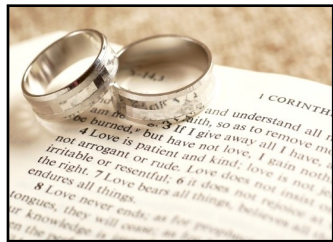




“Let marriage be held in honor among all...” Hebrews 13:4



Thoughts and Recipe’s for a Happy Marriage

“Take two lives (a man and a woman); sift out all malice, immorality and conceit. Add a large quantity of undiluted love; mix it well with temperance and self-respect. Then pour in a full measure of purpose stirring vigorously with effort until compatibility is formed. After a few months pour into the pan of experience and allow to mellow into a happy marriage.”

Observed a man very near death. As the doctor left the room, the dying man knew that the end was near, he patted his wife’s hand softly whispered; ‘You’ve been sweet to me.’; using his last breath to make her happy.

A Happy Home Recipe

4 cups of love

5 spoons of hope

2 cups of loyalty

2 spoons of tenderness

3 cups of forgiveness

4 quarts of faith

1 cup of friendship

1 barrel of laughter

“Take love and loyalty, mix it thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding. Add friendship and hope, sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake it with sunshine. Serve daily with generous helpings.”

Fifteen couples who have been married a total of more than 900 years were asked to share their views on marriage. Following is a

list of the things they believed were needed to make one's marriage successful.

1. Have a long courtship.
2. Approach marriage seriously.
3. Be sure that you love one another when you get married.
4. Agree to live together for life.
5. Marry a Christian.
6. Put God first.
7. Live by God's Book.
8. Learn to give and take.
9. Live one day at a time.
10. Grow to love each other more each day.
11. Work and share together.
12. Show respect and consideration for each other.
13. Be happy and optimistic.
14. Agree on child rearing. Use a switch on the children when they need it, but never strike a child when you are angry.
15. Provide good meals for the family.
16. Be patient. Never both get angry at the same time. Problems will work out if you give them time.
17. Respect the husband as head of the home.

"Woman was never intended to be man's slave, but his helper; nor was man intended to be woman's oppressor but her protector. Not from man's head was she taken lest she be his ruler, not from his feet lest she becomes his drudge. But from man's side was she taken that she might be his equal; from near his heart that her he might protect and preserve as along the rugged path and through the narrow vales of events they pursue their way." --- John Clark

"After ? years of marriage, what have I learned?"

Several years ago I was asked to think about this question, "After ? years of marriage, what have you learned?" With the continuing decline and seeming assault on the institution of marriage as designed by God I was moved to revisit this and share some of my personal observations on the wonders of marriage and the blessings to be had.



I would encourage all to take the time to consider your own marriage and write down some thoughts as to what you have learned from your journey with your wife or husband. I'm sure you would have some very good thoughts to share as well. If you are not yet married, consider what your hopes and desires for marriage might be.

Approximately 51 years and three months ago, or 615 months; I was blessed to find a virtuous woman as described in Proverbs 31. Her sweet and tender disposition was evident. That one with the same purpose that I cherished, I had found; that is to get to Heaven. As is the case with any precious gift, one must learn how to value, care, and nurture that gift. As a young man, I was immature. With the patience of my wife and the Lord, I have learned that there is great responsibility and reward in store for the husband of a godly woman. There is much hard work in building the bond and union of husband and wife. When I think back on the years gone by, I am made to remember my thoughts of the joy and excitement of new love, and the prospect of spending our lives with each other. The anticipation of the joys and challenges, the blessing of children, grandchildren, and the inevitable sorrows and losses of life, has been more than I am able to measure. Whether or not I will live long enough to fully comprehend the richness and power of the blessing of my wife and companion for as long as we both shall live, remains my prayer. I do know that up till now, our years together have melded us together in ways I could have never imagined were possible. The following are some of my observations. Thank you, SF

I have learned

How much I have at times unknowingly taken for granted, and how much I still have to learn.

That lovely person I met forty plus years ago can still, at the sight of her, make my heart flutter and my body weak. Some things are the same.

As close as we have become, we are still and will always be individually ourselves.

The oneness in marriage is still a mystery, i.e., two very different people bound by love somehow becoming one.

That not a moment seems to go by that I do not wonder what is on her mind or what she might be doing.

That by this marriage I have been blessed with what I did not know that I needed, a dual conscience.

While over many years, many stones have been laid in the walls of our marriage, yet without the bonding mortar of love and care for one another the walls are breached.



GLAD TIDINGS

More to the practical, we must always, no matter how trivial it may seem, be truthful to each other.

That I must each day tell her what she means to me; simply put; that I love you.

To be thankful for her way of making the coffee; the toast, the pancakes, the eggs and bacon, and so on.

That the little things she does, are the weft and warp of the fabric of our lives together.

To make the effort that it takes to let her know what's on my mind. Never to assume that she should totally understand how I feel. While we are one, the bond is maintained by good old-fashioned conversation.

Never to take for granted "the look"; facial expressions that speak volumes. The subtle nuances of her behavior are sometimes the most difficult things to understand but carry the greatest of meaning.

Sometimes it seems that just when I think I've reached a milestone in our communication, some new challenge reminds me that marriage is not simply arriving at some place, but rather the traveling together.

How intimately we are knitted or bonded together. It seems that at times I don't have a thought or ponder an idea but that I don't feel her presence. I suppose that's a part of the oneness the Lord spoke of.

That the value of her commitment of love to me and to our children and grandchildren must never be belittled or devalued, but rather praised and honored.

That to love her as Christ loved the church takes all that I am. I am made to ask myself daily whether I am reaching for this. What a blessing a virtuous woman is!

I could have never known when I met her, how blessed I would be of the Lord to have her as my wife. How blessed I am!

Steve Frazier

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Continue prayers for those on our list and for the free course of the gospel.

1 John 5:14

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Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

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Hebrews 10:24-25