

RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

The list of rules for a happy marriage could be almost endless. Last week's article touched upon four points; namely, (1) Start right; (2) Marry for life; (3) Put God first; (4) Make time for each other. Let us add a few more to consider.

FIGHT FAIR

Does this seem like a strange rule for married couples? No two people, no matter how much they have in common, will see everything eye to eye. Even in the best of marriages there will be differences. When differences arise, how shall they be resolved? The suggestions that I am about to give are not original with me, but they are Biblically based.

1. Confront the problem. People do not like conflict; so, they run from it. They may close their eyes, pretending the problem is nonexistent. Standing out in the middle of the interstate with one's eyes closed does not mean the cars are not zooming past one. Jesus said, "Agree with thine adversary quickly, while thou art in the way...." (Matt. 5:25). Paul said, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath...." (Eph. 4:26). Couples who have differences need to solve them quickly. As someone has said, "Let the day of anger be the day of reconciliation."

2. If possible, choose the right time and location to discuss the issue. Solomon said, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Eccl. 3:1). When people are in the right frame of mind, it is easier to discuss differences. It is difficult to reason with an angry person. Proverbs 22:24 reads, "Make no friendship with an angry man: and with a furious man thou shalt not go."

3. Identify the problem. Both sides need to see what the issue is. Jesus said, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone...." (Matt. 18:15). If your husband has done you wrong, you should tell him his fault, or vice versa. How can a problem be solved if one does not realize the problem?

4. Do not get sidetracked on other issues. Save them for another time. Bringing up other matters complicates the solving of the one at hand.

5. Use good communication skills. State your position clearly so that it can be fully understood. Listen carefully to the other person's position so that you will understand. (Prov. 16:20; 21:23; 25:11).

6. Avoid jumping to conclusions. Determine the facts and look for options.

7. Stay calm and objective. Being objective means sticking to the facts and not being influenced by stereotypes and prejudices. Solomon wrote, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." (Prov. 25:28). James wrote, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20).

8. Cooperate with each other. Conflict is not a competitive sport. If the problem is solved, both sides are winners.

9. Learn to compromise. In matters of judgment, there should be give-and-take. In matters of faith, one should stand firmly as a rock; but in matters of opinion, one should float with the tide.

10. "To keep your marriage brimming in the loving cup, when you're wrong, admit it; and when you are right, shut up."

DO NOT ROB EACH OTHER SEXUALLY

Paul wrote, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for

your incontinency." (1 Cor. 7:2-5). This is practicing the golden rule in marriage regarding sexual relations.

Sexual relations are right within marriage (Heb.13:4). Joe Beam, an apostate, brings shame on the church by his explicit and salacious language regarding marriage. He conducts marriage seminars across the country. Isn't it strange how someone who has been a failure in a certain field can become an expert in the very field in which he failed? Do we need ex-criminals to lecture to us on obeying the law? Or, do we need ex-drug addicts to tell us why we should not do drugs? Or, do we need those who have failed in their marriages to lecture on how to have a successful marriage? Beam left his wife and family in 1983, but then he and his wife remarried in 1987. Then, all of sudden, he becomes an expert on successful marriages. I am glad they got back together, but I do not recommend him.

LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS

We live in a time of instant gratification. We want the latest gizmo - and we want it now! In order to have the latest, credit cards are used. Debts pile up. Bankruptcy courts are full. We need to learn to pay as we go. There is nothing wrong with saying, "I cannot afford this now." One should not put on credit that which is not essential. We need to learn contentment (Luke 12:15; Heb. 13:5-6; I Tim. 6:6-10).

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it"

Ephesians 5:21-25

ANNIVERSARY

Jeff and Monica Nemechek, 11-04.

BIRTHDAY

Paula Stillwell, 10-31.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards, Joy and Natalie Parish, Leah Thrasher (AM), Kathleen Camp (PM), Carter's (PM), Millie Robertson (Sun. and Wed. PM). Lynda Cole was dismissed from the hospital on October 23 and is recovering at home.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to Allen and Clara Scott in the passing of their son-in-law Ron Wood. Funeral services were held Friday, October 27 at Coffeyville, Kansas.

OUT OF TOWN

Jeremy Keifer is in Arkansas visiting friends. Wilba Hopkins is visiting relatives in Neosho, MO. Debra Gragg was in the Ozarks Sunday AM. The Greer's were in Independence Sunday PM.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, November 5 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 49; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 40.

Those To Serve

October 29, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Tullis

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER John Carter
PRESIDE..... Gary Cole
ASSIST..... David Adams
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Ken Greer
CLOSING PRAYER..... Myron Nebergall
LORD'S SUPPER..... Gary Cole

WEDNESDAY Nov. 1st

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATION Jared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp