

## **12 Things that Will Save Your Marriage**

*("The best thing you can do for your kids is to love your spouse.")*

1. Become a serious follower of Jesus. Trust in His Grace.  
(see attached Many Aspire, but Few Attain)
2. Pray with each other and for each other daily.
3. Forgive quickly and completely.
4. Develop a budget and live on it.
5. Live to bless your spouse.
6. Eliminate "divorce" language from your vocabulary.
7. Communicate well. (see attached principles)
8. Submit to Biblical counsel; surround yourselves with Godly role models.
9. Develop a sex-life that is mutually satisfying.
10. Spend lots of time together. Have some fun!
11. Deal with sin completely (eliminate all addictive behaviors)
12. Eliminate the *good* activities in your life in order to enjoy the *best*.

### ***Eph 5:21-25 NLT***

***21 And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything. 25 And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her...***

\* Remember that God has more interest in your holiness than in your happiness.  
Live with an eye on eternity!

2 Cor 5:9-10

*Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.  
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the  
body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. NASU*

## **Many Aspire, but Few Attain** *(The Basics Needed to Succeed Spiritually)*

### **A. FELLOWSHIP**

- 1. a good Bible teaching church**
- 2. a life-giving small group**
- 3. a committed mentor**

### **B. PRAYER**

- 1. God talks to you - listening prayer**
- 2. you talk to God - ACTS**  
*Adoration - Confession - Thanksgiving - Supplication*

### **C. THE WORD**

- 1. read**
- 2. hear**
- 3. study**
- 4. memorize**
- 5. meditate**

John 15:5

*"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me  
you can do nothing. NASU*

## *Keys to Effective Communication*

*Eph 4:25-27 NASB*

*Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. BE ANGRY, AND YET DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.*

*James 1:19-20 NASB*

*This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*

**P**recision - 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).

**E**xoneration - 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).

**A**ffection – 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).

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

**E**xcellence – 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*).

***\*Remember, dialogues are usually more effective than monologues. If you have talked for 60 seconds, take a breath and let the other person get in a word or two.***

***Pride is the enemy of good communication.***

