



Secrets to a Successful Marriage

Principle number One

Put your Spouse First

Matthew 19:4-6 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

God's Word reveals several secrets (principles) in this passage of scripture.

First, it says that a man leaves his father and mother. This is very difficult for some people to do.

Your father and mother are no longer first in your life, your spouse is. Stand beside your spouse. Make sure that you take care of your spouse's needs first and foremost. I'm not saying not to care for your parents because God's word instructs us to honor our father and mother. I am saying don't put them ahead of your spouse. Actually don't put anyone ahead of your spouse. If you do, there will be problems. You are married to your spouse. Both of you have made a commitment to each other. You have made sacrifices for each other. No one deserves to be put ahead of your spouse. If you begin to hear your spouse complaining that you are always doing things for your parents or someone else and you don't do things around your own house, that is a warning, you are violating this principle. If you don't make this correction you will pay a very high price. It is both of your responsibilities to put each other first and to take care of each other's needs ahead of anyone else's. If you put someone else's need ahead of your spouse, you create insecurity in their heart that is only going to cause problems. I am certainly not saying not to help others but always run it past your spouse before you do. If this is not an issue with your spouse no problem, but if it is show them the respect they deserve and talk it out with them.

A Time to Reflect

1. Are you putting your spouse first?
2. Are you putting your spouse ahead of yourself?
3. Do you hear your spouse complaining about putting others ahead of them?
4. Do you hear your spouse calling you selfish?
5. What changes can you make to let your spouse know they are first place in your life?