

Factors Contributing to Over Sixty-Two Years of Marriage

Selected Scriptures, 2013-12-01A. # 1

(This outline was revised April 23, 2020)

Introduction: Sister Annie L. Malone went home to the place of no more's to be with the Triune God and with a host of relatives and friends on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 11:15 P. M. (Luke 23:42-43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21, 23; Revelation 21:1-27). The following are some of the factors that contributed to over 62 years of marriage of Sister Ann and Pastor Julius R. Malone:

- I. **The Grace of God** (cf. Genesis 6:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Hebrews 4:15-16; 12:28).
- II. **Commitment.**
 - A. God refers to marriage as a covenant (Malachi 2:14).
 - B. In marriage ceremonies, vows that most all couples promise are: “I take you to be my lawful wedded wife/husband. I promise in the presence of God and of these witnesses that I will be to you a kind, dutiful husband/wife. I promise that I will continue with you in sickness or in health in poverty or in wealth. I promise that forsaking all others I will continue with you and you only until death shall separate us.”
 1. Note – Until death shall separate us not debt, not difficulties, not disagreements, not disappointments.
 2. Divorce should not be mentioned as a solution to common marital problems.
 - C. There are three levels of love in a marriage that last. Dr. Kenneth Ulmer calls them:
 1. Curious love – Eros (*érōs*, ερωϛ) is romantic love. Eros is spontaneous, sensual, sexual, selfish, subjective, short lived.
 2. Concerned – Philia (*philia*, φιλία) is friendship love.
 3. Committed Love – Agape (*ἀγάπη*, *agapē*) is
 - a. Supernatural (Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22; 1 John 4:7-8).
 - b. Sacrificial (John 3:16; 15:13; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 5:25).
 - c. Superior (John 15:13; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13).
 - D. Commitment involves properly ordering one’s priorities: God, family, work or ministry (Matthew 6:33).
- III. **Following God’s Manual for Marriage**
 - A. Ephesians 4
 1. Do not yield to the devil (Ephesians 4:26-27).

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
27 Neither give place to the devil.
 2. Watch your words (Ephesians 4:29).
 - a. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).
 - b. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21).
 - c. “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Colossians 4:6).
 - d. “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (James 1:19).
 - e. “But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36).
 3. Ephesians 4:31-32

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.

B. Ephesians 5

- 1. Be filled with the Holy Spirit of God – Be under His control (Ephesians 5:18).**
- 2. Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21).**
- 3. Wives submit to husbands (Eph. 5:22).**
 - a. “Submit” translates the Greek verb *hupotassō* (ὑποτάσσω), which is a military term meaning “to line up under.”**
 - b. In the Trinity there is equality in nature but authority and submission regarding function or roles.**
- 4. Wives respect husbands (Ephesians 5:33b, NLT).**

So again, I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.
- 5. Husbands love your wives (Ephesians 5:25).**
 - a. You may say, “My wife is killing me.” Remember Christ died for the church (Ephesians 5:25; cf. Acts 20:28).**
 - b. You may say, “My wife is my enemy.” Remember we are commanded to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).**

C. Proverbs

- 1. “A soft answer turns away wrath” (Proverbs 15:1).**
- 2. Pass over (Proverbs 19:11).**

IV. Recognition and Appreciation of Differences (1 Peter 3:7).

A. Men tend to have a need to feel in control; therefore, men tend to be reluctant to ask for directions when lost.

B. Women tend to use both sides of the brain at the same time.

- 1. Men tend to use one side of the brain at a time, and when one side is functioning, the other side tends to shut down.**
- 2. Men tend to focus on one thing at a time.**
- 3. Occasionally both sides shut down at the same time. He looks like he is in deep thought, but he is really not thinking about anything.**

C. Women tend to think intuitively, and women tend to expect men to think intuitively and also to have the gift of the word of knowledge.

D. Women tend to be more detailed than men.

E. Women tend to speak more words than men.

- 1. Men tend to speak about 5,000 words each day.**
- 2. Women tend to speak about 15,000, which is about 10,000 more than men.**

F. Women and men tend to shop differently.

V. Adjustments

A. What I called organization my wife called rigid.

B. What I called disorganization my wife called flexible.

C. Some of the adjustment I have made:

- 1. I put away the dishes and the groceries.**
- 2. I have a folder marked “receipts for possible returns.”**

VI. Pray Together (Ephesians 6:12, 18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16).

VII. Keep Romance in Your Marriage (Read the Song of Solomon and 1 Corinthians 7).

Pastor-Teacher, Julius R. Malone