

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

February 25, 2007

Happily Ever After

Troy Nicholson

After writing last week's article based on a different article about people living together without being married, I saw another article about marriage with a more positive overall message. It was entitled "Happily Ever After" (*The Tennessean*, 2-18-07) and contained words of wisdom from couples who have been married for 50 years or more. Let's consider some of what they had to say in light of God's word.

Pre-marriage

A woman married 53 years said, "Be really careful who you marry. It is for good." What great advice. For those who get married, who they marry is probably the second most important decision they will ever make – and greatly influences their most important decision (whether or not to faithfully serve the Lord). One couple married 52 years said that couples planning on getting married should "seek some spiritual guidance" before they take the plunge. The Bible says of Zacharias and Elizabeth, "*And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless*" (**Luke 1:6**). Marry someone who will help this be able to be said of you two.

Divorce

One woman who has been married 62 years said, "We were always taught til death do you part. Divorce was never discussed in our house." Considering that God hates divorce (**Malachi 2:16**), what a great attitude to have toward it. A man married for 70 years said that the reason for all the divorces these days is "selfishness" and that "a lot of people don't go to church and do the right thing." We talked about selfishness in last week's article and how the Bible teaches there is not room for it in marriage (see **1 Cor 7:3-4; Eph 5:22-30**). If both spouses were always committed to doing the right thing, then there would never be divorce.

Another woman married 59 years said, "When we were young we knew it was for life." A man married 60 years summed it well: "When we said 'I do' we didn't say it was just for tomorrow. You gotta tie the knot where it can't be untied." Jesus said that the knot was not meant to be untied when He said, "*Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate*" (**Matt 19:4-6**). As a man married 70 years said, "You have an oath and you are obligated to remember that." When we marry we make an oath to one another and to God, and that oath should never be broken.

Love

A woman married 64 years said, "Treat each other with kindness, love, and respect. Just work it out together. Don't fuss, talk things over." A man married 58 years said, "It's a matter of love, and you have to be willing to forgive." As Peter said, "*Love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins*" (**1 Peter 4:8**).

Devotion

The man married 70 years also said, “You need to treat each other like you want to be treated.” In other words, what we call the “golden rule” applies to marriage as much as any relationship: *“Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them”* (**Matthew 7:12**). A woman married 58 years said, “Be considerate of each other and think of each other first.” As Paul said it, *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others”* (**Phil 2:3-4**). How important this attitude is in marriage.

A woman married 62 years said, “He comes first, he is spoiled. But he rubs my back every night.” Peter said that women who trusted in God submitted to their husbands and that Sarah called Abraham lord (**1 Peter 3:5-6**). He also said that husbands must *“give honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel”* and that such behavior will lead to them being *“heirs together of the grace of life”* (:7).

Anger

A woman married 70 years said, “We never go to bed angry.” The Bible teaches us to approach anger in this way: *“Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath”* (**Eph 4:26**). One man married 64 years said, “We stay mad an hour or two and then that’s it, and it’s fun to make up.”

Silence

Sometimes the best thing to say is nothing at all. One man married 52 years gave the secret to a long happy marriage: “Keep your mouth shut!” A woman married 62 years said of her husband, “When he was young he was high tempered, and I didn’t say anything – if you don’t say anything, you don’t have to take anything back.” James said that *“everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger”* (**James 1:19**). Again, this principle applies to marriage as much as any other relationship in life and will make it better when followed.

When we all apply the principles found within God’s word to our marriage, then we can all live happily ever after.

“Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.” – Psalm 96:2

Family News

Mary Burnett had a good week.

Quinton Coppage fell four weeks ago. He continues to improve.

Metty Fain is in Room B2, 215 Highland Circle Dr, Portland TN 37148.

Elmo Ferrell sees the doctor tomorrow. He is having some skin problems.

Barry Fultz had surgery in January. In some ways, he is improving. He still is getting headaches, but they are not as severe. You can keep up with his progress at: caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn

Sandra Hunt received some test results: none where helpful (one did show elevated PMR). She still has much pain in her right shoulder and arm.

Dorris Johnson has moved to FL.

Cindi Malone has been sick this past week.

Fred Newman, whom we currently support in Bratislava, will soon end his work there after 7.5 years. He and his family are moving back to NC

Fran Pickens continues to do all right.

Cotton Read continues to recover from surgery.

Laura Reed's arm continues to heal: still not 100%.

Dustin Simpson, who used to attend here, had a motorcycle accident a few weeks ago. Phone: 804-675-6628. Address:

McGuire VA Medical Center
Traumatic Brain Injury Unit
Attn: Dustin Simpson
1201 Broad Rock Blvd
Richmond VA 23249

Georgia Taylor's address is: 2501 River Road, Ashland City TN 37015

Ame White was to receive a sleep apnea test on Thursday. Things did not go well and the test was not completed. An MRI is scheduled for Tuesday.

Margaret Williams has had strep throat this past week.

Robert Wray received a shot Thursday for his dizzy spells: good so far.

New Report: **Alessandro Corazza** (Italy).

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Bonnie Sue Brown** (gone in am); **Katie Greene** (OH); **Allen Malone** (in Vietnam).

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).