

Your Marriage Can Be Successful

Successful marriages do not just happen.

- It takes both partners working together.
- There are some things they must do as a team.

On the other hand, there are some things...

- The husband can and must do.
- The wife can and must do.

Things a husband can do:

First, continue courtship after marriage.

- There may be some grounds for the complaints wives often make: “As soon as you are married, they take you for granted.”
- Husbands and wives ought to feel certain of each other, but he can continue to fan the flame that is burning:
 - Remember the little courtesies of dating days.*
 - Remember birthdays, anniversaries, etc.*
 - Surprise your wife when there is no special occasion.*
 - Tell her that you love her.*
- Before you married, you spent time with her. DO IT NOW!

Second, the husband can show appreciation for the many things his wife does.

- Husbands often take the work the wife does for granted.
- Compliment your wife when you can.

Third, husbands can stop complaining so much.

- With some husbands, nothing is ever right. This is a chief complaint to marriage counselors.
- Stop grumbling and grow up.

Fourth, husbands can be real leaders.

- Complaint of many wives: “But my husband won’t make the decisions. He leaves it all to me.”
- God designed man to be the leader of the home (Ephesians 5:22, 23).
- The family needs the strength of the man, the stronger vessel (I Peter 3:7)

Fifth, husbands should be interested in the home.

Sixth, husbands must gain the right conception of marriage.

- Some husbands think of their wives, not as individuals with rights and dignity, but as a body to satisfy their lusts.
- A husband must recognize the rights and needs of his wife if the physical side of marriage is to be beautiful.

Seventh, husbands should learn the emotional and psychological differences between men and women.

- By nature, a woman appreciates the fine and beautiful things of life more than a man.
- The feelings and responses of a woman are different from a man and the husband who “estimates the feelings of his wife from his own feelings makes a tragic mistake.”

Eighth, the husband should make it clear to his wife that he needs her and that she is essential to his happiness.

- A basic need in her life is missing if she feels her husband does not need her.
- God recognized man’s need and gave him a woman (Gen. 2:18). The man who says he does not need his wife is advertising the fact that he is abnormal and should not be married.

Ninth, husbands should not burden their wives with their business pressures.

Things a wife can do:

First, the wife should let her husband continue to court her – encourage him.

Second, wives should try to make the house an attractive place. No one likes to come into a house that looks like a tornado struck it.

Third, a wife can tell her husband of her love. Don’t take it for granted.

Fourth, wives can identify themselves with the lives of their husbands.

Fifth, a wife must make certain a husband can be sure of her.

Sixth, wives must have the true conception of marriage.

- Some wives carry into the marriage the sordid conception regarding the physical side of marriage. This is due to wrong teaching.

Seventh, wives should recognize the difference between themselves and their husbands.

- Each is willing to forego for the other’s happiness.
- The husband with strong and frequent desires is willing to forego and control his desire.
- The wife, on the other hand, is willing – and even anxious – that her husband is not deprived.

Eighth, she can help to build up and maintain her husband’s confidence.

- No husband is strong enough to take constant “needling” and ridicule (cf. Judges 16:16; Proverbs 21:9, 19).
- A feeling that those at home have confidence in him helps.

James Meadows

September 26, 2010 p.m.