

Building Stronger Families

by Roger Hillis

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” ~ Genesis 2:24.

“So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” ~ Matthew 19:6.

“... Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, ...” ~ Malachi 2:15–16.

No two people are alike. That includes husband and wife. And with different people come different personalities, different ideas, and often, different lives. That can mean problems. Every marriage has them.

The difference in a strong marriage and a weak one is the way these problems are handled. There must be communication to talk these problems out and work together to solve them. Too many couples ignore their problems, hoping they will just go away. They won't.

A recent survey of 730 marriage counselors revealed the ten most common marital problems. They are listed in the order of frequency.

1. **A breakdown in communication**
2. **The loss of shared goals or interests**
3. **Sexual incompatibility**
4. **Infidelity**
5. **The excitement and fun have gone out of marriage**
6. **Money**
7. **Conflicts about children**
8. **Alcohol and drug abuse**
9. **Women's equality issues**
10. **In-laws**

If you have these problems or any others, the only way to successfully solve them is to talk about them. With love for each other and a desire to please the Lord, problems can be dealt with and solved. Let us build happy homes together.

Tips for a Stronger Marriage

by Wayne Goff

1. Realize that marriage has three components in it: (1) You; (2) Your mate; (3) God
2. Read God's blueprint for the husband (**Eph. 5:25-30**), for the wife (**Eph. 5:22-24**)
3. Respect one another as (1) human beings; (2) made in God's image; (3) with an eternal destiny before you both, **1 Peter 3:7**
4. Learn what true “love” (agapē) means, then *practice* it, **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**
5. Learn to communicate your differences *intelligently and rationally*, not *emotionally*, **Rom. 12:9-10**
6. Be willing to compromise. Learn compatibility and work at being an enjoyable companion, **Rom. 12:14-19; 1 Peter 3:4-5, 7-8**
7. Pray **together** every day, **1 Peter 3:7**. Pray **separately** every day, **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
8. Read the New Testament *habitually*, making a personal and/or family application, **Luke 8:9**
9. Worship God together at the local church, **Acts 2:47**
10. Trust fervently in God for all the issues of your lives, **1 Timothy 4:10; 6:10; Hebrews 2:13a**

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