

Successful Christian Marriage

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 1 Peter 3:7.
- B. Many marriages end in divorce today.
- C. There is something that makes Christians marriages successful.
- D. A marriage is emotional, physical and spiritual. Every areas must be addressed.
- E. We are unaware of how God is using us in our marriage relationship, which keeps us humble.
- F. Successful marriages do not just happen.
- G. One of the reasons for friction in marriage is that a spouse's weaknesses is revealed and he or she becomes vulnerable.

II. Marriage from the standpoint of its goal: the glory of God.

- A. Christ's purpose was to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)
- B. Our marriage should be a part of Christ's plan.
- C. A fitting goal for marriage is to be a tool in the hands of Jesus as a means for glorifying him.

III. Marriage from the standpoint of its guide: the Word of God.

- A. The husband and wife relationship is like that of Christ's relationship to the church.
- B. The wife's responsibility to her husband...
 - 1. She should be growing in love for him.
 - 2. She should be seeking to know him better. (Philippians 3:8)
 - 3. She should be submissive to her husband. (Ephesians 5:22)
 - 4. She should be a helpmate. (Genesis 2:18-20)
 - 5. She should be in perfect fellowship with her husband.
 - 6. She should be completely honest. (Ephesians 5:33)

7. She should not strike at the part of her husband that makes her a man. (Proverbs 14:1; 1 Corinthians 8:1)

C. God leads through the husband.

1. He must provide for their families. (1 Timothy 5:8)
2. He should tell his wife he loves her and take care of her emotionally (Ephesians 5:25; Song of Solomon 6)
3. He should be her shield and intercessor. (Colossians 3:19; Ephesians 4:26)
4. He should have his family as a priority only behind God.
5. He should provide for his wife spiritually.
6. He should get to know his wife.
7. He should never criticize his wife in front of everyone.
8. He should have a forgiving attitude always. (Ephesians 4:32; Philippians 3:13; Isaiah 43)

IV. Marriage from the standpoint of its guard: Jesus.

Application questions:

1. How can we cope when our spouse does not meet his or her responsibility?

2. Which responsibility do you find most challenging?

3. What is your plan for growing as a spouse? Explain.
