

PRINCIPLES OF SUCCESSFUL MARRIED LIFE

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The couple now married has been united into one. From this point onwards, they will share their lives together till death do they part. Success and failure of a marriage is dependent on how well the couple abide by the principles of God for a successful marriage. Success never comes by wishing or mere prayers. It comes by the diligent application of the right principles. In this study, we are going to look at the things that will make marriage happy and steady.

1. All marriages should be built upon Christ. Jesus must be made the head of the home. The couple must depend entirely on Him for wisdom, strength, grace and all their provisions. If Jesus is not Lord over the married couple's lives, the marriage will collapse.

"Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Ps 127:1 NIV)

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3:10-11 NIV)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Prov 3:5-6 NIV)

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13 NIV)

2. If the marriage must succeed, the couple should always pray together. And when children come into the family they should join the family prayer. The family that prays together stays together. The couple is each other's prayer partner, and the first among other prayer partners.

"Pray continually." (1 Thess 5:17 NIV)

3. They should study the Bible together.

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth." (Deut 11:18-21 NIV)

“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Josh 1:8 NIV)

4. The married couples are supposed to see themselves not as two different people but as one. And for this reason, should not hide things (especially their feelings) from each other, or the marriage will crack and crumble. Be open to one another. Be free to correct one another in the spirit of love.

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Gal 6:1-2 NIV)

Accept corrections with meekness and love.

5. Do not assume that your partner knows or ought to know that what he or she is doing is wrong. Always bare your mind in love. Cry out if you have to. If you don't it will eat into you and destroy your love for each other.
6. Married couples should learn to understand one another's likes and dislikes, desires temperament, reasoning, ambition and attitude. When there is this understanding, nobody will step on each other's toes. There will be mutual agreement and cooperation. They can even represent and speak for one another because their minds work alike.
7. For any marriage to work. None of the partners (especially the husband should impose his or her will or desire on the other. You should not insist on your own way. Be open to reason. There should be mutual agreement in all you do. Where there is no agreement, both persons should pray and listen to God's will or verdict. By so doing, quarrels and disagreement will be far from you. But if you don't you will discover that your love life is turning to that of a master and servant relationship (a situation where the wife has no say but takes instructions from the husband)

“It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” (1 Cor 13:5 NIV)

8. Tolerance, forgiveness and compromise should be your practice. Both couple should learn to tolerate one another's temperament and mistakes. You should learn to forgive each other when hurt.

“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.” (James 1:19-20 NIV)

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." (Eph 4:26-27 NIV)

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Eph 4:30-32 NIV)

Compromise with one another for the sake of peace. Rather suffer wrong and allow peace and love to flow than to allow your marriage crumble.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:" (Phil 2:1-5 NIV)

"The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?" (1 Cor 6:7-8 NIV)

9. Be servants of one another in love.

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." (Gal 5:13-15 NIV)

10. Always share your disappointments, sorrows, pain, joy and success together. Encouraging one another daily. Make good and encouraging remarks about one another. Learn to appreciate one another's efforts. You can encourage one another with gifts.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Prov 27:17 NIV)

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Eccl 4:9-12 NIV)

And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”(1 Thess 5:14 NIV)

11. The married couple should always plan everything about their lives, their children’s lives and everything about their home together. It should not be left for the husband. By so doing, eventually reap and enjoy together. If peradventure, the plan does not yield the desired fruit, both will share the blame, and there will be no quarrel because both of them planned it together.
12. Do not refuse one another sex except perhaps by agreement for a season that you may give yourselves to prayers. Your bodies belong to each other. Adultery is not allowed.

“Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. “(1 Cor 7:1-7 NIV)

13. The husband’s life is the wife’s. The wife’s life is the husband’s. If you understand it, you will not see each other as being different but as one. It will motivate love and cooperation.

“The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called `woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (Gen 2:23-24 NIV)

14. Married couples should learn to play together and with their children. They can go on picnics together. It helps to strengthen their love for one another, and bind the marriage together.