

The Christian Arsenal

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WHEN YOU'VE MARRIED THE WRONG PERSON MARRIAGE MATTERS

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Part 2 of 4

I. WHAT GOES WRONG IN A MARRIAGE?

1. UNRESOLVED ISSUES

- This is the baggage that you and your spouse brought into your marriage.
- Marriages don't create problems; they reveal problems.

2. UNMET EXPECTATIONS

- The American culture of dating, courtship, and engagement and wedding and then the honeymoon, sets us up for massive disappointments. There is no other area where we have such high expectations.

REALITY: Marriage is composed of two very flawed, very imperfect individuals. It is foolish to think that two imperfect individuals can form one flawless, problem-free relationship.

3. UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES

- We've all heard the cliché that opposites attract. We haven't heard the rest – that after you're married, opposites attack.
- What used to be fascinating is now frustrating.
- At first these differences fascinate us, but after we live with them a while they irritate us.
- In the early days we tend to underestimate our differences and overestimate what we have in common.
- Most common statement: "I just don't understand him ..."

4. UNFORGIVEN MISTAKES

- You cannot have a marriage unless you learn forgiveness because we hold on to our hurts from our spouse.
- You are going to be hurt by your husband/wife, sometimes intentionally, sometimes unintentionally.

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II. HOW TO DO A “MARRIAGE MAKEOVER”

1. ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS

“Each person must be responsible for himself.” Gal. 6:5 (NCV)

- You can’t control your spouse’s actions or attitudes, but you can control yours.
- I need to be responsible for my part of the problem and my part of the solution.
- **STOP:**
complaining about your marriage.
resenting your marriage.
blaming your spouse for your unhappiness.

YOU ARE AS HAPPY AS YOU CHOOSE TO BE!

- You cannot fix your marriage if you’re always fixing the blame.
- The grass is not greener on the other side of the fence and the grass is not greener on this side of the fence. The grass is greener where you water it – where you put forth the effort.

2. BELIEVE MY MARRIAGE CAN CHANGE.

“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.” Matt 19:26 (NLT)

- From a human standpoint your marriage may be in the coffin but God can perform a resurrection.

3. COMMIT TO DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES

“Don’t get tired of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up ...” Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

- Great marriages don’t just happen – they take effort.
- The truth is it costs to have a great marriage, but it costs more to divorce.
- It is far more worth the cost to save the marriage and let God transform and make the marriage a miracle marriage than it is to just “chuck it.”
- What do you do when you “don’t feel like it anymore?”
You pray and obey.

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Pray – “God, give me the feelings again.”

Obey – I’m going to do the right thing whether I feel like it or not!

- Feelings always follow action. It is easier to act your way into a feeling than it is to feel your way into an action.
- When you start acting nice, eventually you’re going to start feeling nice.

4. DEAL WITH UNRESOLVED HURTS...

... BY ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS.

“admit your faults to one another...” James 5:16 (LB)

... BY OFFERING FORGIVENESS.

“Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others.” Col. 3:13 (LB)

5. ENLIST SUPPORT FROM OTHERS

Sometimes you need an objective third opinion to help you in an area where you are battling heads and neither one can see what reality is.

“Get all the advice and instruction you can ...” Prov. 19:20 (NLT)

“It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong.” Prov. 24:3 (NCV)

“God who is at work within you will give you the will and power to achieve His purpose.” Phil 2:13 (Ph)

“For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.” Phil. 4:13 (NLT)

TAKE WHAT YOU’VE GOT AND GIVE IT TO GOD AND LET HIM DO A MAKEOVER.