

The Seven Keys To Making Marriages Work

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and **be united to his wife**, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, **each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**” Ephesians 5:31-33*

I. Introduction

We know from the beginning that marriage was an institution ordained by God. He said it was not good for a person to be alone, and that fundamental to His plan was the meaningful relationship of marriage. Yet, subliminally, we can very often struggle with the fantasy and the **reality** of things.

- _____ : Fantasy
- _____ : Biography
- _____ : Rarity

II. Coming To Grips With What Makes Relationships Really Work

1. We must realize that _____ is a choice.

“I beg of you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

I Corinthians 1:10

Factoids for reflection:

- The longer you are married, the more pronounced your _____ become.

Couples were asked to score what percentage of items they agree on:

The national average is at _____. But, the longer they were married, it went to _____.

- Therefore, the key here is to learn to be lovingly _____.

2. Make sure you’re really clear concerning what it really means to _____.

- Simply _____ doesn't mean you agree.
 - Too often someone says, “My spouse is not listening to me.” Yes, they are, but they may be striving for _____, not _____.

“Success in marriage often comes down to leaving 3 or 4 things left unsaid daily.”

3. Never attempt to make a big _____ without _____ investments.

- Are you _____ time or _____ it?
- Have you _____ your spouse instead of appreciating them?

"It takes two to make a marriage a success and only one to make it a failure."

4. Don't waste time and emotional energy trying to change them. Instead--- _____ !

Fun Fact: Most people work hard on marriage; they just work on the _____

5. Be intentional about working at prioritizing _____ in the picture.

Healthy marriages have intimacy; marriages that remain _____ have intimacy.

Frequent excuses...

"It's the schedule---there is so little time." Solution: then _____ it.

"If it's not spontaneous, then it's not special." Solution: Yes, it is---simply believe it.

"It's the kids." No, it's not. Solution: Don't make the kids your first priority *in everything*.

"Intimacy is the ongoing _____ you can give each other.

6. Be sure to create healthy _____, and provide individual _____ !

- ✓ Some things are done together, and others are best done apart—encourage it!
- ✓ Never forget that though you've become "*one in the Lord*," you are still individuals.
- ✓ Do not become guilty of control through "_____"
- ✓ Even a beautiful thing once alive can die due to _____.

7. You have a responsibility to assist in one another's overall _____.

- If there is no _____, then you are not _____.
- People who are out of balance often don't ask the _____ questions of one another.
- As a child if you only had dysfunctional marital models to learn from, chances are you are in many ways _____ that dysfunction in your marriage or child-rearing.

Remember that growth is many-faceted:

- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____

“Many marriages would be better if the husband and the wife clearly understood that they are on the same side.”---Zig Ziglar

“In olden times sacrifices were made at the altar - a practice which is still continued.”—anon.

Answer Key:

I. Introduction

Movies

Messages

Models

II. Coming To Grips With What Makes Relationships Really Work

1. compatibility---differences----75%---65%----incompatible

2. agree---talking---harmony---agreement

3. withdrawal—regular----wasting---investing---neglected

4. change you----wrong person

5. intimacy---vibrant---plan---gift

6. space---room to grow---*guilting compliance*
----suffocation

7. growth---tension---balanced---tough---reproducing

Spiritual

Emotional

Spousal

Personal (*as a person*)

Social