

THE THINGS THAT CAUSE THE MOST MARRIAGE TROUBLE

6 September 2024

God gave us instructions and warnings, which if heeded will result in the most fulfilling and joyful lives possible on this earth. It is when we choose to ignore God and do things our own way that we find our marriages failing, and our lives coming apart. We would do well to learn God's ways and live by them.

Hebrews 4:2 You will not benefit from the preaching of God's word if you don't believe what the bible says.

I. THE WRONG THIRD PARTY.

- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** Two are better than one.
 - If one falls, the other can pick them up (vs 10).
 - There is warmth and comfort when two are united (vs 11).
 - The right third party in your marriage will make it stronger. If Jesus Christ is the third party in your marriage, it will not be quickly broken (vs 12).
 - A marriage relationship is meant to be threefold (a trinity: man, woman, Christ).;
 - If Christ is not in your marriage, the vacancy will be filled by a third party that will destroy your marriage.

II. DEBT.

- **Hebrews 13:5** People who are not content with what they have will soon enter into debt.
 - Debt opens the door to strife, contention, arguments, debates, and bitterness.
 - Don't buy things you don't absolutely need.
- **Proverbs 22:7** Avoid buying on credit. Don't spend what you don't have. The resulting obligation to the lender (servitude) will put a strain on your marriage.

III. DEFRAUDING IN THE BEDROOM

- **1 Corinthians 7:1-5** Here are warnings and advice concerning physical relations between a man and a woman.
 - Unmarried people are warned that touching can lead to fornication (vs 1).
 - Married couples are instructed to "**have his own wife,**" and "**have her own husband.**"
 - Physical relations are to be expected in a marriage.
 - Refusing physical relations with your spouse defrauds (cheats) them (vs 5).
 - You can consent with one another to abstain from physical relations for a limited time (for prayer and fasting)
 - It is important that you come together again, or Satan will take the opportunity to tempt you (vs 5) into a sinful relationship with another party.
- **Hebrews 13:4** "**Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled.**"
 - There is nothing dirty about a physical relationship inside the bonds of marriage.
 - "**But whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.**"
 - Any man who supports the depravity of a woman (a woman who uses her body for profit), he is a whoremonger. He will be judged
 - Any man who commits adultery, God will judge.

IV. HUSBAND BITTER AGAINST THE WIFE / BLAME

- **Colossians 3:19** “Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.”
- **Genesis 3:12** Men tend to blame their wife for their problems (as did Adam). This will lead to bitterness against her.

V. YOU CHANGED/ LET YOURSELF GO (DECEIT)

- **Revelation 21:2** Jesus’ Bride is still “**prepared as a bride**” one thousand years after the marriage. She didn’t change her appearance or manners after the marriage.
- **Proverbs 31:17, 27** The virtuous woman didn’t stop being virtuous after marriage.

VI. NEITHER PARENT/ONLY ONE PARENT IS DISCIPLINING THE CHILDREN

- The marriage relationship should never be neglected when children are added to the family.
- Both parents must work together to properly/biblically discipline and raise their children.
- **1 Samuel 2:12-24** Eli’s sons were vile. Eli was judged because he did not restrain them (**1Sam 3:13**).
- God gives parents instructions for disciplining their children (Prov. 20:30, 23:14, 19:18). God expects parents to “**restrain**” their children to prevent them from misbehaving (**1 Sam 3:13**).
 - Make it as hard and as unpleasant as possible for your child to do wrong.
- **Proverbs 29:15** **The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.**
 - Both the rod AND reproof must be used. Not just one or the other.

VII. ONLY DOING WHAT PLEASERS THEMSELVES AND NOT THE OTHER PERSON.

- **Romans 15:1-3** When a husband or wife does not aim to please their spouse, the marriage is headed for failure.
- Christ pleased not Himself (vs 3). He is our example.

CONCLUSION

- The day you got married, you made a vow to God, promising to honor, obey, cherish...in sickness or in health.
- God takes this vow very seriously. See **Ecclesiastes 5:4-6**. God is angry when husbands and wives forsake their wedding vows.