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Building a Happy Life

To many people marry for the wrong purposes, motives, and without the right preparation.

Most people think that love is the only thing which counts in marriage.

A successful marriage is in great measure the result of the preparation that has been made for it - physically, morally, intellectually, vocationally, emotionally and spiritually. The period of courtship offers the opportunity for this preparation. It takes time and effort to grow up to have the ideals and faith and character someone else would want. And yet this is the price of a happy, lasting marriage.

The younger a couple is at the time of marriage, the greater the chance of trouble. The longer the period of courtship, the less chance of strife in the marriage.

The divorce rate for those who marry in their teens is six times as high as that in any other age group.

A happy marriage is the result of a great deal of hard work, and requires many adjustments on the part of both husband and wife.

The Bible teaches that the relationships between husband and wife must take priority over all other relationships.

IN PART Mtt 19:5 ... "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife."

If your marriage is truly a successful one, your entire life will be happy. Almost any marriage can succeed if both persons really want it to, and if each is able and willing to do his part. Learn from the experience of others.

The most essential element for a pure and happy life is pure and genuine love between the husband and wife.

Eph 5:22-33, Turn to

Someone said that marriage is a 50-50 proposition. But isn't it more of a 100-100 relationship?

Eph 5:25, verse just read.

The husband is to "love his wife as he loves himself." The husband is to honor his wife.

I Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

What is honour? Sympathy, understanding, tenderness and affection - "living considerately."

In most ceremonies, the bride promises to "love, Honour, and Obey," her husband; these are her major responsibilities.

Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

She is to love her husband. The marriage is based on a foundation of mutual love.

IN PART Eph 5:33 --- "and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

The wife is to respect or honour her husband.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

The wife is to be in submission to her husband, and the only way the husband can be the head of his home is for the wife to submit to his rule.

Does this sound like a 50-50 proposition? a 50% marriage is doomed from the start.

There are some people who marry hoping that they can reform the one they love.

The changes are that a person will be the same after the vows are read as he was before.

If marriage is to find its meaning and fullfill its purpose we must marry with unselfish love, each loving the other for what he or she is, and thinking of what each can do to bring the best out in each other.

One of the most difficult tasks of ministers and marriage counselors is to persuade people to take time, time to grow, time to find the right person, time to "fall in love completely, and time to "become" the right person.

The happiest married couples are not constantly in complete agreement. In a normal marriage - even if a Christian - there will be a certain amount of conflict. The most ideal person has faults, and marriage does not eliminate them. In a Christian marriage the parties "should be" able to see that "beneath the surface" feelings are deeper feelings of real love, and should be able to work together in overcoming these conflicts and in assuming their own happiness.

If you become angry with each other, remember what Paul says in -

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."

Genuine love between husband and wife will cause them to accept their differences and to adjust to any minor irritations that may arise.

Children have a natural ability to forgive and forget. They can fight one minute and be friends the next. As we get older we lose that talent.

True love, as well as true forgiveness, means accepting ourselves and our partners as we are - a combination of faults and virtues.

When Paul says not to let the sun go down on your wrath, he means not to let our anger pile up from day to day. Confess, forgive, and express your love toward each other.

"I am sorry" can be the most important words you can say. Learn to forgive and to ask for forgiveness.

Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Every conflict in marriage can be handled by a simple application of Paul's teaching in these scriptures.

You will be so much happier once you have "patched-up" your differences.

Worshipping together - not only in Church - but in your home with your entire family, can help a whole lot in building a happier life.

It can be seen that the key to a pure and happy life is a spiritual one, and that a husband and wife can build an enduring marriage only as they learn to genuinely experience love, acceptance, and forgiveness of themselves, of each other, and of God.

The marriage decision is the second most deeply serious one you will make during your lifetime. There is only one other decision that is so important — and that is "your" decision (not someone else's) to give your life to Christ. This decision should be made first, even before seeking out a marriage partner.

The person you marry may well determine where you spend eternity. Have the courage to wait until you are fully grown; mentally, physically, and spiritually; to take this serious step.

Those of you that are already married, please remember, "I am sorry", making up can be a wonderful experience.