

10 THINGS THAT MAKE FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE!

near as satisfying. Here are the 10 basics for a great marriage:

1. The need for similar value

systems. If money and material things are high on one's list and the other needs emotional and

beautiful things, someone gets hurt.

2. The ability to communicate

effectively with each other. Not talking a problem out leads to long bouts of hostility.

3. A good sexual relationship. Sex is an integral part of human interaction and living.

4. Honesty. One lie leads to another and soon you have a tangled mess.

5. Agreement on how children should be disciplined. Kids learn quickly to play one parent off the other if there is a disagreement.

6. Tolerance for each other. No one's perfect so you should be willing to forgive and forget and get on with life.

7. Having mutual as well as individual interests. Couples who do everything together tend to stagnate.

8. Acceptance of your mate's family and their weaknesses. It is important to understand and accept their differences from your family's.

9. Consider each other's feelings and emotions. Enjoying feelings and emotions is a major part of what life is about.

10. Agreement on financial matters. By sharing the money management, one person does not gain power over the other by controlling the money.

How you can stay married — and happy!

If you would like to be happily married, here are a few tips that might help, according to the Rev. Norbert Burns of the University of Dayton.

● Be sincere with each other before getting married.

● Decide on the kind of life you want to lead, and make sure you follow it.

● Consider your first year of marriage the most important year of your life.

● Expect conflict. It is normal and healthy.

● Work hard to develop a way to resolve conflicts.

● Spend two nights a month dating each other, going out on the town or just being together away from the home and/or kids.

● Humor can help a marriage, but be sure your partner can take a joke and has a sense of humor.

● Never argue at the table or in bed.

● Be creative together. Try different things.

● Be 97 percent upbeat and 3 percent the other way.

EVERY PERSON needs to experience two major types of love. One of these is the love of mutuality, the love that is given in anticipation of a return from the beloved. Married love obviously involves the beauty of mutuality, but so does celibate love, since celibates too need care and support from others. The other major love is the love of liberation, a love that gives to the beloved without expecting a return. Both married and celibate love need this dimension. In marriage, while both loves are emphasized, the love of mutuality is more highly stressed than it is in celibacy. In celibacy, on the other hand, liberating love takes precedence. Here lies the distinctive quality of the celibate life. This liberating love must serve as a means of giving witness to faith in the resurrection of Jesus. The celibate lifestyle is thus a style of prophetic witness, a style that travels lightly and tries to set people free so that all might live more fully the common Christian hope in the second coming of Christ.

Fr. Gennaro Avenio
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