

Building Up Our Home Series-----#2

How to Have
A
Good
MARRIAGE

- 1 – Marry the Right Person!**
- 2 – Be a Good Husband! (#1)**
- 3 – Be a Good Husband! (#2)**
- 4 – Be a Good Wife (#1)**
- 5 – Be a Good Wife (#2)**
- 6 – Things Necessary to a Good Marriage**

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Lesson One

"Marry the Right Person!"

Most everyone wants to get married; but, not everyone is properly prepared for marriage. And.....not everyone has the right to marry in the eyes of God! "Marriage is not for the immature!" A person should be physically and emotionally prepared for marriage. He or She must be mature enough to evaluate the other person as well as him or herself to see if they are really ready for marriage. There is a big difference between being ready for marriage and being ready for having sexual relations. A couple can become so enamored with each other that they feel that they just have to get married! While the sexual drive is strong, it can be contained—especially when you stay away from situations that tend to promote sexual passion. God's Word gives great insight on what God says about marriage and the home—since He is the One who planned, designed, and put proper desires within each human being—He should know what He is talking about! We need to turn to Him and not to the worldly-

Marriage is one of the most serious decisions to be made in Life!!

minded, false religious teachers, or to the compromisers in our midst! This decision is one of the most serious decisions to be made in our lives! It is made "for life!" It needs to be a person that I can respect, love, and work with to make our marriage last!

Who is Biblically Eligible to Marry?

Since God is the designer of Marriage, He is the One who can tell us who can get married and be acceptable to Him. The following Scriptures will give us God's answer to this question:

1. Marriage is to be for a lifetime (Rom. 7:1-4).
2. This was God's plan from the beginning (Matt. 19:7-8).
3. He does permit a person whose mate is unfaithful (has sexual relations with another person not their mate) to re-marry (Matt. 19:9).
4. A person whose mate has died is allowed to re-marry (Rom. 7:1-4).
5. A single person who marries an unlawful divorced man or woman commits adultery (Matt. 19:9). So, he/she must be sure that they are not committing adultery by marrying that person. The courts in our country are primarily legalizing adultery by their loose laws. It must be

remembered—**They are not the Authority in this matter!**

Vows Must be Taken Seriously!

- 1. Leaving parents and cleaving to each other as one (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5).** If a person is not ready to leave parents and start their own home, they are not ready for marriage. There is also the danger of being separated for a long time that could lead to unfaithfulness (1 Cor. 7:2-5).
- 2. "Until death do us part!"** It is a "life-time" commitment to each other. Be sure you want to be with this person that long (Matt. 19:6; 1 Cor. 7:10-11).
- 3. "Love, honor and cherish."** While both vow such to each other, there is also a "headship" and "submission" role that should be thoroughly understood and accepted (Eph. 5:22-33). God made this arrangement for the good of mankind (1 Pet. 3:1-7). Marriage is a most sacred commitment to be made to another human. It should not be entered into lightly or unadvisedly. We should not make a mockery of this oldest of all human relationships.

Preparation for Marriage

Living in a home helps to give understanding and insight on how marriage is to work—provided that it is a decent home situation. A young person is blessed to be in a good marital situation—and even more blessed when he is helped in his understanding of what God teaches us about marriage. The following four things are critical in helping to prepare one for marriage:

- 1. Become a dedicated Christian!** A person who devotes his life to listening and obeying God should make a good mate. He is one who listens to Christ's instructions on how to live a godly and righteously life. (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, etc.).
- 2. Become an unselfish person!** Immature people are usually selfish people! They are the center of their world—they care primarily for themselves. A mature person is concerned equally for others around him or her. He has "dethroned" self and "enthroned" Christ to guide his life (Gal. 2:20). He will even put others before himself at times also (Phil. 2:3-4).
- 3. Work at becoming a person that would make a good mate!** You want to find the "right" mate—so, why not strive to be the "right" mate as well! Make an effort to become a desirable person to be around and with.

4. Keep yourself pure! Dating provides a way to become better acquainted; but, it also has its problems with temptation if the couple go to far in the dating relationship. Sex is a wonderful gift from God and one of the most powerful forces to deal with in our lives. It can bring good or evil and become a destructive tool of Satan to degrade marriage and human beings (1 Thess. 4:1-6).

Concluding Thoughts

It is important that we know the difference between "love" and "lust!" "**Love**" is shown by honesty, purity, unselfishness, nobility, humility, and modesty. "**Lust**" leads people into sinful activities where they should not be until married! We need to bring purity into marriage!

We also need to realize some of the dangers of "pre-marital sex."

1. Getting undesired pregnancy.
2. Brings hardships to the single mother having to raise the child on her own.
3. Getting undesired diseases.
4. Guilt and unhappiness in future marriages.
5. It is going against God's will and brings its own consequences.
6. Fornication (sexual immorality) is condemned by God (1 Cor. 6:12-20). The Christian's body is for the Lord to use and control.
7. "Petting" stirs up desires that should only be fulfilled in marriage.

Get all the help you can from good sources and people so that you can not only be the right mate, but marry the right person!

Questions for Discussion

1. Does every person have the right before God to marry? Explain your answer.

2. Why is marriage such a serious decision?

3. Why should we be careful who we listen to about Marriage?

4. How would you find out if the person you are dating is eligible for marriage?

5. How old should a person be in order to understand the vows he is taking in marriage?

6. What are some basic requirements to prepare a person for marriage?

7. Why is purity desired before marriage?

8. Should a father ever forbid his son or daughter from marrying someone whom he feels is not right for them?

Lesson Two

"How to be a Good Husband" (#1)

Good husbands do not just happen, but they are made or developed over a period of time. The kind of home life that he was raised in will make a difference; as well as, how well he is taught by example and from the Word of God what God expects of men. There are some basic things that husbands need to understand:

1. That he is created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
2. That he has been given purposes for being created:
 - a) Eccl. 12:13 _____
 - b) 1 Cor. 10:31 _____
 - c) Matt. 22:37 _____
 - d) Matt. 22:39 _____
3. That he has been given responsibilities to fulfill as a husband.
 - a) To be a leader in his home;
 - b) To love his wife as Christ loved the church;
 - c) To live considerately with his wife;
 - d) And to honor his wife.

The above four areas will be covered in this and the next lesson.

A Good Husband is a Good Leader!

For centuries, the civilized world has given recognition to the need for the man to be the leader in his home. In this country (America), this concept is being challenged more and more. Several reasons might be suggested as to why this is happening:

- a) Women are not as dependent upon the man as they once were for survival.
- b) The father's work is away from the home during the day and the family sees less of his leadership value.
- c) Children's go to school all day and are taught mostly by women.
- d) There is less respect for what God's Word says about the matter.

The wise man stated it very effectively: ***"Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of the children is their father."*** (Prov. 17:6). When the **male** image is not maintained in the home:

- a) The husband is less fulfilled;
- b) The wife will be unhappy with her role;
- c) Children do not have the confidence and security they need.

God has designed that the man be the leader in his home!

1 Cor. 11:3 _____

- 1 Cor. 11:8 _____
- 1 Cor. 14:34 _____
- Eph. 5:22-23 _____
- Col. 3:18 _____
- 1 Tim. 2:13 _____

The husband's background that he brings into marriage can be a help or hindrance. It is important that the husband recognizes this and strives to overcome his weaknesses—that is, grow-up—mature!

Qualities that help to make a Good Husband

Good leaders can make good husbands! The Bible gives a list of things that make a person a good leader. (See 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1):

1. **He lives a life beyond reproach.**
2. **He is not a violent man nor quarrelsome, but he is gentle towards all.**
3. **He is in control of himself as well as in what he eats and drinks.**
4. **His primary interest is in God and His kingdom, not in things or possessions or money.**
5. **He shows that he has moral and spiritual ethics to govern his life. He strives to live by the Golden Rule.**
6. **He deals with his weaknesses to keep them in control.**
7. **His life is respected by those who know him.**
8. **He has a good attitude and spirit. He is a lover of all that is good.**
9. **He is just in his attitudes and actions towards others. He has the right outlook on life and others.**
10. **He is not stubborn, arrogant or overbearing, but he is easy to approach and is willing to listen.**
11. **As he grows older and experiences life's challenges, he shows wisdom and offers good counsel. He has learned how to make good decisions in life.**

With what kind of spirit should the husband shoulder the responsibility of leadership?

- Num. 12:3 _____
- Matt. 11:28-30 _____
- Matt. 20:25-28 _____
- 1 Pet. 5:3 _____
- 3 John 9-10 _____
- Gal. 3:28 _____

How would you rate the following attitudes and approaches on the part of the husband to the wife?

GOOD BAD

- _____ 1. Give orders without asking or permitting questions.
- _____ 2. Make demands, dishes out directives, lays down the law, and is defensive if challenged.
- _____ 3. Requires compliance regardless of consent or agreement.
- _____ 4. Pushes and manipulates one-man rule in over-under position.
- _____ 5. Says, "*You do, you must do, you ought to have done, you'd better do.*"
- _____ 6. Depends on his own external authority to motivate others.
- _____ 7. Generates friction, resistance, resentment.
- _____ 8. Separates and isolates people.
- _____ 9. Discusses and evaluates together with his wife before a decisions is made.
- _____ 10. Does not give the impression of superiority attitude.
- _____ 11. Makes requests of his wife in a kind way.
- _____ 12. Never gives orders as a Boss.
- _____ 13. The type of approach that does not bring friction, resistance or resentment.
- _____ 14. An attitude and approach that unifies the two.

Concluding Thoughts

The husband is to be the head of the family—the final decision-maker, but no decision should be made without due consideration of the wife. Both must recognize that every decision made will not always be right or best. The wife is not responsible to God for the decision-making, but she is responsible for being in submission. The wife can make it harder or easier for the husband to fulfill his role. If she will not submit, then he has no authority over her. She must give recognition to the God-given role or else he cannot fulfill it. The smart wife is one who learns how to help her husband make good decisions. And...she will not continually remind her husband of one wrong decision for the next 20 years—inferring that he can't make a good decision.

Remember.....a good leader should make a good husband!

Questions for Discussion

1. Who and when was man given the responsibility of headship over the woman?

2. Does a wife have a right to deny her husband's authority over her and the family? Explain your answer.

3. If the husband and wife cannot come to an agreement, who is to be submissive?

4. Does a husband have a right to force his wife to conform to his will? Explain your answer.

5. How do you determine when a "good" decision has been made?

6. Can a man be a good man, but a poor leader? Explain your answer.

Lesson Three

"Be a Good Husband" (#2)

A good husband is not only a good leader (last lesson); but, he is also a good companion! A good companion is one whom the wife very much desires to be with. She made her decision to accept his proposal of marriage on the basis of their dating and courtship relationship. However, after the "honey-moon" is over, there may have to be some desirable changes made because he doesn't seem to be the person she thought that he was. And the same might be said of the wife as well. During the dating and courtship you would expect that both would put their best foot forward at all times. If the courtship period lasts long enough, some of the imperfections may become a little more knowledgeable before marriage. Irrespective, no one is perfect and all need to continually work on their lives to become more desirable as a companion.

We continue our study on what makes a good husband who is a good companion.

A good husband loves his wife

This love will be expressed in words, but as well, it will be expressed in deed and in truth or in sincerity (1 Jn. 3:18). The husband is to love his wife to the same extent that Jesus loved the church (Eph. 5:25; 1 Jn. 3:16). Noticed how a good husband views or looks upon his wife:

Eccl. 9:9 _____

Prov. 18:22 _____

Prov. 19:14 _____

If you want to know how "true love" is shown to one's wife, look at how this love is explained in 1 Cor. 13:4-7:

Positive aspects:

1. **Love suffers long** _____
2. **Love is kind** _____
3. **Love rejoices in the truth** _____
4. **Love bears all things** _____
5. **Love believes all things** _____
6. **Love hopes all things** _____
7. **Love endures all things** _____

8. Love never fails _____

Negative Aspects:

- 1. Love does not envy _____
- 2. Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up _____
- 3. Love does not behave rudely _____
- 4. Love does not seek its own _____
- 5. Love is not provoked _____
- 6. Love thinks no evil _____
- 7. Love does not rejoice in iniquity _____

A good husband lives considerately with his wife

A good husband is concerned about his wife's welfare and happiness. It is important to him that he learns or understands his wife's needs and problem areas (1 Pet. 3:7). He needs to ask:

- 1. *What does she need?*
- 2. *What makes her happy?*
- 3. *What makes her nervous?*
- 4. *What makes her relaxed?*
- 5. *What makes her depressed?*

A good husband needs to **beware** of the following things:

- a) Criticism
- b) Little things are important
- c) Her need for security
- d) Cruelty, crudeness, dirty language towards her
- e) Hurting her feelings
- f) Not recognizing her attempts to please you
- g) Unfavorable comparisons with other women.
- h) Rejection of her opinions as unimportant

A good husband will honor his wife

To honor someone is to show high regard for or respect for them as a person (1 Pet. 3:7). But inspiration also adds that you show honor to them because:

- 1. **They are the weaker vessel;**
- 2. **But they are also heirs of the grace of life;**
- 3. **So that your prayers will not be hindered.**

What are some other things that can help to show that we honor or respect them?

Eph. 5:25 _____

Eph. 58-29 _____

Why should the husband feel obligated to honor his wife?

Gen. 1:27 _____

Gen. 2:18 _____

Gen. 2:20 _____

Concluding Thoughts

It is very important that the husband's attitude and actions toward his wife is honorable—because, if there are children, they will learn the "kind" of attitude that is set before them.

Men need to be good husbands! It should be a decision of the heart as well as the head. It is not a question of whether the wife deserves it, but of doing it. It should be a permanent decision.

The church is made strong, as well as our society, by men who assume their God-given role in life correctly and effectively.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did God create Eve for Adam?

2. Why is it important to work at being a good husband?

3. How does love help to make us a better companion?

4. Why does it say that a "prudent" wife is from the Lord?

5. Is there any other kind? If so, who sent them?

6. Why is love looked upon in a negative and positive way?

7. What are some things that a husband should know about his wife?

8. How do we show honor to our wives?

Lesson Four

"How to be a Good Wife" (#1)

Marriage is the joining together of two people by God to be a husband and wife. There are two different people with two different roles to play. A successful marriage will require both to work at their respective jobs. As with the husband, God's directions and instructions are also pointed and practical for the wife as well. James promises that the person who is a doer of God's Word is the one to be blessed (Jas. 1:25).

The wife is to be submissive to her husband

Submission is not a bad thing because we all have to be submissive. All should be submissive to God! All should be submissive to the governing powers! The church is to be submissive to Jesus as its head. However, the submission of the wife to her husband can be a real trial of one's faith, if she did not make the right choice of a husband. What reasons are given as to why women are to be in a submissive role?

- Gen. 3:16 _____
- 1 Cor. 11:3 _____
- Eph. 5:22 _____
- Eph. 5:24 _____
- Eph. 5:33 _____
- Col. 3:18 _____
- 1 Tim. 2:11-12 _____
- _____
- 1 Pet. 3:1 _____
- 1 Tim. 2:13 _____
- 1 Tim. 2:14 _____
- 1 Cor. 11:8-9 _____
- _____

How would you understand the phrase "*A help meet for Adam?*" (Please check one of the following:

- 1. In competition to man?**
- 2. Equal role and authority with man?**
- 3. Supportive of man?**
- 4. Other?** _____

Submission is not slavery! It does not belittle someone to say they are submissive to someone else. In fact, submission can show great strength of character. Jesus came as a servant of mankind. It did not belittle Him (Matt. 20:28).

There is a strong emphasis by some that says that women are equal with men. There is a sense in which women are equal with men, but obviously not the same role. The only way to secure full equality is to **"Feminize" men or "Manize" women!** As women assume masculine roles—sexual expression becomes confused and frustrating. She is a woman and she needs to be a woman, not a man.

Why do some women not submit to their husbands in some areas?

Acts 4:18-19 _____

Col. 3:19 _____

Gal. 6:7 _____

Tit. 2:4 _____

1 Cor. 7:13-17 _____

Tit. 2:5 _____

1 Cor. 7:10-11 _____

What principles will help a wife to submit to an undesirable husband?

Phil. 2:5 _____

Col. 3:18 _____

1 Pet. 3:5-6 _____

1 Pet. 3:1-4 _____

1 Pet. 3:6 _____

Prov. 15:1 _____

Matt. 5:43-48 _____

1 Pet. 3:7 _____

1 Cor. 10:13

Concluding Thoughts

A wife can become a hindrance rather than a help to her husband (Prov. 19:13). Instead of respecting her husband, she can run him down. Instead of boosting his feelings of importance and competence, she can destroy these feelings.

Discontent can make a person miserable as well as others around him (1 Tim. 6:6). Some of the women's movements have brought on a lot of discontentment among women. Some is misleading. Some seem to infer that unless the woman seeks out the goals and activities characteristic of a man, she is inferior. It insultingly infers that a woman can only have dignity if she imitates the dignity of man. But the woman has a dignity of her own! A masculine or neuter woman is a crippled caricature of God's creation. Women can become first-class females, but make very poor copies of males.

One fact that needs to be emphasized over and over—neither the man nor the woman can fulfill their role as it should be without the help, cooperation, and encouragement of each other. Once that a couple has come to the realization of what God expects of each, they should make a commitment to do everything they can to help the other to do what God expects of him or her.

Questions for Discussion

1. Is a submissive role bad in any way?
2. What are some areas where all are submissive?
3. Why has God placed the woman in a submissive role?
4. Did submissiveness on the part of Jesus belittle Him?
5. What would be some reasons why a woman would not be submissive to her husband?
6. What will help a woman to submit to an undesirable husband?
7. How does a wife become a hindrance to her husband?
8. If something brings discontent in our lives, is that an indication that it is wrong?
9. Can a man lead if his wife is unwilling to submit?

Lesson Five

"How to be a Good Wife" (#2)

The role of a wife and the role of a mother is not necessarily the same in every respect. Our emphasis in these studies is more designed to deal with the role of the wife in the home. In our last lesson we dealt with the submissive role of the wife. It might be interesting to approach the subject of submission from an advantage point.

- 1. She is not responsible for the final decisions.**
- 2. She does not have the pressure of being head and its responsibilities.**
- 3. She does not have to do something she was not primarily designed to do.**
- 4. She is to be protected, cherished, and made to feel secure.**
- 5. She does not have to compete with her husband.**
- 6. She can choose whom she wants to submit unto.**
- 7. She can have the satisfaction of obeying God in this matter.**
- 8. She is not without her own great impact and influence when properly used.**
- 9. She can help her children see the proper roles of life.**

A good wife is a good homemaker

Older women are commanded by God to teach the younger women about their responsibilities to their husbands and children (Tit. 2:3-5). One of those responsibilities is to be a homemaker. The old KJV uses the expression "*keepers at home.*" The Greek word is made up of two concepts: "home" and "keeper." She is to be a Keeper of her house. The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Tim. 5:14 (concerning young widows) "*Therefore, I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.*" The impression one gets from these passages is that the wife (whether she works outside the home or not) should make her home her primary responsibility—to "*guide, manage, or keep her home,*" and not to be idle, a gossip, or a busybody in other people's lives.

What reasons does God give for women making "homemaking" one of their chief duties?

- Tit. 2:5** _____
- 1 Tim. 5:13** _____
- 1 Tim. 5:14** _____

What do you consider the primary responsibilities of a "homemaker?"

A good wife will love her husband

Older women are commanded to teach the younger women to "*love their husbands.*" (Tit. 2:4). There are two Greek words that our word "love" attempts to translate—*Phileo* and *Agape*. *Agape* is the highest concept of love, and is exemplified by God by the sending of His Son to die for us. This kind of love is to be expressed towards our brothers and sisters in Christ, but also to our enemies; while *Phileo* is usually not commanded (one exception). This love or affection is usually a natural development of friendship and companionship between people. *Phileo* is what is being commanded here (Tit. 2:4).

How can this love be expressed or shown to the husband?

Eph. 5:24 _____

1 Cor. 7:3-5 _____

Tit. 2:3-5 _____

Prov. 19:14 _____

Eph. 5:33 _____

There are some important questions that could be asked to help give insight on how to show concern for one's husband—such as the following:

1. *What are his goals in life?*
2. *How can I help him reach these goals?*
3. *What signs does he give to let me know of a need?*
4. *What are his secret ambitions?*
5. *How does he differ from me?*
6. *etc.*

A good wife will beautify the inner person

Males are more oriented towards seeing, while females are more oriented towards feelings. The tendency on the part of women is to over-dress outwardly in order to attract the male, rather than to get his admiration from her inner beauty. God wants to reverse that and says so in two New

Testament passages (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:1-6). But there are other passages that also give emphasis to the woman beautifying the inner person.

Prov. 31:30 _____

1 Pet. 3:1-6 _____

1 Tim. 2:9-10 _____

Tit. 2:3-5 _____

Isa. 3:16-24 _____

Prov. 19:13 _____

Prov. 31:25-26 _____

Prov. 31:28-30 _____

Concluding Thoughts

A happy marriage and home is not one-sided—it takes both working at their special roles to find the peace, contentment, and happiness that God has intended to come from this special relationship between a man and a woman in the bonds of marriage. Ladies, can you evaluate yourselves in the following questions:

Check List for wives

1. Are nagging, bickering or being picky a part of your activities in the home?
2. Are you in subjection to your husband?
3. Do you place him in the position of leadership?
4. Do you take life, generally, without complaint?
5. Are you a positive, affirming person?
6. Are you a forgiving person?
7. Do you often interrupt your husband when he is talking or telling a story?
8. Do you put your husband down in public?
9. Are you sexually responsive to your husband most of the time?
10. Are you able to handle problems and pressure, or do you remain indecisive or blame others?
11. Do you call your husband by ugly names? (Those he does not like).
12. Do you express any resentment against your husband?
13. Is your house reasonably organized and clean?
14. How do you feel about housework?
15. Are you extravagant when it comes to spending money?
16. Are you inclined to buy things on impulse, then have trouble paying your bills?

17. Do you spend at least one-half of your leisure time together?
18. Do you treat his mother with disrespect?
19. Are in-laws allowed to interfere or set policies for your family?
20. Do you see something funny only at the expense of others?
21. If you are wrong, do you find it hard to admit it?
22. Do your prime interests in life center around things more than people?
23. Have you thought what you would be like in 25 years?
24. Is your husband bitter for marrying you?
25. Do you store up grudges or resentments?
26. Do you resent the submissive role God has selected for you?
27. Is your house generally attractive and in order?
28. Are you dressing as he would wish you to?
29. Do you dress "your" age?
30. Are you keeping up-to-date with his interests?
31. Do you have good conversations about church and Bible topics?
32. Do you have a daily time for Bible study and prayer?
33. Do you try to be creative in your approach to everyday problems?
34. Do you serve meals that have some variety and attractiveness?
35. Are you childish: want your own way; pouting or making a fuss over trifles?
36. Are you fun to be around?
37. Do you have any bad habits your husband wants you to change?

Lesson Six

"Things Necessary to a Good Marriage"

It is interesting to notice that God designed "marriage" for the good and happiness of mankind, but man hasn't done too well with the arrangement at times. Until mankind goes back to the basics or fundamentals of the marital arrangement, there will always be problems. Several things are involved in bad marriages:

1. Bad choices could be at the top of the list;
2. One or both are not concern about living a godly life;
3. One or both do not take the time to study out what God has to say about marriage (they don't read the instructions);
4. Selfishness, self-centeredness, immaturity is usually involved;
5. Sin in the lives of both makes marriage a challenge.

For marriage to succeed in bringing happiness to mankind, we must look for those basic things that will help to make such possible. We have already given five lessons to emphasize this concept:

1. **Marry the right person.**
2. **Be a good husband.**
3. **Be a good wife.**

The following things are additional suggestions to the reader as being necessary:

1. Marriage must be a commitment for life! If one or both enter into marriage with reservations that it will not last—the marriage is already in trouble (Rom. 7:1-4). The "D" word (Divorce) should not even be a consideration for discussion!

Mal. 2:14-16 _____

Prov. 5:18 _____

2. A good marriage is built on faithfulness to each other. A real effort is continually made to build trust by words said and things done. Neither should give any reason for the other not to trust your words and actions. This obviously would include sexual faithfulness.

Exo. 20:14 _____

Gal. 5:19 _____

Tit. 2:4-5 _____

Prov. 28:20 _____

3. Since God is the one who planned and designed marriage for man, should we not turn to him for instruction on how to make it work? God wants the best for His creatures! He certainly did not design the home to be a curse for us! He wants us to be happy and contented. So, why shouldn't we read, learn, and accept God's instructions and God's arrangements for our homes. It is when we fail to do this that we have our problems.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 _____

Psa. 119:72 _____

Psa. 119:172 _____

4. There has to be mutual submission to one another! True love will prompt us to give in to the wishes and desires of others rather than to have our own way. We want the good for others! We want to bear others' burdens by giving them the help they need.

Gal. 6:2 _____

Phil. 2:3-4 _____

Eph. 5:21 _____

1 Cor. 7:3-5 _____

1 Pet. 3:7 _____

5. We must "BUILD" mutual respect for one another. Our job is not to tear each other down, but to build each other up! The wife is to show proper respect for her head; but he also needs to have a proper respect for her willingness to live with him, help him, encourage him, etc.

Eph. 5:22-33 _____

1 Pet. 3:7 _____

1 Thess. 5:11 _____

2 Cor. 12:19 _____

6. We must learn how to communicate effectively to one another. We not only communicate by words, but by our looks, body actions or lack of it, and by our emotional reactions. God confused the people who were building the "Tower of Babel" by simply making it hard for them to communicate with each other—He confused their language! (Gen. 11). We often have that problem ourselves—even with both speaking the English language. However, the emphasis is upon communicating effectively—getting our message across with the right spirit and the right motive behind such. Good communicating can:

- a) Work through problems that need to be dealt with;
- b) Explore each other's feelings and wishes;
- c) Provide reassurance;
- d) Avoid anger, bitterness, and impatience.

Eph. 4:31 _____

1 Pet. 2:1-2 _____

Col. 3:19 _____

Col. 4:6 _____

7. And, absolutely, the need for "REPENTANCE" and "FORGIVENESS." If we were perfect beings there would be no need for such; but, we are not perfect! Therefore, relationships are not built with two perfect people; but, with two penitent and forgiving people. An estranged relationship can only be restored when repentance and forgiveness takes place. This is even true with our relationship with God!

Acts 3:19 _____

Luke 17:1-3 _____

2 Cor. 7:9-10 _____

Concluding Thoughts

From the above things mentioned, it should be obvious that a "Good" Marriage is something that has to be worked at constantly—each doing what they can to help make it a little "heaven on earth!" A Good Marriage has to be built on a good foundation!

Matt. 7:24-27 _____

Questions for Discussion

1. Can only "true" Christians have a good marriage? Explain your answer.

2. Why would it be important that both husband and wife were dedicated Christians?

3. Can a person be committed to a marriage and it will still fail?

4. Why is trust so important in close relationships?

5. Who is the logical one to whom to turn for help with our marriage?

6. In what sense is the man to be subject to his wife?

7. What are some things that help to build mutual respect for one another?

8. Why is effective communication so important to a good marriage?

9. Can a marriage be a happy and blessed one.....if there is little or no repentance and forgiveness?

