

**Factors Contributing to Marriage for a Lifetime  
Selected Scriptures, 2019-06-30A. # 8**

**Introduction: On December 3, my wife and I will be celebrating over 60 years of marriage. On yesterday, Saturday, June 29, the Hopgoods celebrated 50 years of marriage. Today I would like to review with you some of the factors that contribute to marriage for a lifetime.**

- I. The Grace of God (cf. Genesis 6:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Hebrews 4:15-16; 12:28).**
  - A. Pray daily for grace (Hebrews 4:15-16; 12:28).**
  - B. Grace makes the difference (Genesis 6:8-9; 1 Corinthians 4:7).**
    - 1. Noah was different from everyone else in his generation because of the grace of God (Genesis 6:8-9).**
    - 2. The grace of God made the difference in the life of the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:10).**
    - 3. Who knows what we would be or where we would be were it not for the grace of God (1 Corinthians 4:7).**
- II. Commitment to the Marriage:**
  - 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 for a lifetime. Dr. Kenneth Ulmer calls them:**
    - 1. Curious love – Eros (*érōs*, ερως) is romantic love. Eros is spontaneous, sensual, sexual, selfish, subjective, and short-lived.**
    - 2. Concerned love – Philia (*philia*, φιλία) is friendship love.**
    - 3. Committed love – Agape (*agapē*, ἀγάπη):**
      - a. *Agapē* is supernatural love (Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22; 1 John 4:7-8).**
      - b. *Agapē* is sacrificial love (John 3:16; 15:13; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 5:25).**
      - c. *Agapē* is a love that is superior to all other loves (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. Follow the Bible – God’s Manual for Marriage (Ephesians 4 and 5; cf. Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).**
  - A. When the Sadducees asked Jesus a question regarding the resurrection in order to embarrass Him, Jesus replied to them: "You do err not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God (Matthew 22:23-33).**
    - 1. Many errors are made because of lack of knowledge of the Scriptures:**

- a. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14).
  - b. Be careful about cosigning for others (Proverbs 6:1).
2. Many marital errors are made because couples do not know the Scriptures.
  3. Many marital problems would be solved if couples would only study and obey Ephesians chapters 4 and 5.
- B. The faith of the Emmaus disciples was shaken, and their hope was shattered because of incorrect expectations based upon incorrect interpretations of the Scriptures (Luke 24:13-35).**
- C. Ephesians 4:**
1. **Do not yield to the devil (Ephesians 4:26-27).**
    - a. "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (v.26).
    - b. "Neither give place to the devil" (v.27).
  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**
    - a. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice" (v. 31).
    - b. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (v. 32).
      - 1) We must learn to forgive one another for any relationship to last...
      - 2) Many divorces could have been avoided if forgiveness had been practiced.
- D. 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 your own 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 functions or roles.**

4. **Wives respect your husbands:** “So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband” (Ephesians 5:33b, New Living Translation).
  5. **“Husbands love your wives”** (Ephesians 5:25).
    - a. You may say, “My wife is killing me.”
      - 1) Remember Christ died for the church (Ephesians 5:25; cf. Acts 20:28).
      - 2) Husbands should be willing to lay down their lives for their wives.
    - b. You may say, “My wife is my enemy.”
      - 1) Remember we are commanded to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
      - 2) Thank God for giving you an enemy on which to practice loving every day.
- E. Proverbs**
1. “A soft answer turns away wrath” (Proverbs 15:1).
  2. Learn to pass over some things: "The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook [or pass over] a transgression" (Proverbs 19:11, New King James Version).
    - a. Some things are not worth arguing about.
    - b. Practice saying to yourself: "Pass over."
- IV. Learn to Recognize and Appreciate Your Differences** (1 Peter 3:7).
- A. Men tend to have a need to feel in control:
    1. Some men are reluctant to ask for directions when they are lost because of their need to feel in control.
    2. Some men are reluctant to come to eat when they are called because of their need to feel in control.
  - 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. Occasionally both sides shut down at the same time for men.
      - a. The man looks like he is in deep thought, but he is really not thinking about anything.
      - b. In his book, "Men Are Clams Women Are Crowbars," Dr. David Clark calls this shutting down of both sides of the brain "the male zone."
      - c. When the man is asked, "What were you thinking about?" The truth is – nothing...
  - 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 words each day, which are about 10,000 words more than men.

- F. Women and men tend to shop differently.
- V. Learn to Make Adjustments to One Another:
  - A. What I call organization my wife calls rigid.
  - B. What I call disorganization my wife calls flexible.
  - C. Some of the adjustment I have made:
    - 1. I put away the dishes and the groceries because I have a place for everything.
    - 2. I have a folder marked “receipts for possible returns” because my wife frequently returns purchased items.
- VI. Pray Together (Ephesians 6:12, 18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16).
  - A. I believe that the couple that prays together stays together (James 5:16).
  - B. Pray for grace to walk in the steps that God has ordered for you (Psalm 37:23; 119:133).
  - C. Pray for speaking grace (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6).
  - D. Pray for restraining grace (Genesis 20:6; 31:7; 1 Samuel 25:26, 34).
  - E. Pray for saving grace for family members and friends (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- VII. Keep Romance in Your Marriage (Read the Song of Solomon and 1 Corinthians 7).
  - A. Treasure your moments with those whom you love.
    - 1. We live today in a dangerous world.
      - a. Our earthly lives could end at any moment.
      - b. Don't procrastinate because we are not certain that we will have another opportunity to do the things that we would like to do
    - 2. Live each day as though it were your last day.
  - B. Schedule a date night weekly...

Pastor-Teacher, Julius R. Malone

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