

Part 5 - Making Marriage Sizzle

"Secrets to a Happy Marriage"

... Theme

Philippians 2:2 (Ph) ... *Live together in harmony and love, as though you only had one mind and spirit between you.*

Ephesians 4:3 (tlb) *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit...*

1. Clear and Consistent Communication

Proverbs 13:17 (tlb) *Reliable communication permits progress.*

Sometimes in our marriage and family life, communication is difficult. It is a skill we must learn. One of the reasons we have problems in communication is because men and women communicate differently.

2. Due considerations needs to be given

Ephesians 4:2b (tev) ...*Show your love by being helpful to each other.*

Consideration means paying attention to what people say and paying attention to how people feel. It means showing common courtesy, treating people with respect, helping them any way you can.

3. Learning to Compromise for a 'win-win'

1 Corinthians 13:5 (tlb) ... *Love does not demand its own way.*

The greater your differences are in a marriage, the greater your potential for spiritual growth and spiritual greatness. More marriages die from inflexibility than from alcoholism, or abuse or adultery. More marriages die from inflexibility - an unwillingness to change than from anything else.

4. Reintroduce Dating into your marriage

Proverbs 5:19b (rsv) *Let (your mate's) affection fill you at all times with delight...*

Ecclesiastes 9:9a *Enjoy life with your mate, whom you love...*

Allow romance, physical affection, sex, fun, playfulness into your marriage - having time to enjoy each other. God intended for your marriage to be that way.

5. Being Committed for the long haul

Malachi 2:16 (gnb) *I hate divorce,' says the Lord... `Make sure that you do not break your promise to be faithful to your (mate).*

...Take home point

Jesus in me is not going to have conflict with Jesus in you!

Philippians 2:5 (niv) *Your attitude (toward each other) should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.*