

Marriage Killers

Jesus said concerning marriage, “For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matt. 19:5-6).

God intends for a husband and wife to stay married to each other. Getting a divorce (or putting asunder) is not the way God wants a marriage to end. God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16). God will only allow a divorce for one reason, fornication (Mt 19:9). This means, therefore, marriage must work. People cannot bail out of the marriage just because they have “out grown each other” or “they are tired” or “they have experienced some difficulties.” Marriage must last! We must work at marriage. A happy marriage begins with happy people.

When marriage is as God wants it to be, then it is an example of the relationship between Jesus and the church (Eph. 5:22-32). It is caring and sharing. It is thoughtfulness and concern. It is enjoyable, stable and honorable.

There are many things that seem to strain marriages today. Some of these could even be called, “*Marriage Killers*” for the havoc they have caused to marriages. But these storms can be weathered. These problems can be changed. They can be overcome as a couple sets forth to remain together. Your marriage can be a joy.

What are some of these *Marriage Killers*?

Over Commitment. Being too busy and being too rushed to have any time together kills the marriage. There is no such thing as marriage for one. Marriage is a partnership. It is a togetherness. Work, personal activities, and hobbies can pull a couple together or apart. Selfishness leads to over commitment. Find ways to do things together. Think in terms of “us.”

Money Problems. Living off of credit cards and spending too much will cause many problems in a marriage. Work out a budget and stick to it. Save and invest each week. Learn to do things cheaper than what you are. Paul warned, “*For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang*” (1 Tim. 6:10).

Harmful Addictions. Drugs, alcohol, gambling and pornography drain the goodness and life out of a marriage. There is nothing good in any of these things. They will lead a person to destructive thoughts and habits. Stop them. Get help. Successful marriages are not built upon these things.

Lack of God. God made marriage. All marriages can benefit from learning what God says about marriage. Love, forgiveness, and patience are the characteristics of a life that follows Christ. These characteristics enrich all relationships, especially marriage. May your marriage be a joy.

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