

FORWARD

The translators well us that they (the translators) have deleted from the Scriptures the true names of the Father and the Son. It is our pleasure to comply with Scriptures which say we are to call on and to love the Name of the Creator. Of the Son's name it is said, "There is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Therefore the Father's name (Yahweh), and the Son's name (Yahshua) , have been restored to the scripture quotation which appear in this booklet. Please ask for our literature dealing with The Names, and other topics.

All Scriptural quotations are from the Revised Standard Version unless otherwise indicated.

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HOW TO STAY HAPPILY MARRIED

By Voy Wilks
1985

If you find yourself in a happy marriage, you are indeed blessed. If not, the following discussion may be of help in bettering your situation. If by chance I "get down on your case," then count it a blessing, because a good marriage and happy children are of great importance—not only to you, but to society in general. What is the secret in staying married? The answer to that is easy. Don't divorce (Mal. 2:16). Like making gold from lead, there is more to it than meets the eye, so let us, together, review the things which either make or beak a marriage.

Cleave

The Creator tells us that marriage between man and woman is good; "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and **cleave** to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

Cleave means to stick fast, adhere, to be faithful. Some, however, discover they are

married to a **heel**. What is a heel? A **heel** is one who never quite fulfills his obligations to his family, friends, or to society in general, always seeks his own comfort and pleasure, is usually a smooth talker, and is one who sponges on others. Just as the country song says, “You can’t make a heel toe the mar.” If you are married to a heel, may Yahweh bless you. You will need it. If you are not as yet married, by all means become well acquainted with you prospective spouse **before** marriage. Take time to learn what the person really is, then do not allow romantic love to cloud your judgment.

Courtesy

Courtesy is, perhaps, the most important essence in a successful marriage. Romantic loves does not assure a successful marriage. Often people who love each other fight, feud, then divorce. Why? There are many reasons, of course, but some of the most common reasons are selfishness, immaturity, tyranny, or lack of consideration. In other words, the **lack of courtesy** wrecks the marriage. Courtesy is more important to a successful marriage than is love. There have been many successful marriage which did not begin with love, but as a business agreement or as a convenience. With courtesy exhibited daily between them, the marriage was successful. Because of courtesy, love often followed, unexpectedly. Examples of this are George and Martha Washington, and Benjamin Disraeli, the English statesman, and his wife (who was 12 years older than he). Disraeli married her to enhance his financial and social standing, but the marriage was a stable and a happy one. So was that of the Washington’s.

Watch Your Attitude

Courtesy is the main ingredient in the Decalogue; that is, (1) courtesy to the Creator and (2) courtesy to mankind. “On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets” (Matt. 22:36-49) Courtesy is very closely related to respect, and to love. We should be courteous to all people, but especially to our family members. Your mate should be honored, esteemed, appreciated, and respected. Once again, if we are courteous to anyone at all, it should be to our spouses and other family members. Scriptures very powerfully impress this upon our minds.

“Be subject to one another out of reverence for the Messiah. **Wives, be subject** to your husbands...As the assembly is subject to the Messiah, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. **Husbands, love** your wives as the Messiah loved the Assembly and gave Himself up for her,...Even so **husbands** should **love** their wives **as their own bodies**. ...let each one of you [**husbands**] **love** his wife as himself, and let the **wife see** that she **respect** her husband (Eph. 5:21-33).

The man is to **love** his wife and the woman is to **respect** her husband. Men, is your conduct such that your wife **can** respect you? Wives, does your conduct encourage his love?

Many people act as if they can inspire love by making the mate miserable. This is not true, of course. Instead, little by little this destroys marriage. The Apostle Paul gave another key to success in marriage, if we will accept it, when he wrote to the saints at Rome.

“Let **love** be genuine; ...**outdo one another** in showing honor” (Rom. 12:9-10). The Apostle Peter also gave us wisdom for the ages when he wrote:

“Likewise you **wives**, be **submissive** to your husbands...Likewise you husbands, live **considerately** with your wives, **bestowing honor** on the woman..., since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your **prayers may not be hindered**” (1 Peter 3:1,7).

The Mating Act

The mating act may not be the most important part of marriage, but it is important. Once again, **courtesy** is the key to success in marriage. Scriptures instruct us in the following way:

“The husband should give to the wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband” (1 Cor. 7:3).

The desire for mating varies greatly, so this calls for **consideration**. The mate who is less interested must be understanding toward the partner’s needs, and the more active one must restrain himself or herself out of consideration for the partner-if the marriage is to succeed. Both should make an effort to please the partner in this as in all things.

Fidelity

Fidelity is very important to a marriage. It includes faithfulness to the marriage vows, but it includes much more. This means **honesty, integrity, and dependability**. Be honest with “the wife of your youth,” or the man of your choice. If you make a promise, by all means, keep that promise.

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator” (Col. 3:9-10).

Money

Be good stewards of the family finances. Some are divorced because of money, or the lack of it. **Be responsible** for your actions. If you spend money, **have something to show for it**. Most of it should be spent **carefully**, for the good of the entire family. If on some occa-

sions you spend for yourself only, make sure that you do not spend more than your share of the family funds. Every couple should have discussion and agreement before buying a new car, sewing machine, boat, etc. If both do not approve, do not make the purchase.

Here are some simple guide-lines which may be helpful.

Do Not

◦ **Do not** allow booze or drugs to get hold of you. If this happens, you are not your own. Instead, you become a slave to these demons (Rom. 6:16). If continued unchecked, either of these can destroy marriage, children, home, religion, and even life itself. Remember that most drunkards never planned to become drunkards, but only to enjoy the “good feeling” for a time. It should also be remembered that Scriptures place the drunkard in the same class with sexual perverts, thieves, and robbers. “Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts, nor thieves, nor greedy, nor **drunkards**, nor revilers, nor robbers will **inherit the kingdom of Yahweh**” (1 Co. 6:9-10; 5:11).

◦ **Do not** embarrass your mate in public. There are many ways in which a wife or a husband embarrass the other in public. Some, for example, constantly make corrections in a story which is being told. Maybe it doesn't really matter whether a certain event happened on the first or the third day of the week. If not, why make the correction? Others tell unflattering “wife and husband jokes” which are sometimes used to entertain guests. These are taboo. Besides being poor entertainment, they are a blight to marriage. Scriptures advisees”:

“Have nothing to do with stupid, senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ...Yahweh's servant must not be quarrelsome, but **kindly to every one**, ...” (2 Tim. 2:23--24).

◦ **Do Not** point out to your children the faults of your spouse. Even little things, if called to the children's attention, may cause them to grow up thinking this parent is a drip, a heel, or a moron. Instead, call attention to the good points which your partner has. After all, there was **some** reason for marrying him or her? Right away, my wife discovered I have one or two attributes which she never let our children forget, so they grew up respecting me. Now, even my grand-children are growing up to believe I am a wonderful person.

“ I therefore, ...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, **forbearing one another** in love, ... (Eph. 4:1-2).

◦ **Do not** argue. If an argument seems to be building,

(1) Walk away from it; or better still,

(2) Follow the advice of the wise. When in an agreeable mood, make a pact never to sleep until any and all disagreements have been satisfactorily resolved. Once implemented, this is a great inducement to settle all differences promptly.

(3) If neither of the above seems right for solving **your** disagreements, then insist on setting a day and hour when both of you will, without rancor, logically discuss your differences; each promising to “hold your temper.” Couples who follow these rules are famous for their harmonious marriages.

“The beginning of strife is like letting out water; so quit before the quarrel breaks out” (Prov. 17:14).

◦ **Do not** blame your spouse for your own mistakes. Be willing to accept the blame even when there is some doubt as to who is actually at fault.

“But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, **open to reason**, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity” (James 3:14, 17).

◦ **Do not** be a fault-finder. If you discover you have fallen into this trap, one way to control this is to “count your blessings, naming them one by one.”

“He who troubles his household will inherit the wind, ...He who belittles his neighbor [or his mate] lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent” (Prov. 11:29, 12).

“A good wife is the crown of her husband, ... (Prov. 12:4).

◦ **Do not** be easily offended. Not taking offence helps to make you a more contented person, and helps to maintain a good relationship with others, especially with your mate.

“Good sense makes a man slow to anger, and it is his glory to **overlook an offense**” (Prov. 19:11). “...**love** covers all **offenses**” (Prov. 10:12).

◦ **Do not** ignore your spouse, expecting an occasional kindness or expensive gift to hold his or her respect and love. An aged friend once told me, “It is not the occasional big event or gift, but little, everyday kindnesses and courtesies which bind a family together in love.” I have found this to be true. Constant caring and attention plus **daily courtesies** are “the tie that binds.”

After a couple has been married for a time courtship often ceases; then one or both may

wonder, “What went wrong? We used to be so much in love.” But think back. What means were employed to win this person? Whatever it was, if continued, will in most cases help to insure the interest and continuing love of your partner. It is sometimes overlooked that we have an **obligation**, not only to **share** happiness, but to **create** happiness for others.

“**Enjoy life** with the wife whom you love, **all the days of your...life...**” (Ecc. 9:9).

“rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely hind, a graceful doe (Prov. 5:18).

◦ **Do not** tell others your marital problems. There are at least two good reasons for this.

(1) Keeping them between the two of you makes them easier to correct. To do otherwise, both parties feel compelled to “save face,” and this sometimes **prevents** reconciliation.

(2) If your family knows your problems, they may not forgive your mate as you do. My friend and her husband fought, so she went home to Mama, telling the family how she had been mistreated. Later she forgave him and joyfully returned to her husband. Later she reported, “I love him, and wanted to forgive him, so I did. My family does not love him as I do, so they have never forgiven him.”

“Wisdom builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down” (Prov. 14:1).

◦ **Do not** demean your mate. Suppose you authorize the “other half” to carry out a business transaction or a special chore and it does not turn out right. You should gracefully accept the results, good or bad, once it is done. Possibly it would have soured on you too, had you carried out the assignment.

“A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit (Prov. 15:4).

◦ **Do not** expect your mate to change for the better, now that you are married. This does not often happen. Very rarely that person will change because he or she has the desire to do so, but not because of your lectures. Suppose you discover he or she has an odious habit, or develops one. Do not, in a moment of anger, rail against your spouse. Instead, at a time when both are calm, set a date when this can be discussed and, hopefully, resolved. Once settled, never bring it up again. “Let dead dogs lie.”

“With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone” (Prov. 25:15)

Do

◦ **Do** be a good listener. Your partner also has problems and pleasures which he or she wants and needs to share. Scriptures tell us to listen.

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:15).

◦ **Do** confide in your husband or wife. They often give excellent advice, sometimes about things with which they have had little experience.

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it” (Prov. 3:27).

◦ **Do** make the family living. This is addressed to husbands. Under normal circumstances the man should make the living and the wife should make the living worth while. It was Adam, not Eve, who was to live by the sweat of his brow (Gen. 3:17-19).

◦ **Do** plan always to be home and greet your husband when he comes in from work. This is addressed to wives who do not work outside the home, of course. This is a small thing, but prays big dividends in satisfaction to the husband.

“...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, **keepers at home**, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of Yahweh be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:4-5).

I has been pointed out that although both husband and wife have an obligation to the cheerful, it is principally the woman who sets the emotional tone, the mood, in the home (cheerfulness, or the lack of it). Her attitude will to a great extent determine what the children’s attitude will be.

Mothering is the **most important job on planet earth**. Not even the presidency is as important. Nevertheless there is a concerted effort to convince the people of our nation that homemaking is a cop-out for American women. Any woman can do this, they say; and, women “never really live” unless they become careerist. For this and other reasons, it is not fully realized that being a **good mother** and home-make is one of the most difficult and exacting professions, yet one of the most rewarding. Mothers should have the support of the husband, the family, the community, and the nation. They should be encouraged to stay home, caring for and **teaching** the children. When mothers go out and make the living, the marriage and the family suffer because:

(1) The children are often neglected, physically and emotionally.

- (2) The children receive little or no training in citizenship or in family responsibility simply because there is little or not time for this.
- (3) With both parents away from home each day, the children often become involved in theft, drugs, alcohol, etc., and soon have a police record.
- (4) The husband and the wife fight more often and more seriously because the wife is exhausted from laboring night and day to be both a mother and a bread-winner.

Certainly, there are situations in which a mother must earn the living, but this should not be the usual thing, as is so often the case here in the United States. Which is more important: having the extra dollars a working mother brings I; or having obedient, happy, and well-trained children? It is not impossible to have both, but the odds are against it. This is not to say that **all** the child training is to be left to the mother. Definitely not. The father should also take a lively interest in helping with the children, and should give his wife strong support. Scriptures agree.

“...a child left to himself brings shame to his mother” (Prov. 29:15).

“So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, rule their households, and give the enemy no occasion to revile us” (1 Tim. 5:14).

° **Do** come on home once your day’s work is done, and spend time with your wife and children. **Do not** stop at the domino or beer parlor, or the fishing hole . If you want a beverage, drink it at home. If you wish to fish, take the family with you. If you wish to play dominos, play with the family, or invite friends to your home.

“Lo, children are a heritage from Yahweh, the fruit of the womb a reward...Happy, and blessed is the man whose quiver is filled with them!” (Ps. 127:3, 5 Amplified version).

° **Do** help your wife with the children, once you are home from work, otherwise the wife is on duty 24 hours **every** day. There are at least two bonuses when the husband does this. The wife loves you more, and the children love you more. Giving your time, your love, and your interest to your family brings the true riches in life. Also, as servants of Yahweh, this is our duty.

“Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine in the innermost parts of your house; your children like olive plants round about your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who reverently and worshipfully fears Yahweh. ..Yahweh bless you out of Zion Yes, may you see your children’s children” (Ps. 128:3-6 Amplified Version).

Conclusion

To have a successful and a happy marriage, there are four basic things to remember and practice. These are:

(1) Courtesy, (2) Respect,
(3) Consideration, (4) Fidelity.

If these are practiced daily, your marriage should prosper. The result:

- If love **was not** present at the time of marriage, it will almost certainly develop.
- If love **was** present at the time of marriage, it will almost certainly be maintained.

“Love is a game two can play and **both win**” (Eva Gabor, Reader’s Digest, 12?85, page 5).

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24 KJV).