Maintaining a Good Marriage

Eph. 5:33

Introduction:
A. Not merely maintaining a marriage, but a good marriage.
   1. Are in it - can be happy or miserable.
   2. Can have a marriage without any of these things, but not good.
   3. Absence of these things cannot nullify a marriage - still bound to all obligations.
   4. Alternative to these things.
      a. Miserable in marriage
      b. Sinful breakup – maybe even leading to more sin.
B. Four important scriptural ingredients in a good marriage.

Discussion:
I. Love
A. Not “Soap Opra” or “fairy tale” brands of love.
   1. Not uncontrollably falling in and out of.
   2. Not living happy ever after with no effort.
B. But, real love that can be taught, learned and cultivated.
   1. Husbands taught to love wives. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19).
   2. Wives taught to love husbands. (Tit. 2:4).
   3. Love cultivated and demonstrated by deeds. (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John. 3:18.)

II. Peace
A. Wedding ring should not be symbol of fighting ring (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
B. Weddings can be followed by peace if:
   1. Will not let disagreement degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk).
   2. Will work for peace. (Not 50-50, but 75-75).
   3. Will communicate.
   4. Will resist outside agitation from family and friends. (“Leave & cleave.”)

III. Consideration
A. Each tries to make the God-given role of partner easy to fulfil.
   1. Wives make it easy for husband rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5).
   2. Husbands make it easy for wife to submit and obey in all things.
      a. By treating her as a partner, not a servant. (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28).
      b. By not being overbearing, or too demanding. - put self in her position.
   3. Wives make it easy for husband to be a breadwinner. (1 Tim. 5:8).
   4. Husbands make it easier for wife to be keeper at home. (Tit. 2:5)
B. Each willingly attends to the biological needs of the other (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
   1. Failure at root of infidelity and breakups.
   2. Failure not grounds for either infidelity or breakup.
   3. Failure often caused by being too busy or too involved with other things.
C. Each make other’s role as parent easy - rearing mutual responsibility.

IV. Spirituality
A. Mutual respect for God will make a good marriage.
B. Bible re-enforces each duty in marriage with a spiritual reason.
   1. Peace because God has called up to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
   2. Love and submit like Christ and church. (Eph. 5)
   3. Behave lest word of God be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
   4. Behave because it is in sight of God a great price. (1 Pet. 3:4)
   5. Behave lest prayers be hindered. (1 Pet. 5:7).

Conclusion:
A. If you are a Christian, you will do all you can to make a good marriage.
   1. You will love.
   2. You will be peaceable.
   3. You will be considerate.
   4. You will be spiritual.
B. If you both are faithful and dedicated Christians, no excuse of bad marriage.
   1. No need for counselor, if both decide to obey God.
   2. Need only the Scriptures on the subject pointed out, obey like all other scriptures.