

**1 Corinthians 9:26** Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

**Lamentations 3:19-23** I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

5 Keys to a Great Marriage:

1. Put God First.

**Matthew 6:33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- ✓ Pray Together.
- ✓ Discuss the Bible Together.
- ✓ Attend Church Together

2. Fight Fair.

**Proverbs 18:19** An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

**James 1:19-20** My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

**3 Rules:**

- ✓ Stop and listen carefully.
- ✓ Guard my words vigilantly.
- ✓ Manage my anger righteously.

**Ephesians 4:26-27** In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

3. Have Fun

**Ecclesiastes 9:9** Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love...

**Deuteronomy 30:19** Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

Foundation of all fun is built on:

- ✓ Life-giving relationships look to God as the source of their life.
- ✓ Life-giving relationships happen when two servants are in love.
- ✓ Life-giving relationships make this choice every day.

Key Thought: Choices lead. Feelings follow.

4. Stay Pure.

**Hebrews 13:4** Marriage should be **honored** by all, and the marriage bed kept **pure**, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

**Ephesians 5:3** But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality...

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7** It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God...For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

- ✓ Manage my mind.
- ✓ Magnify the consequences.
- ✓ Maintain right relationships.

5. Never Give Up

**Matthew 19:3-6** Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?" So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

- ✓ Marriage is a covenant not a contract.

**Walk Away:** As we put God first, we will make the choice to love while prioritizing our relationship.

**2 Corinthians 7:10** Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.