

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
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By Pastor David W. Cheatwood
Of the Hedrick Church of God
info@hedrickchurchofgod.org

NINE SUGGESTIONS FOR AN AILING MARRIAGE

1. Never consider divorce an option. It is not a solution to your problem. Divorce is not an acceptable alternative because God says it is not.
2. Do not compare your mate or your marriage to others. There is not another person on earth like you. Your mate is also unique. This means that your marriage is unique. Let God make it what He wants it to be. He will make it perfect!
3. Forgive your mate. You are to forgive as Christ has forgiven you. You are a sinner. He or she is a sinner. You are not perfect – so be willing to forgive one another. And do it right away before any bitterness can build up.
4. Stop all criticism. Love does not criticize and find fault. Therefore, if you are critical of your mate, you do not have a heart of love. Stop all criticism. Instead, try a little praise. It works like magic!
5. Start communicating with your mate. Communication is completely broken down in many homes and marriages. Start listening to what your mate is saying as well as to what he or she is not saying. Break down the barriers by being vulnerable. Try saying, “Honey, what is the biggest fault I have?” Then say, “Would you please help me, by the grace of God, to gain victory over that fault?”
6. Refuse any relationship outside your marriage in which affections are sought or given. This substitute could even be a relative, a friend, or a neighbor. Do not seek to make someone else a substitute for what you are not getting in your marriage. You will never solve your problem doing this.
7. Trust your mate. Trust your spouse, even if he or she is wrong – you are right in trusting. A marriage must be based on trust. It cannot survive without it.
8. Do something every day to please your mate – something that you know will bring your partner joy and happiness. This is not asking much – to do one thing – but it pays big dividends.

9. Thank God every day for the 25 best qualities in your mate. Write them down. Concentrate on them and the positive will soon outshine the negative.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (NASB)

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Most relationships would improve greatly if we would only show each other love and respect. If you don't know what those two things are you might want to do some research. When was the last time you showed patience to your spouse? What was the last kindness you showed him/her? Have you done something lately that caused them to be jealous? Are you so self-centered that you have become unbearable? Are you so perfect (in your own mind) that it is impossible to live with you?

We all need each other's forgiveness. Why: because we all mess up. Be honest with each other and work through the mistakes and failures. The ground on the other side of that mess becomes solid ground on which it is easy and enjoyable to stand.

The bottom line of today's text is this: It takes work to build up a solid loving relationship. Spend some time with folks who have had a good and long marriage. Watch how they treat each other. Observe the way they interact with each other. See if you can see why they like each other's company.

My wife and I have been married 56 years. There is no one I would rather come home to and spend my time with. We know each other and are still glad to be with each other.

The couples I have known that have great marriages are usually Christian people who love God and love each other. They want to please God and they

want to please each other. We cannot be self-centered and build a right relationship with each other.

So What Shall We Do?

Keep your focus on loving and respecting each other. Grow together, do things together, encourage each other, be there for each other. Be forgiving with each other. Stop criticizing each other and spend more time complimenting each other. Take time together to just talk with each other. Be sure you listen to each other as well. Do look outside of you marriage for affection. Live as you want your spouse to live. Look for ways to please each other. Remember why you got together to begin with and practice looking for the good in each other.

Most of all, if you are not Christians, turn to God and let Him have first place in your marriage. Whenever we put ourselves first we more often than not end up alone and last. That is something to think about.

For more information, Pastor David W. Cheatwood may be reached at info@hedrickchurchofgod.org