

THE HOME

Some Causes for Marriage Failure

Introduction

- 1. Far too many marriages fail and are not even questioned.**
- 2. Many don't care what the Bible teaches on divorce and remarriage.**
- 3. Tonight --- A look at some reasons why marriages fail among those who are supposed to care about what the Bible teaches.**
- 4. Four categories that will not be discussed but also are reasons for failure:**
 - A. Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling, and Unfaithfulness**
 - B. Assuming that ALL Christians already know better than to get involved in these things.**

Some Reasons for Marriage Failure:

1. Lack of Maturity.

- A. Marriage is for adults - not for emotional children.**
- B. Marriage is not a plaything to be cast aside with boredom as some toy.**
- C. Marriage is real - not a live dream world.**
- D. Selfishness is immaturity - grow up and consider others.**
Ephesians 5:21-29

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

1) Remember the golden rule.

Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- 2) Others need food, clothing, furniture, cars, etc.**
- 3) Work around the house - help one another.**
- 4) Recreation - Both should give and take, let each enjoy the things that they like.**

2. Failure to understand the commitment.

A. It's a lifetime commitment - till death do us part.

B. Too many say "I do" who "don't".

A Time article dated March 15, 1971 stated that in Maryland two state legislators introduced a bill that called for making marriage a three-year contract, with the option to renew every three years by the mutual consent of both parties.

An Associated Press article from Tampa, Florida years ago said "A Unitarian minister who calls traditional marriages archaic is offering a one-year "spiritually sanctioned" trial marriage to couples who vow to love, honor and practice contraception. The "Reverend" Adrain Melott, 25, said he believes that after a spiritually sanctioned year of living together the partners can better decide their future relationship, if any...A marriage license is not required."

3. Unfair or Harsh Criticism.

A. "Two lovers walking down the street; she trips; he murmurs, "Careful Sweet!" Now wed, they tread the self-same street; she trips; he growls, "Pick up your big feet."

B. They criticize the partner before others.

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

C. Criticism should be constructive. Done in private with love and understanding WANTING things to get better!

4. Distrust - Lack of Confidence.

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.

A. Why have such little confidence in your wife - she married you didn't she?

5. Failure to show kindness, courtesy and thoughtfulness.

A. We are told "Be not bitter against them".

Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

B. We must remember what the Bible teaches on love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

C. As the song says "try a little tenderness"

D. Constant nagging has no place in the marriage relationship.

1) If the front steps need fixing, tell him; but not every few minutes every day.

2) If she burns the bread, tell her; but not every morning for four months.

E. Compliments and appreciation is needed by all.

1) If compliments can add to happiness while dating, why not after marriage?

(a) cooking, dress, hair, housekeeping.

(b) What about his abilities such as opening the door for her or carrying the packages.

(c) Don't starve one another for appreciation.

(d) How long has it been since you told your wife you love her? Not "I told her I loved her on our wedding day and when I change my mind I'll let her know"

6. Failure to Resolve Conflicts.

A. Need to read and apply Eph 4:26.

Ephesians 4:26 Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

B. Col 3:9 also applies.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

7. Failure of the Wife to Stay in Her Place.

A. Some wives insist on being "boss".

B. Don't henpeck your husband.

C. Respect God's arrangement.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

8. Failure of Husbands to Act as "Head".

A. You can't always blame a wife for acting as "head" if the husband refuses to.

B. You must love as Christ loves the church - a "sacrificial" love --- to nourish and cherish.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Ephesians 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

1) If you love her you won't allow her to "usurp authority" nor will you push her into being "head".

2) Men, you'll fulfill your role and she'll gladly fulfill hers

9. Not United in Christ.

A. Religious differences are not to be taken lightly.

3) Oh - how much easier all the above would be IF this is unified in the marriage relationship!

B. Let's look at some scripture.

1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Corinthians 7:12-15

Conclusion

1. God knows our needs, He instituted marriage, and gave the laws regulating the same.

2. Children deserve a happy, contented atmosphere of love in which to grow up.

A. Children's increase in knowledge and wisdom is had if there is security at home.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men

3. To fail in marriage is to fail to apply the biblical principles that God has set forth.

Next Week: MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Invitation

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