

# THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

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## HOW TO DESTROY OR STRENGTHEN A MARRIAGE

### I. Marriage

There are many institutions in the world today, but only two institutions were established by God;

- The church
- The home.

We've discussed how marriage is not something that came from man; but was established by God.

We've looked at what the Bible gives as clear instructions about who is permitted to marry.

We have considered how to prepare for marriage and what to look for in a lifelong companion.

We cannot expect our marriages to be perfect;

- But the Bible teaches us how our marriages can be happy.

This lesson will look at some of the ways that build our marriages up and ways that tear our marriages down.

### I. Reasons Marriages Fail

First, let us look at what will destroy a marriage.

Satan is eagerly working to destroy the home.

If he can damage the marriage, he can destroy much happiness of people in the world.

Let us consider some of the more destructive sins that can cause great unhappiness in marriage.

**LAZINESS** is one sin that can destroy a marriage.

**James 4:17** *Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:11** *and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,*

Love requires commitment and work.

Marriages by enlarge, do not bring the greatest happiness when people do not work hard enough to create love and build marital relationships.

**ANGER** is another sin that can harm a marriage.

One episode of anger can damage a relationship of kindness and patience that took years to build.

**Psalms 37:8** *Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret -- it only causes harm.*

All anger is not sinful.

**Ephesians 4:26** *Be angry, and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.*

**PRIDE** is another serious sin that can damage a marriage relationship

Pride is thinking that you are better than someone else.

**Matthew 7:12** *Jesus said, "Treat others like you would like to be treated."*

**Proverbs 8:13** *The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.*

**SELFISHNESS** is another sin that causes much unhappiness in marriage.

Those who are selfish are being tricked by Satan.

**Philippians 2:3** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

## II. **Reasons Marriages Succeed**

God provides us with a guidebook, the Bible, to follow to help us live more successfully with our spouses.

**LISTENING** in happy marriages, the couple gets to know one another.

**Proverbs 12:15** *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.*

You cannot listen to your spouse; if you are too busy preparing for what you are going to say next!

**Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Marriages succeed by being **COMMITTED** to one another and to God.

**Ephesians 5:28-29** *So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,*

**Truth** is the foundation of a marriage.

Couples who want to live happy lives together are committed to telling the truth to each other.

The most successful way to make your marriage a happy one is to learn better how God wants you to live.

**Ephesians 4:15-16** *but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

Strengthen your relationship with God and it will be easier to strengthen your relationship with your husband or wife.

**Matthew 22:37-38** *Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’38 This is the first and greatest commandment.*

Only by loving God more than any other person on earth, is the only way you can ever learn how to properly love the other and to have a marriage that will succeed.