

Everything You Do Matters – In Your Marriage

Various passages

Introduction

Many of us are still married just because we are good Baptists and don't want to violate what Jesus said in Matt. 10:4-6 – "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder." But that is not good enough. To be stuck in a horrible marriage is not what God promised us for our lives.

But this is true about so many. Marriages are falling all around us, and many others are torturous daily pain, but they stay together because they are supposed to.

Solution is NOT divorce! Solution is to begin building your marriage with intentionally positive interactions.

Background

Principle from Willard Harley (*His Needs, Her Needs*) – Every interaction either builds a relationship or tears it down.

This principle works all the time, every time. Three specific ways:

Marriage – negative

Affair – positive

Marriage - positive

How to Build a Great Marriage

Husbands, love your wives.

Eph. 5:33 - ¹⁵Nevertheless **let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself**; and *let the wife see to it* that she respect her husband.

How can a husband practically love his wife?

Wives, respect your husbands.

Eph. 5:33 - ¹⁵Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and **let the wife see to it that she respect her husband**.

How can a wife practically respect her husband?

Love one another. (Verb, not noun.)

John 13:34 - ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

2537 καινος kainos {kahee-nos'}

1) new

1a) as respects form

1a1) recently made, fresh, recent, **unused**, unworn

1b) as respects substance

1b1) of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of

This is not falling in love. This is not "I don't love her/him any more." This is actively loving the other person.

Not a feeling, but an action. Over and over.

Falling in love is about attraction. Staying in love requires the right action.

Jesus is the example.

How can one spouse actively love the other?

Mutual submission. (Put spouse first)

Eph. 5:21 - ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

"You first." "No, you first!" "No, you first!" "Today you are the priority." ...

Phil. 2:3-4 - ³Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **let each of you regard one another as more important than himself**; ⁴do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Have you ever been in the room with someone who was more important than you? Bride?

You treat your spouse like they are the most important person in the room.

What would happen if you treated your spouse that way?

Think the best.

1 Cor. 13:7 - ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Always assumes the best, not the worst!

How would this look in your marriage?

Be hard to offend.

??? - ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

It's a decision you make!

How would this look in your marriage?

Forgive.

Matthew 18:21-22 - ²¹Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” ²²Jesus *said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

Always assumes the best, not the worst!

How would this look in your marriage?

Conclusion:

Discretion: Avoiding words actions or attitudes that could result in undesirable consequences.

Before you do or say anything, think about whether it will build or destroy.

Because everything you do in your marriage matters!