

## **Some Biblical Marriage Advice** July 6, 2008

**The Lord and You:** Spend time together with the Lord every day. Read and keep reading your Bibles together. Discuss the things that the Lord shows you. Aim together to do 2 Peter 3:18. Pray together before meals and as a rule of thumb ask for God's help and guidance for the day. Pray for others and live for others together. The family that prays together stays together. You have a nice home make it a home to show hospitality and friendship for the sake and cause of Christ. We live in a dark and lonesome world so bring the love of Christ into other lives through who you are and what you have.

**You are the Lord's:** Consider all that you are and have individually and together as belonging to the Lord and use it for His glory. This includes you, body soul and spirit, 1 Cor. 6:19 and 20 and all your worldly possessions. The Christian really has no business making close friends of people who do not belong to the Lord or occupying your time in the rank and file of evil associations. Center your habits around a godly lifestyle.

**One special Book:** Often read through the book of Proverbs. There are 31 chapters in this book, one chapter for each day of the month. There are a lot of wise sayings in this book. This book of the Bible is to advise people who are wise to be wiser.

**Live for each other:** Help each other and do things for each other. Take time for each other and often tell each other that you love and like each other. Make it true and don't speak empty words with poor affect.

**The Two Bears:** Remember to bear with each other and to forebear with one another. To bear means to partner with and come along side to help in a struggle or difficulty. To forebear means to put up with that which may not seem that pleasant to you.

**Confession** is good for the soul and the words I am sorry can make a big difference when it is needed if you really mean it. Sometimes just our attitude is wrong and we need to confess that as a personal ill. If we do confess we are more likely to get beyond attitudes that hurt other people. These can easily be sins within families that have ruled for generations and precipitate poor and caustic relationships.

**Attitudes:** Doing things out of spite and to be mean and ornery are always desperately negative and provoking to others. These can make someone who is being treated that way exasperated. If you have a point to prove don't use this method! On the other hand be thoughtful and kind hearted, a Christ like thing.

**Be Direct about important Matters:** When you don't feel good about something, say your thing in truth, be direct and allow for room to change, forgive often and return to the place of smooth living. If you are back handed and speak in uncertain words it only adds to the confusion of a bad situation. Pray together about it. Sometimes embracing in a moment of confession is a healer.

**Acceptance:** Don't set out to change your partner. If any change needs to be done let the Lord take care of the matter. Ask the Lord to help you with acceptance if it bugs and plagues you. This is forbearance.

**Live and be like Christ:** Study the life of Christ together. Understand how He lived and seek under God to live like Him, this is discipleship. Christians naturally want to be like Christ and when this isn't so something is wrong; special help from the Lord to overcome the evil of the moment may be especially needed. Have someone please pray and be quiet; enough talk, alright? Wait on the Lord and He shall give help in time of need.

**Obedience:** As a Christian seek to obey the Lord and His written Word. God blesses obedience. You never sin when obeying the Lord. If you are both saved there should be life signs to implement obedience in your life and it will show up in real obedience to the Lord and His commands. You can't hide sin, be sure your sin will find you out! Make Christ LORD of your life. He has the rightful place of authority in your individual and married lives.

**Some Simple Family Rules:** Pay close attention to Colossians 3:18-25. Live these verses where they apply to you. Slaves in verse 22 should mean to you, employee. A slave is responsible for duty. An employee is responsible to work for his employer as mentioned for slaves in these verses. No workie, no checkie!

**Sexual purity** for a lifetime is important to God and therefore should be important to you. Draw a line in the sand and do not cross it. Society around us is not pure. Keep yourself from sexual impurity and anything that may lead you to impurity. Some of these things can be: allowing self to have time alone with someone of the opposite sex, for any reason. It can be in your home, the work place or going somewhere in a car and so forth. If lust arises in your heart flee, vamous, escape and get out of there, and do it fast, that is what Joseph did, Gen. 39. The devil will always give you a seemingly good reason to disregard this line drawn in the sand and we are to remember that Jesus called him a liar. Don't trust his suggestions and don't trust yourself. You cannot afford to violate the standard of purity, remember the case of David and Bathsheba.

**Serve the Lord:** Give of your time to serve the Lord, that is to spend your time actively creating and producing something for God. Live and do this together as a couple, Psalm 100. Live for yourself and you draw the big "L" over your forehead. Don't be a loser.

**Faithfulness:** Be faithful to the Lord; this will be a help to you to be faithful to your life partner till God calls you home. IF you want what is God's best do it God's way. If you don't, trash this paper right now and go no farther. Divorce is not an option with God it is a lie of the devil. Divorce is a form of selfism that destroys more than anyone ever gains. If you think divorce is justified in your case you are buying into the devils lie. God hates divorce. (God always leaves the door open for reconciliation and so should we if we love the Lord.) This is stated in both the old and new Testaments. If you have problems as a couple and the problems cannot be solved, be overcome or reconciled, always remember the reason is very simple, the reason is sin. It takes two to tango as the saying goes. Confessing and forsaking the sins of your lives is the path to restoration to God and each other. Seek the advice of trusted godly people if matters cannot be resolved alone. Sin is like cancer; the longer you let it be a part of your life the more damage it will do. You know the end of an eating cancer! Don't be a victim. God is a God of miracles and a healer of diseases including the worst disease of all, SIN.

If for some reason you married a person, you for some reason thought was saved who you find out later is not a Christian, again take the advice of the Word of God, 1 Pet. 3:1-7. Obviously you did not do your home work in realizing the life of Christ in the mate you chose. Sometimes we get pretty pig headed about decisions and are offended if someone tries to intervene and head off a potential problem. Confession to God of being easily offended is prudent and the Lord can overrule in our affairs by his divine power and help. Two wrongs never make a right. Keep apples with apples. The priority on earth never changes, it's not about me, it's about the One who created us and came to redeem us to himself. It was not Him that wandered off in sin to despair, it is us. God is still the restorer of all our diseases whether spiritual or physical. Keep trusting God, His Word and ways. Have faith in God. Believe and live! God is faithful and so we should be that way, also. Sometimes we need to pray for help in matters that are out of control inside us.

**Forgiving:** Be gracious, merciful and kind to each other. Forgive as Christ has forgiven you! Let the standards of Matthew 5-7 rule your life. This sermon of Jesus Christ Himself regards the standards of His Kingdom. Forgiveness is a great characteristic of God's Kingdom.

**Know how it works:** Experientially know God. Trust in the Lord. Believe Him and let His ways be your ways. Seek the Lord and often ask Him for divine help. Many so called Christians want their Christianity to be on their terms not God's. Life is for the believer to be lived on His terms. People who do not know the Lord need salvation before any good thing can happen. When a person is born again God will hear your cry and answer your prayers. The first cry of a person who does not know the Lord is as it has always been.... "God be merciful to me a sinner, forgive me, cleanse me and make me new, save me from my habitual sin and sinful ways, my evil attitudes and make me one of your children." Many try other methods of getting into God's Kingdom, it doesn't ever work. After you are saved God's divine power and divine nature are effective in your lives to enable you to live without pride and the primary worldly way... self seeking satisfaction. The following verses speak about tools for Christian living that will help you escape corruption in your life. Read 2 Peter 1:2-4 and think about these divine truths carefully and thoughtfully. Let them sink to your heart as you meditate on them. It is God's Word that gets the job done in all of us.

**Virtue:** Engage biblical progressive virtues of life found in 2 Peter 1:5-8 by the power of the Holy Spirit. Think these over carefully, observe the truths and meditate on the truths in verses 9-11 and review them often. Hang a copy of the face of the fridge.

**Success:** Finally take the advice of Joshua 1:8. In this one verse are three stages for the development of success for an individual; in this verse there is a double edged promise at the end of the verse. These two promises are spiritual and not necessarily physical. However if you live all the above, it may be that God will entrust more to you physically as well.

**Grumbling** and complaining comes from rebellion believe it or not. We must accept the things God has allowed in our lives that we did not see coming and that you are rejecting. The nation of Israel had a problem with this in the wilderness and none of them arrived at the Promised Land. God's people are to receive with joy the path that we have to live. Always seek his path of life and believe that the

circumstances you have to live are for a reason that God has designed or allowed. Sometimes we arrive where we are because of our poor choices and you can't complain to God about that. We get ourselves into some pretty bad messes by disobeying the Lord and doing our own will or taking and seeking advice from anyone but the Lord. We can't grumble and complain about this. We need to go back to the Lord and refresh our relationship with Him through confession and submission. It is humbling but valuable. Remember Psalm 23... "He restores my soul and leads me in the paths of righteousness for HIS name's sake..." Sometimes life is like the valley of the shadow of death, but there we are and still must trust God to deliver us and we are to continue to do what He wants and obey His will regardless of the difficulty. Someone has said that life here is a training ground for eternal reigning with Christ. As we live life's difficulties in patience the end of the valley finally comes; we can learn from the past, rejoice and go on our way.

**Be Thankful:** In everything give thanks for this is the will of God concerning you. Make your home a heaven on earth. It will be a haven of rest for those weary of sin and despair. You will never be sorry about that. Your sacrificial expense, time and energy will not go forgotten in the annals of eternity.

**Live life** with your spouse in exuberance and do it primarily for the Lord. May the Great God and Savior be with you both now and forever!

Doug Crabb 2008