

Building a Successful Marriage, Part 2

Jack Mayhall

I. Introduction.

A. We cannot let the idiosyncrasies build up in marriage.

II. Some things spouses should avoid.

A. Sarcasm.

B. Public criticism or correction.

C. Comparing unfavorably with others.

D. Dropping a delayed time bomb.

III. A lot is involved in communication.

A. Communication is the meeting of meaning.

B. Openness is a skill acquired by good leaders.

C. We are to grow up by speaking the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)

IV. Communication guidelines.

A. Pray for an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

B. Really listen.

C. Continually ask what you don't understand.

D. Aim to be best friends.

V. The physical relationship.

A. God invented sex to be an exciting thrilling experience for those in love.

B. Approach and attitudes can be determined by backgrounds. This can bring hang ups.

C. Talk about the hang ups and differences.

D. Differences.

1. Sex is more of a single act for a man and a part of the drama of life for a women.

2. Sex is a strong physical drive accompanied with emotional needs. For a woman it is more of a strong emotional drive accompanied by physical needs.

3. For a man it is more important how often. For a woman it is more important how.

4. A man is more quick to respond to stimulation. A woman responds more slowly.

5. A man is more stimulated by seeing. A woman is more stimulated by touch.

6. A man is more sexual than maternal. A woman is more maternal than sexual.

E. Men need to learn to be lovers.

F. Men need to let their wives know what stimulates them.

G. Misconceptions.

1. A climax is not to be reached always—the important thing is to just enjoy one another.

2. The sex act does not always have to be ecstatic.

3. Talking about the physical aspect of intimacy is most important. (Colossians 3:23)

Application questions:

1. What are some road blocks to healthy communication?

2. Which communication tip is most helpful for you?

3. How can a knowledge of the differences practically help us in sex? Explain.
