

THINGS THAT CAUSE THE MOST MARRIAGE PROBLEMS

January 17, 2013

1. THE WRONG THIRD PARTY.

- a. There will be a third party.
 - i. If it's the "other man" or the "other woman," that is the wrong third party.
- b. Two are better than one. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11).
 - i. For encouragement and support.
 - ii. When one falls, the other is there to help.
 - iii. There is warmth between two.
- c. There is a third party that will make a couple stronger (threefold cord) (vs. 12)
 - i. Jesus Christ will strengthen your marriage.
 - ii. Any other third party will weaken and destroy your marriage.
 - iii. You need to maintain a right relationship with the Lord.
 1. If you don't, you've left an opening for the wrong 3rd party to try and take His place.
 - a. The 3rd party that shows up will have all the qualities you thought your husband/wife should have.

2. DEBT.

- a. Don't be covetous. Be content (Hebrews 13:5).
- b. Credit can be dangerous. It opens the door to strife, argument, debate, bitterness, accusing, and quarreling.
- c. Start out modestly. Live within your means. Don't expect to have all the things your parents have. They worked for many years before they could afford those things.
- d. When you borrow, you are a slave to the lender (Proverbs 22:7).
 - i. If you don't pay your bills, they'll repossess your stuff.
 - ii. This puts undue stress on a marriage relationship.

3. DEFRAUDING IN THE BEDROOM.

- a. Touching the opposite sex leads to fornication (1 Corinthians 7:1).
 - i. For that reason, single people should never touch the opposite sex.
- b. The physical relationship is reserved for married couples only (1 Corinthians 7:2).
 - i. It should be *expected* that there will be physical contact in a marriage. This is biblical. This is not dirty.
 - ii. God said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Genesis 1:28)
 - iii. In marriage, your body is not your own (1 Corinthians 7:4).
 - iv. Married couples are commanded not to defraud one another concerning the physical relationship (1 Corinthians 7:5).
 1. If you deny your spouse the physical touch, the Devil will use that to his advantage. He'll send someone else to tempt you into adultery.
 2. A padlock on the bedroom door will lead to marriage failure.

- c. ⁴ **Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.** (Hebrews 13:4)
 - i. Whoremonger:
 - 1. A woman who uses the physical relationship to allure a man for money.
 - a. Actresses, Models, dancers, prostitutes.
 - 2. A man who supports a woman's depravity.
 - a. Buying a dirty magazine or movie ticket. Going to strip clubs, etc.
 - ii. God will judge. You will not get away with being a whoremonger or an adulterer.

4. HUSBAND BITTER AGAINST THE WIFE / BLAME. (Colossians 3:19, Genesis 3:12)

- a. Oftentimes the man finds it too convenient to blame his problems on his wife.
 - i. He forgets that he had those problems before he got married.
 - ii. If you've got problems in your life, don't blame your wife. Get right with the Lord.

5. YOU CHANGED; LET YOURSELF GO (DECEIT / BAIT AND SWITCH)

- a. Women go to great lengths to look beautiful, and to be everything that a man is looking for in a woman. But once she succeeds in attracting him, when the marriage contract is signed, she turns out to be a completely different woman.
- b. Men try to charm a woman and impress her in all the ways that count. After marriage, he returns to his true nature; a rude, crude man.
- c. Don't quit putting forth the effort to please your husband/wife.
 - i. The Bride of Christ prepared and adorned herself for her husband (Rev. 21:2) after 1,000 years of marriage!
 - ii. The virtuous woman (Proverbs 31:17, 27) exercised and didn't get lazy.

6. NEITHER PARENT OR ONLY ONE PARENT IS DISCIPLINING THE CHILDREN.

- a. First Samuel 2:12-23. Eli the priest had two wicked sons; the result of his slack parenting.
 - i. Proverbs 20:30 **"The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly."** Spankings are beneficial towards ridding a child of evil.
 - ii. Spanking won't kill the child (Prov. 23:14).
 - iii. **Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying** (Prov 19:18).
 - iv. **Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.** (Prov. 23:14).
 - v. A heart to heart chat with your children will not suffice.
 - vi. God would judge Eli for neglecting to restrain his sons from evil (1 Samuel 3:13).
 - 1. It's not enough to ask them not to do something.
 - 2. You've got to restrain them. Use every effort to prevent them from sinning.
 - 3. The rod must be used; not reproof alone. (Proverbs 29:15)

7. ONLY DOING WHAT PLEASURES OURSELVES AND NOT THE OTHER PERSON. (Romans 15:1-3)

- a. Once again, Jesus Christ is the greatest example for us. He lived His life for others.
 - i. If we would live our lives for the other person, no marriage would fail.
 - 1. Even if your spouse may be lacking, if you do right and live for him/her, you can keep your marriage strong.