

Building a Forever Marriage
Selected Scripture
February 9th, 2014

Marital Truth:

Every marriage is either growing together or growing apart.

Proverbs 24:3 (ASV) Through wisdom is a house built; and by understanding it is established.

Philippians 1:9-10 (ASV) And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment; so that ye may approve the things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and void of offence unto the day of Christ.

Pastor Tim:

Successful marriages don't just happen; they are always a result of hard work and intentional effort.

Five Things That Will Help Build a "Forever Marriage":

I. Keep on Paying Attention to Your Spouse.

1 Corinthians 7:33 (ASV) But he that is married is careful for the things of the world, how he may please his wife or husband.

Two Reasons Why We Should Pay Attention to Our Spouse:

1. Because we love them.
2. Because God uses them to speak to us.

II. Keep on Making Adjustments for Your Spouse.

1 John 3:18 (ASV) My Little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth.

Philippians 2:4 (MSG) Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Adjusting Involves Two Things:

1. Focusing on each other's needs.
2. Submitting to each other's needs.

III. Keep on Showing Affection to Your Spouse.

Romans 12:10 (ASV) In love of the brethren be tenderly affectionate one to another; in honor preferring one another.

Pastor Tim:

"It's easier to fall in love than it is to stay in love."

Revelation 2:5 (ASV) Remember therefore whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I come to thee, and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent.

Four Things That Will Show Your Spouse Affection:

- 1. Remember.**
- 2. Return.**
- 3. Repent.**
- 4. Repeat.**

IV. Keep on Giving Affirmation to Your Spouse.

Proverbs 12:25 (TLB) Anxious hearts are very heavy, but a word of encouragement does wonders!

Three Things We Can Affirm in Our Spouse:

- 1. Affirm their value.**

Pastor Tim:

"When I show my appreciation of Sherry it always raises her value."

- 2. Affirm their strengths.**

Pastor Tim:

It is my job to see the best in Sherry and to bring it out, not to bring out the worst. Every marriage would blossom with the proper amount of affirmation. We all have a tendency to become what others see in us.

- 3. Affirm their ministry.**

V. Keep on Following Jesus.

Pastor Tim:

The most important thing I can do for Sherry and for our marriage is to keep on following Jesus.

Pastor Tim:

"Sherry has told me on numerous occasions that one of the greatest things I can do to encourage her is to pray with her...not just pray for her."