

IT TAKES THREE “C’s” TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE
1 Peter 3:1-7

Introduction:

1. Some may think a series of lessons on the family is unnecessary.
 - a. No one questions the very survival of the family is in jeopardy.
 - b. Bible teaching on the home is exceeded in importance only by Bible teaching on salvation.
2. We may not have measured up to GOD’s plan in our marriage.
 - a. We must still know and uphold God’s plan.
 - b. If we love our children we do not want them to make our mistakes.
3. The strength of the church and the nation hinges upon the health of the home.
4. There are three words which begin with the letter “c” which are essential to a happy home and a successful marriage.

Discussion:

I. IT TAKES COMMITMENT TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.

- A. Commitment is a pledge which obligates one to a certain course of action; it is a vow, a promise.**

“When you make a vow to GOD, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed. Better not to vow than to vow and not pay” (Eccl. 5:4,5).

- B. The traditional wedding vows require a lifetime’s commitment:**

“Do you take _____ to be your lawful wedded companion, to live together after the ordinances of God in the holy estate of matrimony, to love, honor, cherish and (man: protect; woman: obey), in sickness and in health, in poverty and in wealth, and forsaking all others, keep yourself to him/her only, until death do you part (or, as long as you both shall live)?”

- C. Jesus taught that marriage is a lifetime commitment (Matt. 19:6).**

- D. Commitment requires more than merely staying together.**

1. It implies each one will do everything in his power to make his

- marriage all that it can and should be (Eph. 5:22, 25).
2. Many married couples live alone in the same house.
3. Marriage will not work for selfish people (Matt. 7:12).

II. IT TAKES COMMUNICATION TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.

A. We live in an advanced age of mass communications.

1. Computers, cell phones, satellites, fiber-optics, micro-chips, etc, make it possible to contact any person anywhere any time.
2. Sociologists are concerned that people are more isolated from one another than ever before.

B. “Communicate” comes from the Latin and is related to the Greek “Koinonia” which is translated as “communion, fellowship, and sharing” in our English Bible.

1. Communication is more than merely talking.
 - a. It involves both giving and receiving.
 - b. To be a good communicator one must also be a good listener.
 - c. Communication also includes facial expressions, body posture and movements, the look in one’s eyes, etc.
2. Wives often complain their husbands don’t listen.
 - a. A wife picks a poor time to communicate when her husband is engrossed in a ball game.
 - b. Women by nature are more verbal than men; men express themselves more by what they do than what they say.
 - c. Wives should avoid “nagging.”

“A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike” (Prov. 27:15).

3. Husbands have a responsibility to listen to their wives.

“Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them” (Col. 3:19).

4. Couples who truly communicate have happier marriages.

III. IT TAKES COMPROMISE TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.

- A. Compromise is “the settlement of differences by arbitration or by consent reached by mutual concessions.”**
- B. Men and women are different physically, mentally, and emotionally.**
 - 1. They bring many differences to a marriage:**
 - a. Some are: different expectations, life experiences, ideas, and approaches to a problem or crisis.**
 - b. These differences can cause conflict and must be worked out.**
 - 2. Compromise is the only way to settle these differences.**
- C. Certain things are necessary for compromise to take place.**
 - 1. There must be a willingness to understand the other partner.**
 - 2. There must be a mutual trust.**
 - 3. There must be an unselfish attitude (Phil. 2:3,4).**
- D. There are many crucial areas which require compromise.**
 - 1. Money management.**
 - 2. Spending time together.**
 - 3. Child rearing.**
- E. Some areas cannot be compromised:**
 - 1. The husband’s headship of the home (Eph. 5:23; Col. 3:18).**
 - 2. The husband’s responsibility to provide (1 Tim. 5:8).**
 - 3. The wife’s responsibility to be a homemaker (Tit. 2:3-5).**

Conclusion:

- 1. “Is there anything more beautiful than a boy and girl clasping clean hands and pure hearts in the path of marriage? The answer is, ‘Yes, there is something even more beautiful: an aged man and woman finishing life together on that path. Their gnarled hands are still clasped; their faces wrinkled but radiant; their hearts tired but still beating for one another. They have proved the happiness of marriage and vindicated its holy estate in the eyes of its scoffers.’” (source unknown).**
- 2. Make your marriage all it can be by following the three “c’s” of commitment, communication and compromise.**
- 3. Only true Christians can have a true Christian marriage (Acts 8:12, 22).**

