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Jesus at the Center

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Subtopic: What Are You Building?

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Christian Faith and Fellowship Mission – Sanctuary of Praise

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“Congratulations!” Whether you’ve been married one year or 5 years, every year is something to celebrate.

Not long ago you stood in front of family and friends, reciting vows “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health”; not realizing what could be lying ahead. We find ourselves focused solely on the wedding, that we forget about the marriage that follows.

Homeownership is a goal for some married couples. The search begins as you consider the location, price, square footage, etc.

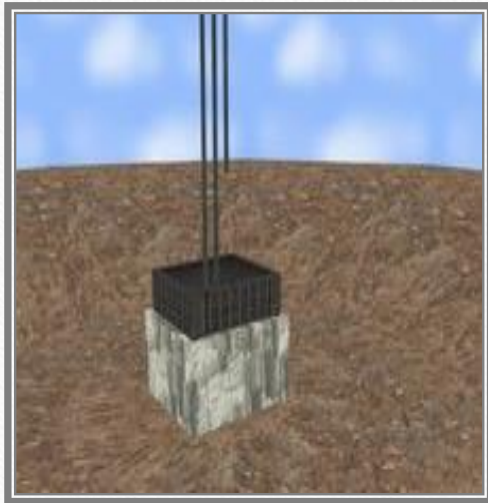
Today, let’s talk about marriage in relation to a home. Although, the aforementioned items are necessary in finding the perfect home. We want to discuss 3 areas that are most important when finding what it takes to have a successful, loving, lasting marriage.

Those 3 areas are the foundation, the security, and the maintenance.



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The Foundation

Foundation is defined as the lowest load-bearing part of a building, typically below ground level.

The foundation is the most important part in building. If the foundation is bad, the structure will be bad.

You and your spouse **MUST** have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Amos 3:3 says, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Matthew 12:25 reads, a “house divided against itself shall not stand:”.

You want to have the same mindset; to have Jesus at the center of your marriage. Philippians 2:5 says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”

Having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will allow you to know the voice of God for yourselves. Spend time in prayer and studying the Word. A hunger and thirst after God will develop. Your walk with Christ will continue to progress and grow, reaching a level of spiritual maturity.

Matthew 7 speaks about how a wise man builds his house upon a rock. That rock is Jesus Christ. In James 1 we are instructed to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

In your personal walk, you will not only grow to just know the voice of God but also be obedient to what He commands.

The foundation is so vital in the beginning and building up of your marriage. It will sustain you when challenges arise.

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The Security

Once you get the keys to your new home, the first thing on the to-do list should be to secure it. Now is the time to change the locks and find a company to install a security system.

Security is defined as the state of being free from danger or threat.

Having security does not mean that danger or threats will not try to come up against your house/marriage but having the foundation we spoke about and now security will further position you to have a successful marriage.

With Jesus at the center of your marriage, He is your protection. In Isaiah 54:17 it says, “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper;” It does not say that the weapon will not be formed, but rest assure it will not prosper.

Your home should be a safe place – a place where you can be relaxed and vulnerable. As godly wives, we have the power to create an atmosphere of peace in our homes/marriages.

In Proverbs 31:11 it says, “The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.” The Message translation reads, “Her husband trusts her without reserve, and never has reason to regret it.”

In Proverbs 25:24 it states, “It is better to dwell in the corner of a housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.”

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The Security (continued)

Be mindful of the atmosphere you create in your home/marriage. Creating a safe peaceful space for your husband allows him to feel comfortable enough to share what is in his heart. You both are now intimate friends and should be able to be open and honest with one another.

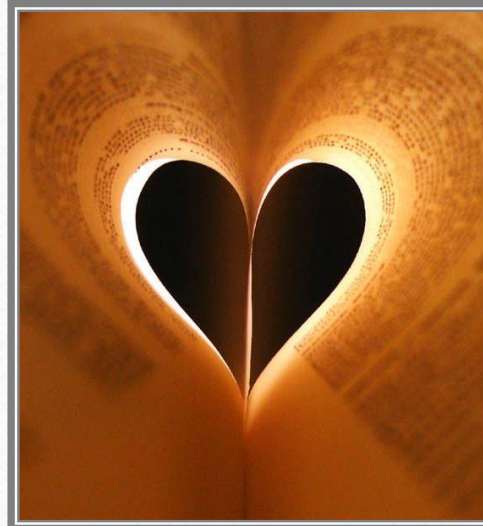
There will be times when discussions get heated. Don't be so quick to put your business out by talking to others. It's okay to talk with one who will give you wise counsel and pray with you, but make it a habit to go to God first. When sharing private details about your marriage, you want to be careful not to let negative influences infiltrate into your marriage to cause chaos or division. If needed, reach out to a Christian marriage counselor. Listening to a third party who will not take sides can bring a new perspective and also can be refreshing.

In times of frustration, writing out your feelings can sometimes be a healthy outlet. Do not sweep issues and conflicts under the rug. This is your life partner. You will need to work it out and come to some type of resolution or compromise.

God ordained marriage and the enemy hates it so remember what Ephesians 6:12 says. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Pray over and anoint yourselves and every area of you home. Greater is He that is in you (I John 4:4). You have the power and authority to call those things which be not as though they were (Romans 4:17).

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The Maintenance

Landscaping, fixing household appliances, calling an exterminator for termites – the list can go on and on.

If you want to keep your home in excellent condition and the value to go up, the upkeep and maintenance must be a priority. The same is required for your marriage.

Maintenance is defined as the process of maintaining or preserving someone or something, or the state of being maintained.

We often hear the importance of self-care. It is vital for you and assists in maintaining a successful marriage. Your self-care can be as simple as taking a walk, indulging in a hobby of art & crafts, or reading. Doing something that makes you happy and brings you joy can be therapeutic and rejuvenating. You want to give your best self to your spouse and family. Pouring from an empty vessel causes unnecessary stress and is unhealthy.

What's another important piece when it comes to building, securing, and maintaining your marriage?

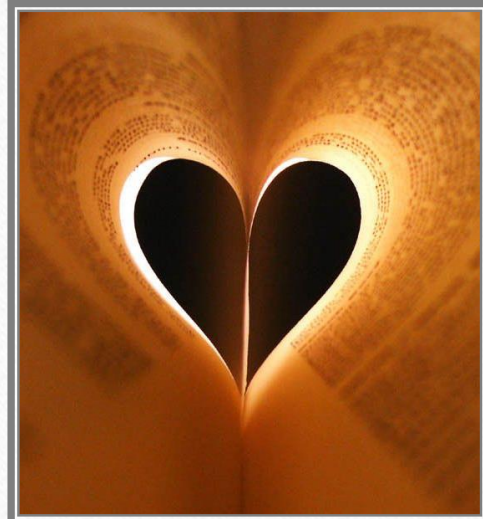
I Corinthians 13:13 says, “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity”.

~ LOVE ~

Remind yourself why you feel in love and wanted to spend the rest of your life with your husband.

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The Maintenance (continued)

Love is a choice. Love is an action word. Don't just say "I love you" but show it. Get creative at how you show your love. Have a date night. Do a 30-day "Thank your husband" challenge. It will help you see all the positive things he does for you and the family.

Let's see how we are to love by looking at a few verses of I Corinthians 13 in The Message translation.

"Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
doesn't have a swelled head,
doesn't force itself on others,
isn't always "me first,"
doesn't fly off the handle,
doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
doesn't revel when others grovel,
takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
puts up with anything,
trusts god always,
always looks for the best,
never looks back,
but keeps going to the end."

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Some quotes to ponder...

- ❖ A marriage is a like a house. When a light bulb goes out, you do not go and buy a new house, you fix the light bulb. – Happy Wives Club
- ❖ People say love doesn’t last. Well, neither does bathing. That’s why we recommend renewing it daily. – Tolovehonorandvacuum.com
- ❖ The more you invest in a marriage, the more valuable it becomes. – Amy Grant
- ❖ A one flesh marriage consists of a husband and wife each giving 100% rather than 50/50. – Jolene Engle
- ❖ Regardless of where you are in your marriage, you have the ability to love so stubbornly that Christ can’t be denied. – Darlene Schacht

