



Families In Focus

“Making The Most Of Marriage”

- Introduction:
1. There is nothing better than a good marriage, and I suppose nothing worse than a bad one.
 2. Many have a fairy-tale view of marriage — “Living happily ever after,” without realizing it takes work to accomplish this goal.
 3. Some spend more planning on the “wedding” than they do the “marriage.”
 4. The following are characteristics that are present in homes that are making the most of their marriage.

I. Commitment Is A Must

- A. Commitment is the glue that holds marriages together — and is necessary in order to allow time to heal wound and change behavior.
- B. (1 Peter 4:8).

II. Forgiveness Is A Must

- A. Two people, having different backgrounds, different mannerisms, different methods of doing things are bound to have some confrontations.
- B. How to handle conflict:
 1. Don't give the silent treatment (Matthew 18:15).
 2. Don't bring up past conflicts (Proverbs 17:9).
 3. Don't play psychiatrist with your spouse (Matthew 7:1).
 4. Don't exaggerate
 5. When you're wrong—admit it; when you're right—keep quiet (Proverbs 28:13; 17:14).
- C. Harboring resentment is a major factor in failed marriages.
- D. (Ephesians 4:32).

III. Understanding Is A Must

- A. This is no brainer, but men and women are different— physically and emotionally.
- B. We are commanded to understand each other (1 Peter 3:7).
- C. Some of those differences involve:
 1. Communication.
 2. Affection.
 3. How happiness is derived.
- D. Many affairs begin because someone seems to “understand” them.

- Conclusion:
1. Couples who will work on incorporating these qualities into their marriage will benefit because of it.
 2. God wants you to be happy, and He has told you how to find it — but it