



great marriages don't just happen

Part 3 - How To Immediately Improve Your Marriage

1 Peter 3:8-12

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November 1, 2009

I. LOVE YOUR SPOUSE LIKE A **FRIEND** .

1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, all of you, be of one mind; be sympathetic, love like a friend, be compassionate and humble."

A. Genuine friendship expresses **compassion** for each another.

1. The word compassion means to feel what another feels, to understand and **identify** with another.
2. Application #1 - We choose to live with less **things** and more **time** to protect and build our friendship.

B. Genuine friendship is expressed in being **tenderhearted**.

1 Peter 3:8 (KJV) "Finally, be you all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

1. Tenderhearted - to be sensitive and affectionate toward the needs of your mate.
2. "Energize Your Mate in 60 Seconds." How do you do that? The answer is the act of being gentle and tenderly touching each other in difficult times. (Gary Smalley – Love is a Decision)
3. Application #2 – We choose to respond to the moments that call for comfort, encouragement and meaningful touch to **re-energize** our mate.

D. Genuine Friendship is expressed in **courtesy**.

1. To place your mate's needs **above** yourself.

Ephesians 5:28-29 "In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church."

2. Application #3 – We choose to treat our mate **better** than we treat anyone else, even ourselves.

II. LEARN TO RESPOND **MATURELY** IN HURTFUL TIMES. (1 Peter 3:9-11)

James 1:19-20 (NLT) "My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Your anger can never make things right in God's sight."

Proverbs 15:1 "A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Application #4 - How should we respond to each other in hurtful times?

1 Peter 3:11 (NIV) "He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it."

1. **Calm** down.
2. Seek peace. Find a solution in which you both **win**.
3. Agree on the **majors** and give space on the minors.

1 Peter 4:8 "Love covers a multitude of sins."

4. March at the head of the other's parade.
5. Don't just talk about **problems**.
6. Have fun in the **journey**.

IV. PRACTICE **GOD'S PRESENCE** IN YOUR HOME. (1 Peter 3:12)

Application #5 - God sees, God hears, and **we care** about what He sees and hears.

Notes:
