God’s Recipe for a Good Marriage
Eph. 5:33

Introduction:
A. Marriage can affect earthly happiness and heavenly hope.
   1. A bad marriage can hinder both.
   2. A good marriage can enhance both.
B. Marriage is not a one-time event, but a lifetime project.
C. Let us notice five important ingredients in God’s recipe for a good marriage.

Discussion:
I. Legitimacy.
A. Not all marriages are legitimate (Mk. 6:17,18)
   1. Such marriages are adulterous (cf. Rom. 7:3; Matt. 19:9)
   2. May be good otherwise, but nothing can “sanctify” them.
B. Can be legitimate without being good, cannot be good without legitimacy.

II. Love.
A. Not merely the superficial love of passion.
   1. This is the love depicted in Soaps and Fairy Tales.
   2. This is kind that folks easily fall in and out of.
B. But, a deep love of commitment.
   1. Whole hearted love — involves emotion, intellect and will.
   2. A love that can be taught, learned and cultivated.
      a. Husbands can be taught to love wives. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19)
      b. Wives can be taught to love husbands. (Tit. 2:4).

III. Peace.
A. Wedding ring should not symbolize of fighting ring. (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
B. Wedding bells should not signal round one.
C. Some things that make for peace:
   1. Avoid being petty or stubborn.
   2. Do let disagreements degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk)
   3. Go the extra mile for peace (Not 50-50, but 75-75 proposition)
   4. Resist outside interference of family and friends. ("Leave & Cleave")

IV. Consideration.
A. Be considerate of each other’s basic needs and desires. (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
B. Be considerate of each other’s responsibilities — make them as easy as possible.
   1. Wives make it easy for husband to:
      a. Rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5)
      b. To make a living (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8)
   2. Husbands make it easy for wife to:
      a. Submit and obey. (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28)
      b. Be a homemaker. (Tit. 2:5)
   3. Each makes other’s parental role easy.

V. Spirituality.
   1. Recognize that God joined you together. (Matt. 19:6)
   2. Seek peace because God has called us to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
   3. Love and submit like Christ and the Church. (Eph. 5)
   4. Behave Lest Word of God be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
   5. Behave because it is a great price in God’s sight. (1 Pet. 3:4)

Conclusion:
A. If you are a Christian
   1. You do all you can to have a good marriage.
2. You will love, be peaceable, considerate and spiritual.
B. If you are both faithful Christians, no excuse for bad marriage.
   1. Need no counselor, if both decide to obey God.
   2. Need only to have Scriptures called your attention.