

4. BUILDING BRIDGES IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Proverbs 24:27

27 Prepare your outdoor work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house. NKJV

Ephesians 5:31-33

31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

32 There is a deep secret truth revealed in this scripture, which I understand as applying to Christ and the church. 33 But it also applies to you: every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband. TEV

A. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO A LONG TERM MARRIAGE

Matthew 19:4-6

4 ... he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be **united** to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

United: kollao (kol-lah'-o); from kolla ("glue"); to glue, i.e. (passively or reflexively) to stick (figuratively):
KJV - cleave, join (self), keep company.

B. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO YOUR SPOUSE

Philippians 2:2-5

2 ... being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, ... 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Galatians 5:13-14

13 ... serve one another **in love**. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Ephesians 6:6-8

7 Serve wholeheartedly, **as if you were serving the Lord, not men**, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, ...

Serve Greek: to be a slave

C. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO YOUR ROUTINE

Ecclesiastes 9:9

9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, ...

1 Timothy 6:17

17 ... God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Acronym for ENJOY:

E - Encouragement and Expression of love.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

11 Therefore **encourage** one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

2 Thessalonians 2:17

17 **encourage** your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Hebrews 10:25

25 ... let us **encourage** one another-...

N - Do something New and do it Now

J - Just touch and Join in some of your spouse' activities

O - Offer to do something

Go back to some *old* places that bring good memories.

Y - say Yes to support your spouse' attempt to change

Remember to keep your promise when you said 'yes'.

D. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO PUT FIRST

1 John 1:7

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 4:7-8

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.... 8 ... God is love.

1 Peter 3:1

1 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives.

