

'THE FOUNDATION OF A GREAT RELATIONSHIP'

Great Relationships Don't Just Happen, Part 2

February 20th, 2011

Philippians 2:2 (Ph) "...Live together in harmony, live together in love, as though you only had one mind and one spirit between you."

Great marriages and great relationships are intentional
Ephesians 4:3 (NIV) "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit..."

Building Blocks Of A Satisfying Relationship

1. Communication

Proverbs 13:17 (LB) "Reliable communication permits progress."

If you want progress in your marriage, you must talk

Communication is a skill which must be learned

Good communication skills allow a couple to develop intimacy and work through problem areas

Men & woman have different communication needs

You must make/plan time to communicate

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2. Consideration

Ephesians 4:2 (NIV) "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

Philippians 2:4 (NIV) "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Consideration is a mark of wisdom

James 3:17 (NIV) "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace loving, considerate..."

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3. Compromise

1 Corinthians 13:5 (LB) "...Love does not demand its own way."

A fatal mistake: "Once we get married, I'll change him/her"

The time to change a major problem in a relationship is before marriage

3 Facts of Life

1. You will have conflict in marriage

2. There will be some issues you'll never completely agree on

3. Compromise is the evidence of Real love

In a great relationship there is a give & take attitude

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4. Courtship

Proverbs 5:18,19 (LB) "Be happy, yes, rejoice in the wife of your youth. Let her breasts and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight."

The real problem in many marriages is couples stop dating

Continuing to date helps a couple transition from "passionate love" to "compassionate love"

Develop things you enjoy doing together

Ecclesiastes 9:9 (NIV) "Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love..."

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5. Commitment

You will never build a great marriage if divorce is an option

Malachi 2:16 (GN) "I hate divorce," says the Lord... 'Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful to your wife.'"

Commitment makes trust & intimacy possible

Principle of Oneness: When my spouse has a problem, we have a problem

Genesis 2:24 (NIV) "For this reason [marriage] a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

The only time to think about commitment is before you make it

Commitment means being willing to be unhappy for a while

Incompatibility is often really just self-centeredness

Our marriage will become what we are committed to making it

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6. Christ

Christ gives you the power and desire to do the other 5 things above

Philippians 4:13 (NIV) "I can do everything through Him [Christ] who gives me strength."

Philippians 2:5 (NIV) "Your attitude [toward each other] should be the same as that of Jesus Christ."

The greatest thing you can do for your spouse is become a godly person

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2 Things You Need To Do

1. Commit your life to Christ
2. Commit your marriage to Christ

My Next Step Today Is...

- Which of the 6 areas do you believe God wants to work on in your life? # ___ ; if married which area does your spouse feel you need to work on? # ___
- Whether married or single, I am committing to becoming a more godly person
- I plan to attend the "Meet the Pastors" lunch on Sun, Feb 27th at noon