

Building a Successful Marriage

Psalm 127:1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Psalm 127:1** – “Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it”
1. Zig Ziglar: “Many marriages would be better if the husband and the wife clearly understood that they are on the same side.”
 2. Rock Balboa to Adrian: “I got gaps; you got gaps; we fill each other's gaps.”
 3. Goethe: “There is no remedy for love but to love more”
- B. When I Studied Marriage & the Family at Lipscomb, and later taught it at Freed-Hardeman and later than that at Lipscomb, the text book was entitled Building a Successful Marriage, by Landis & Landis. And wouldn't you know it, Judson T. Landis & Mary T. Landis got a divorce.
- C. Definition: **THE HOME IS A SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP (INSTITUTION) ESTABLISHED BY GOD FOR MAN'S GOOD AND GOD'S GLORY.**

SUGGESTIONS FOR BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

A. CHOOSE THE RIGHT MATE . . . THE RIGHT SPOUSE

1. “Young people get caught up in the romance and the physical attraction, and they don't consider whether the object of their attraction will help or hinder them in their spiritual development.
2. Ask yourself this question: Will this person help or hinder you from going to Heaven?
3. Just because a person falls in "love", doesn't necessarily mean that person you "love" would make a good spouse.
4. Hormones need to be governed by reason.
5. God made us creatures of choice.
6. In fact, our lives are a product of the choices we make.” The three Ds of Life . . . **Decisions Determine Destines.**
7. Do not date anyone whom you would not consider marrying. Explain

B. REMAIN SEXUALLY PURE UNTIL MARRIAGE

1. Some do . . . Many don't. Your marriage will have a greater chance of success if you do.
2. God can forgive you . . . And people who love you can to.
3. Young people today who are taking a stand against pre-marital sex are to be applauded.

C. BE COMMITTED

1. “Be committed to each other and to making the marriage work.
2. A few generations ago, marriages were stable and divorce was not as

wide spread as it is today.

3. Divorce should not be considered an option when things are not going well within the marriage.
4. There are situations, of course, where there is abuse and infidelity which cannot, and should not be tolerated. Nonetheless, sexual unfaithfulness is the only grounds for a scriptural divorce.

D. ACCEPT GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

1. Let Christ be the head of the Family.
2. Let the Husband be the Spiritual leader in the home.
3. Let the husband love his wife more than he loves his own body.
4. Let the wife love her husband and live in submission to Him.
5. Let the children obey their parents.
6. Let the parents bring their children up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." **Ephesians 6:4**

E. DO NOT WITHHOLD LOVE AND AFFECTION FROM YOUR SPOUSE

1. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 forbids it.
2. "Don't use your affection and intimacy as a weapon to get your own way.
3. God has given specific instructions about the physical relationship between husband and wife.

F. LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER.

1. Communication . . . Communication . . . Communication. Communicate . . . Communicate . . . Then communicate some more.
2. **Illustration:** A woman came to the preacher's office and said, "I need a little counseling. I need to see about getting a divorce.
The preacher asked, "Do you have any grounds?"
She said, "Yes sir, we have about an acre and a quarter out there on the edge of town."
The preacher said, No, no, I mean do you have a grudge? "No, but we have the prettiest little carport you ever did see."
The he said, Lady, does the man beat you up?
She said, Oh no, I'm up nearly every morning about an hour and a half before he is."
The preacher said, "Then I don't understand why you want the divorce."
She said, "Because there is no way you can carry on an intelligent conversation."
3. Abigail Van Buren, better known as "Dear Abby, said, "The less you talk, the more you're listened to." James wrote in **James 1:19** we should be "Swift to heal and slow to speak."
4. Dr. Karl Menninger said, "The person (to whom I listen) is showing me his soul."
5. Many times self gets in the way of communicating. It is said that the word "I" is used 19 more times than any other word in the English language.

6. Sometimes we talk too much. Alstair Cooke once said, Too often our meanings are “drowned in an ocean of verbosity.”
7. Every home has communication . . . It is either good or bad.
8. Suggestions for family communication in the home:
 - a. Good communication involves feelings. If you are not in touch with your feelings, you can’t communicate them.
 - b. Be able to talk about anything honestly, openly, and without apology.
 - c. Be a good listener.
 - d. Be honest and speak the truth. “Speaking the truth in love.” Eph. 4:15
 - e. In the home every member deserves to be heard and understood.
 - f. Avoid quarreling. Proverbs 17:28 – “Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.”
 - g. Sincerely admit wrongs and seek forgiveness.
 - h. Avoid nagging.
 - i. In conversation
 1. Listen to what is said . . . And what is not said.
 2. Listen to the tone in which it is said.
 3. Look for body language that might contradict the message.
 - j. Remember, if you want others to listen to you, listen to them.
 - k. Respond to the hidden message.
 - l. Work on improving your communication skills.
9. Satan will constantly try to disrupt good and effective communication in your home. He wants you to:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Argue b. Shift blame onto others c. Fuss and cuss d. Fight verbally and nonverbally e. Assign blame f. Shout at your family members 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> g. Engage in name calling h. Pout i. Accuse j. Refuse to discuss problems k. Avoid communicating l. Be angry
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10. Remember . . . Few things can be more detrimental to a marriage than the refusal of one of the partners to discuss problems.

G. DON'T NEGLECT YOUR SPOUSE

1. “While you are raising your children, and long after the children have left home, you will need each other.
2. A loving relationship must be built and maintained while the children are growing up.”
3. Explain why so many empty-nesters divorce.

H. COME TO AN AGREEMENT ABOUT THE HANDLING OF FINANCES

1. #1 problem for divorce . . . Money
 - a. Too much money.
 - b. Too little money.
 - c. Mismanagement of money.

2. Give to God first.

I. TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH

1. Do this so you can be there for each other for a lot of years to come.
2. Do this so you can be there for your children and grandchildren.

J. GIVE EACH OTHER ROOM FOR INDIVIDUAL GROWTH

1. One may be a big sports fan, the other may not.
2. One may like to read a lot, the other may not.
3. Each will have their likes and dislikes . . . Give each other some room.

K. BE WILLING TO SAY “I’M SORRY”

1. Be sincere and really mean it.
2. When you are wrong, apologize and try to make improvements.

L. Be willing to forgive

1. When wronged by your spouse, forgive.
2. Once you forgive, put it behind you do not bring it up again.

M. WHEN POSSIBLE, ARRANGE FOR THE WIFE AND MOTHER TO BE IN THE HOME

1. This is important during the years when the children are growing up.
2. A working mother with young children is actually holding down two full time jobs.
3. She has little time nor energy left for her husband at the end of the day.
4. Many are working outside the home not out of need but out of wants.
5. In this country we are already living like princes, but we want to live like kings. We often neglect and sacrifice our families in order to do so.

N. SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN THE DISCIPLINING OF THE CHILDREN

1. Failure to do so will cause both the marriage and the children to suffer.
2. Disciplining involves both correction and instruction.

O. Hold your spouse in high esteem

1. Say good things about them . . . Say good things to them.
2. Husbands, your wife is the queen of your home . . . Esteem her highly.

P. ALWAYS REMAIN BEST FRIENDS

1. **Illustration:** Dean Mack Wayne Craig: “I lost my best friend.”
2. Keep your friendship strong . . . Be friends forever.
3. **Proverbs 18:22** – “He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.” Another rendering of that verse says, “A man’s greatest treasure is his wife.”

Q. CONTRIBUTE TO EACH OTHER’S HAPPINESS

1. Rodney Dangerfield said: “My wife and I were happy for twenty years, then we met.” He also said: “I haven’t spoken to my wife in years. I didn’t want to interrupt her.”
2. Max Kaufman said: “I never knew what real happiness was until I got married and by then it was too late.”

3. Groucho Marx said “I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.”
4. Zsa Zsa Gabor said: ““A man is incomplete until he is married. After that, he is finished.”
5. Husbands, The three most important words in a marriage . . . “I love you.”
The four most important words, “I’ll do the dishes.”
6. People joke a lot about marriage . . . But marriage is serious business.

R. HELP YOUR SPOUSE AND FAMILY GO TO HEAVEN

1. Teach the gospel of Christ to every family member . . . And live it before them.
2. Be faithful in attendance of the worship services.
3. Be active in the Lord’s work.
4. Have family devotionals at home.
5. Read Bible stories to your children daily before bedtime.
6. Pray together as a family . . . Call family member’s names to God in prayer.
7. Never give up trying to help each family member grow into the image of Christ.

CONCLUSION:

- A. **Psalm 127:1** – “Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it . . . ”
1. Bob the Builder says, “Can we build it . . . Yes we can!
 2. God is more than willing to help you build your marriage if you are willing to build it the right way . . . According to His will.
 3. God is more than willing to help you build a strong Christian home and family if you are willing to build it the right way . . . According to His will.
 4. Are you willing to work with Him to that end?
- B. Your marriage can be made successful . . . One day at a time will equal a lifetime of happiness and completeness. God wants you to have a successful Christian marriage and home.
- C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**