

## **Friday Evening Message**

*Jack Mayhall*

### I. Introduction.

- A. Marriage requires the same work as a career.
- B. Marriage needs to be a priority.
- C. God instituted marriage so that each person could sharpen one another. (Proverbs 27:17)

### II. Essentials for a good marriage.

- A. Time.
- B. Giving God his rightful place in relationship.
  - 1. The underlying principle is that marriage was God's idea in the first place. (Genesis 2:15)
  - 2. God wants us to get to know him intimately. (Jeremiah 23:24)

### III. Spouses must get to know each other more and more.

### IV. Tips.

- A. Couples need to learn to laugh.
- B. Be careful of the use of extremes.

### V. Conflicts start in the things that are different.

### VI. Differences should not surprise us. (1 Corinthians 12)

### VII. God wants spouses to become one in mind, soul and spirit (to become best friends). (Proverbs 23:24)

- A. We need God's help. A spouse cannot ultimately fulfill another's needs. We need realistic expectations, and God must be the one who fulfills our needs.
- B. We need to become students of ourselves. (James 1:5)
- C. We need to know our spouses. (Ephesians 4:32)
  - 1. Be kind to one another.
  - 2. Be understanding.
  - 3. Forgive. (Proverbs 17:9)

VIII. Study your spouse.

- A. Men tend to be more objective. Women tend to be more subjective.
- B. Men tend to be more essential minded. Women tend to be more detail minded.
- C. Men tend to be logical. Women tend to be emotional.

**Application questions:**

1. How have you seen differences in your mate add strength?

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2. What differences do you tend to struggle with the most?

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3. How can you turn those differences into something positive?

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