

Three Things

About Successful Marriages

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

- Introduction:
1. Marriage is under attack today.
 2. The best defense is a good offense.
 3. The best way to defend God's plan for marriage is to live it out.
 4. Here are three biblical instructions that will help.

I. You Need to be Committed

- A. Do you remember the first year of your marriage?
 1. Was it a bed of roses?
 2. Was it a rude awakening?
- B. Commitment is the glue that holds marriages together.
- C. Commitment is necessary in order to allow time to heal wounds and change behavior.
- D. (1 Peter 4:8) "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins."

II. You Need to Honor Each Other

- A. (1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:33) "Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife...and let the wife see that she respects her husband."
- B. Besides you, nobody knows your faults better than your spouse.
 1. What are you going to do with that information?
 2. Are you going to humiliate each other with it?
- C. Make the decision to never dishonor each other, even if it is said in jest.

III. You Need to Invite God into Your Marriage

- A. (Matthew 6:33).
- B. A home will never be what it could be; it will never experience the greatest amount of joy and fulfillment; it will never reach its potential until God is factored in.
- C. God created the home and knew best how we ought to function within it.
- D. The problem with today's family is not with its divine design and the unique roles God has assigned within it — these are not the problems but the solutions.
- E. When a couple is first and foremost committed to God, they will then naturally treat each other right.
- F. It must be remembered that the home is not an end in and of itself, it is a proving ground to prepare us for Heaven.

- Conclusion:
1. Your marriage can be what you choose to make it.
 2. If you follow these three biblical tips, you will be well on your way to a happy, successful home.