

Practices for a Good Marriage (How to Stay Married #3)

7. Practices for a good marriage

- a. Prayer
 - i. Pray together. If spouse is unwilling, then pray by yourself.
 - ii. Pray for spouse (especially if they are difficult, or you are having trouble loving them)
 - iii. Pray as a family
 1. Regularly (in the evenings?). Try not to let it become tedious or contentious (with kids).
 2. As needs arise (don't wait for the next prayer meeting or Bible study)
- b. Honor the Word
 - i. Read the Bible together (Psalms and Proverbs, gospels, etc.)
 - ii. Memorize the most significant verses (Ps. 91, Ps. 4:8, Jn. 3:16, 1 Jn. 1:9, ...)
 - iii. Meditate on it, pray it, confess it, "post" it on your walls. Dt. 6:6-9, Josh.1:8, Ps. 119
- c. Relationship, Respect
 - i. Treat spouse as you would be treated. Show them respect.
 - ii. Never speak ill of your spouse in front of others (especially the kids) - if you have a problem, work it out in private. Speak honourably of them.
 - iii. Develop a close relationship together. Spend time with one another. Talk. Listen.
- d. Parenthood
 - i. See your responsibility to be parents (Gen. 1:27-28) Don't see children as "an intrusion on your life style".
 - ii. See your responsibility as parents - not mere procreation, but spiritual training of your children. (Dt. 6:6-9, Proverbs)
- e. Purity, Maturity
 - i. Strive to eliminate the "works of the flesh", and to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit, with your spouse and children. (Gal. 5:19-23)
 - ii. Guard your eyes (don't allow yourself to look at what should not be seen) – Job 31:1
- f. Biblical Roles (Eph. 5, 6)
 - i. Husbands are to be providers and protectors, to love their wives, and to be the spiritual leader of the family. Not to be a dictator. It shouldn't be the wife who is dragging the kids to church while the husband stays home. That is teaching your kids that "church is just for kids and women".
 - ii. Wives are to be in loving submission to their husbands. Not slaves, but not the leader. Not to be the "nagivator" of the family.
- g. Determination (this is more of an attitude than a practice, but it will affect all that you do)
 - i. Josh. 24:15 - ... Choose you this day whom ye will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
 - ii. Be strong in the Lord, and take courage through the trials of life – Josh. 1:6-9, Prov. 24:10
 - iii. Be not just willing, but determined to work through all difficulties, even if you didn't marry well