



God's Blueprint for a Healthy Marriage
Selected Scripture
January 22, 2017

Martin Luther:

"Marriage is a school for character. As two people live together in holy matrimony, the experience either brings out the best in them or the worst in them. It's an opportunity to exercise faith, hope, and love and to mature in sacrifice and service to one another for God's glory."

Four Disciplines of a Healthy Marriage:

I. The Discipline of Priority

Genesis 2:24a For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother...

Four words that prove our marriage is our priority:

1. Commitment

Colossians 3:14 (NKJV) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Walter Trobisch:

"Marriage is not an achievement which is finished. It is a dynamic process between two people, a relationship which is constantly being changed, which grows or dies."

2. Fidelity

Ephesians 5:25 (NKJV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

James Dobson:

"Nobody wakes up one day and suddenly decides to begin an extramarital affair. Infidelity begins in the heart and mind. By the time a person physically commits adultery, he or she has been indulging for quite some time in progressively more intense mental and emotional affairs. Likewise, marital fidelity begins long before marriage. It begins as a promise we make to ourselves to be a person of faithful character before marriage ever enters the picture."

B. F. Westcott:

"Silently and undetectably, as we work or sleep, we grow strong, or we grow weak; and at last some crisis shows us what we have become."

3. Communication

1 Peter 4:11 (NKJV) If anyone speaks let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Three principles to assist our communication in marriage:

a. The principle of first response

Proverbs 15:1 says, A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

b. The principle of proper timing

Proverbs 15:23 (NKJV) A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

c. The principle of mirroring

Proverbs 22:17 (NKJV) Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge.

4. Encouragement

Hebrews 3:13 (ISV) Instead, continue to encourage one another every day, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Kent Hughes:

"Marriage is getting to have a sleepover with your best friend, every single night of the week."

II. The Discipline of Pursuit

Genesis 2:24b A man shall cleave unto his wife...

III. The Discipline of Possession

Genesis 2:24c And they shall become one flesh.

IV. The Discipline of Purity

Genesis 2:25 (NKJV) And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.