

Things All Married People Should Know

Ephesians 5:25-29

Introduction: Prior to marriage, how much instruction did you get on marriage? Did you attend marriage classes in high school or college? If you were like the vast majority of our population, the only instruction you might have received was from the preacher you asked to marry you. Sadly, most people go into a marriage relationship without knowing much about it.

In this lesson, we will discuss a few things all married people should know.

I. Women are motivated by love; men are motivated by respect.

A. Would you rather feel alone and unloved in the world or would you rather feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone?

B. Men would rather be respected.

1. Studies have shown that 3 out of 4 men would rather feel alone and unloved than disrespected and inadequate.

2. The same studies have shown that 4 out of 5 times when a husband gets angry in a relationship it is because he feels disrespected.

3. Wives are commanded to respect their husbands (Eph. 5:33).

C. Women would rather feel loved. In fact, they often feel insecure about their husband's love for them.

1. Our Creator did not arbitrarily command husbands to love their wives (Eph. 5:25-29). Four times in chapter 4 husbands are commanded to love their wives but the wives are only told to respect their husbands once. (This probably illustrates the hardheadedness of men. 😊)

2. Wives logically know their husbands love them, but they do not always feel loved by them. The feeling of love provides their sense of security.

D. The worst marital spats are because the husband feels disrespected while the wife feels unloved. To prevent this dilemma, we must seek the other first in our marriages (Phil. 2:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:7).

II. Never withhold yourself from your spouse.

A. The two leading causes for divorce in the United States are over issues concerning finances and sex.

B. Our Creator knows our physical needs (1 Cor. 7:1-5).

1. Unfulfilled sexual desires lead to sexual immorality.

2. Sexual fulfillment in marriage prevents sexual immorality.

3. Therefore, sex in marriage must be dictated by your spouse. To withhold yourself from your spouse except by mutual consent is an invitation to temptation.

III. Marriages are not disposable.

A. Marriage is until death (1 Cor. 7:39; Rom. 7:1-3).

B. If you go into marriage thinking you can always divorce then you have no business getting married.

C. There is an exception for sexual immorality (Matt. 19:9).

D. Will God be merciful if you get out of a bad marriage and the divorce wasn't due to sexual immorality? Let me ask it this way. Do you think God is going to make an exception just for your failed marriage?

E. According to federal death records, staying married increases life expectancy about 8.5 years while divorcees have the shortest life span of all. Divorcees live roughly 10 years less than married people. [Thomas Hargove, "Records: Marriage leads to longer life," Rapid City Journal, February 10, 2006]

Conclusion: When the preacher said, "for better or worst," he's implying that all marriages are full of good times and bad times. The honeymoon does not last forever. We all need to work at our marriages and keep the things we discussed in mind.