A Recipe for a Good Marriage
Eph. 5:33

Introduction:
A. Not merely recipe for a marriage, but a good one.
B. God marriages needed to prevent divorce, which God hates (Mal. 2:16)
C. Five important scriptural ingredients in a good marriage.

Discussion:
I. Legitimacy.
A. Such a thing as unlawful marriage. (Mk. 6:17,18)
B. Such a marriage is adulterous (cf. Matt. 5:32; 19:9)
   1. Regardless of good may seem to be otherwise.
   2. Regardless of efforts to “sanctify” it.

II. Love.
A. Not Soap Opera or fairy tale variety.
   1. Not uncontrollable falling in and out of love.
   2. Not living happy ever after without effort.
B. But, real love that can be taught, learned and cultivated.
   1. Husbands can learn to love wives. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19)
   2. Wives can learn to love husbands. (Tit. 2:4).
   3. Love demonstrated by deeds. (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John 3:18)

III. Peace.
A. Wedding ring shouldn’t be symbol of fighting ring. (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
B. Wedding bells should not signal beginning of round one.
C. Wedding ceremonies can be followed by peace if:
   1. Will not let disagreements degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk)
   2. Will work for peace. (Not 50-50, but 75-75 proposition)
   3. Will resist outside agitation of family and friends. (“Leave & Cleave”)

IV. Consideration.
A. Make role of partner easy to fulfil.
   1. Wives make it easy for husband.
      a. To rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5)
      b. To be a breadwinner. (1 Tim. 5:8)
   2. Husbands make easy for wife.
      a. To submit and obey.(1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28)
      b. To be a keeper at home. (Tit. 2:5)
   3. Each makes other’s parental role easy.
B. Attend to partners’s basic needs. (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
   1. Failure results in, but no excuse for infidelity and broken marriages.
   2. Failure often caused by being too busy with other things.

V. Spirituality.
A. Mutual respect for God and His will makes a good marriage.
B. Bible re-enforces marital responsibility with spiritual motives.
   1. Peace because GOD has called us to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
   2. Love and submit like CHRIST and THE CHURCH. (Eph. 5)
   3. Behave lest WORD OF GOD be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
   4. Behave because it is a great price in GOD’s sight. (1 Pet. 3:4)
   5. Behave lest PRAYERS be hindered. (1 Pet. 5:7)
Conclusion:
A. If you are a Christian
   1. You do all you can to have a good marriage.
   2. You will be loving, be peaceable, considerate and spiritual.
B. If you are both Christians, no excuse for bad marriage.
   1. Need little counseling, if both decide to obey God.
   2. Need only to have Scriptures called your attention.