

How to Have an A+ Marriage --- 4 Key Principles

- 1. Be kind** – you will always have a conflict to resolve; don't open a "second front" by being unkind in your words or actions; seek solutions not victories (Eph 4:32)
- 2. Accommodate each other's wishes whenever possible** (even those that seem to be *idiosyncratic*) – live to bless one another (Matt 16:24)
- 3. Communicate well** – see below – live by these rules (Eph 4:29)

Guidelines for Effective Communication

Precision - Over-inform the important people in your life (accurately supply them with all the pertinent info and with plenty of time for them to respond – don't assume you know what they think about a certain decision – even if you are correct, they will feel disrespected).

Exoneration - Forgive quickly and completely (resolve issues thoroughly and don't bring them up again -- start each day with a clean slate by honoring the magnificent forgiveness Jesus has given to you).

Affection – Always be kind, loving, self-less, and respectful with others – assume the best about their character and intentions (the devil loves it when you cut your own lines of communication by a mean-spirited phrase, gesture, or facial expression. Be careful not to place too much importance on the other person's first response to you. We all process our thoughts at different speeds).

Candor – Be honest, clear, and specific in your requests (tell the appropriate people what you want and when you want it).

Excellence – Be interested only in *great solutions* that honor God and not in obtaining *personal victories* (a complaint with a request is *hopeful* – a complaint without a request is *hopeless*).

- 4. Submit** – to the authorities in your lives (Heb 13:17)

Matt 7:12 NIV

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

