many of these marriages end in either divorce or falling away of the Christian spouse.
 - 3. Those that do not end up either of these ways are still not all that they could be in eyes of God.
- H. Both spouse's need to be faithful Christians for a marriage to be good biblically speaking.

II. Commitment.

- A. Divorce rates are staggering in the world and church.
- B. For some reason, people are not committed to marriage as they once were.
- C. Studying for this, came across several rules for marriage lists, and several had, "never consider divorce an option."
- D. This is the idea of commitment
- E. God still hates putting away (Malachi 2:16).
- F. We must be committed to meeting the needs of spouses.
 - 1. Five major needs of women:
 - a. Affection,
 - b. Conversation,
 - c. Honesty and openness,
 - d. Financial support,
 - e. Family commitment.
 - 2. Five major needs of men:
 - a. Sexual fulfillment,
 - b. Recreational companionship,
 - c. An attractive spouse,
 - d. Domestic support,
 - e. Admiration.
- G. It doesn't take a Solomon to figure out these lists are different as night and day.
 - 1. A husband and wife must accept they won't understand everything

- 2. but just go with it.
- 2. Women and men are different in case you have not noticed.
- H. We must be committed to making our spouses happy.
- I. We do this by meeting their needs.

III. **Compassion.**

- A. The biting, nagging wife is not compassionate towards her husband (Proverbs 21:9; 25:24).
- B. The non-communicating husband is not compassionate to his wife.
- C. Peter said...(1 Peter 3:7).
 - 1. Honor means "a valuing by which price is fixed."
 - 2. We show our wives their value to us by how we treat them.
- D. Wives are to submit to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22).
 - 1. This carries the idea of a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility and carrying a burden.
 - 2. When this is done, the wife shows she has compassion for her husband.
- E. Compassion is vital to a good marriage.

IV. **Companionship.**

- A. We need a companion in our lives.
- B. Someone to hold to in the dark times and walk with in the joyful times.
- C. Solomon said...(Ecclesiastes 9:9).
- D. This is done in different ways.
 - 1. Socially - need to be seen with our spouses and show them we want to be seen with them.
 - 2. Recreationally - some of the happiest couples I know are those who play together (fish, golf etc).
 - 3. Sexually - Proverbs 5:18-19.
 - 4. Spiritually - we dealt with this in the first point.
- E. Must be idea of companionship for a marriage to be good.