



Secrets to a Successful Marriage

Principle number Five

Commitment

"A successful marriage is not built on feelings, but on commitment." Feelings change. Commitment does not. Make a commitment to love one another. Make a commitment to forgive one another. Make a commitment to trust one another. Make a commitment to put each other ahead of yourselves. Make yourself a servant to your spouse. Always be there to lift up your spouse, encourage one another, and help each other. Remember you are in this marriage together. Make a commitment that you are going to do your part to make the marriage a happy one. You cannot trust your feelings. You can be madly in love one minute and hate their guts the next. Feelings are fickle and cannot be trusted. However you can trust your commitments to one another. Your feelings may change but your commitments stand firm. Put your security in your commitments and certainly not your feelings. Feelings of happiness and romance are wonderful and exciting. No one loves these amazing feelings more than me. But I have learned you can never trust your feeling. When my feelings are hurt or I'm a little oppressed I have learned to never make a decision when your feelings are down. Just wait them out and they will always change back positive, especially if you will take some time to wait on the Lord. If you will make commitments to each other and stick with them you will always have romantic feelings for each other your whole life. They may leave temporarily from time to time but they will always return.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.

If you are married, it is good and you have found favor with God. God has given you your spouse. Always focus on your spouse's strengths and cover their weaknesses. Remember to be thankful for your spouse. Staying in a thankful attitude will always cause God to respond to your prayers and help you out in your times of trouble.

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

In ***Ephesians 5:32*** God compares our relationship with him as a marriage relationship.

Always focus on your spouse's strengths and encourage them in their strengths. If you are strong where your spouse is weak then use your strength to help your spouse. DO NOT condemn your spouse for their weakness, especially if you are strong where they are weak. You use your strength and cover their weakness instead of exposing their weakness. God puts us together so that each of us can supply our strength and God given abilities to make the house strong. Don't worry about what is fair just do what you have to do to make the marriage strong. God will reward all your sacrifices. Being happy is the goal, not being fair or being right. Your commitment to one another is what will endure the trials of life and marriage.

A Time to Reflect

1. Do you make decisions based on your feelings or your commitment?
2. Can you see the danger in making decisions based on feelings?
3. Are you thankful for your spouse?
4. Are you strong in area's your spouse is weak in?
5. Will you cover your spouse's weakness instead of criticizing them for their weakness?