

YOUR FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Psalm 127:1-5

Introduction: Most of the Psalms were written by the Lord through the hand of David. Psalm 127 and 128 seem to be written by Solomon. The sad thing about this wise man is that in arranging multiple marriages and attempting to form more than one family unit, he sacrificed the blessing one big happy home. You can see the longing he held for the one thing in life that he missed...*a happy home*. The Lord appointed Solomon give us divine insight as to what it takes to make a happy home.

- Design
 - Description
 - Duties
 - Delight
- Marriage is when a man and woman become as one; the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.
 - Marriages are made in heaven. But so again, are thunder and lightning.
 - Do not marry a person that you know that you can live with; only marry someone that you cannot live without.
 - If you want your spouse to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say, talk in your sleep.
 - If a man is alone in the forest and speaks...and no woman is around to hear him...Is the man still wrong?
 - She, "Where would you men be without women?" He, "Still in the Garden of Eden, I guess."

Just before walking his daughter down the aisle to give her away in marriage, a father gave her some good sound advice. "Remember", he told her, "Your marriage is like two horses pulling the same wagon. To go forward both horses must be pulling in the same direction. If one pulls one way and one pulls in the opposite direction, they will not get very far.

One thing is certain. If two people will give 100% to the Lord and implement Biblical principles of dedication, loyalty and selflessness into their lives, they will be rewarded with a beautiful and happy marriage.

To keep the matter simple, two people must each be right with the Lord and really work at it. To have an attractive lawn, a beautiful garden, or a neat looking car someone has to put some energy and effort into the situation.

Marriages can be beautiful and blessed of the Lord, but neglect and taking things for granted will cause it to end up on the rocks in no time.

Someone has said, "*Getting married is like an album of music. You really like one side of the record, but you have to take the flip side with it. Right now, however, you feel like all you got is the hole in the middle*".

RED SKELTON'S RECIPE FOR THE PERFECT MARRIAGE

1. *Two times a week we go to a nice restaurant, have a little beverage, good food and companionship. She goes on Tuesdays, I go on Fridays.*
2. *I take my wife everywhere, But she keeps finding her way back.*
3. *I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. "Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!" she said. So I suggested the kitchen.*
4. *We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.*
5. *She has an electric blender, electric Toaster and electric bread maker. She said "There are too many gadgets, and no place to sit down!" So I bought her an electric chair.*
6. *My wife told me the car wasn't running well Because there was water in the carburetor. I asked where the car was. She told me, "In the lake."*
7. *Marriage is the number one cause of divorce.*
8. *I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her First name was 'Always'.*
9. *I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months. I don't like to interrupt her.*
10. *The last fight was my fault though. My wife asked, "What's on the TV?" I said, "Dust!".*

The pastor was visiting the fourth-grade Sunday School class to talk about marriage as part of the lesson. He asked the class, "What does God say about marriage?" Immediately, one boy replied, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

One article I read listed 10 situations that cause stress as newlywed couples begin their lives together:

1. Finances

2. Quality of life issues
3. Where to live
4. Relationship with in-laws
5. Concern over the care of aging parents and/or grandparents
6. When to have children
7. Time
8. Subtle change in expectations
9. Holidays
10. Religion

I think about a devoted wife who was taking care of her husband, who had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months. When he came to his senses, he motioned for her to come near. "You have been with me through all the bad times," he said. "When I got fired, you were there. When my business failed, you were there. When I got shot, you stayed by my side. When we lost the house, you gave me support. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. You know what?" "What dear?" she asked gently. "I think you bring me bad luck."

I read about a wife that visited a psychic. In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered grave news: "There's no easy way to say this, so I'll just be blunt" prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year." Visibly shaken, the wife sat there and stared at the psychic. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself. She steadied her voice, and asked: "Will I be acquitted?"

Next to my salvation and my relationship with God, nothing is more important to me than my family. My parents were not saved while I was growing up and we did not attend church. This put me at a disadvantage when it came to managing my marriage and in the raising of my children.

I wish I could tell you that I was a perfect spouse and parent, but the truth is, I made a lot of mistakes as both a husband and a father. However, God is good and blessed us with three fine children. Our kids all married good, godly spouses, and they have given us 6 grandchildren. It is a wonderful time when our entire family is together, and we get to laugh and tease and just thank God together for His blessings.

As a pastor, I do a lot of counseling, and I realize that many families are what we would call ***dysfunctional***. Many times people who are saved later in life

have already made significant mistakes that carry over to family relationships. But God is always gracious and delights in intervening and bringing restoration to these types of circumstances.

No matter what your family situation is, I would like to share five thoughts that will help you guide your family in the ways of the Lord.

1. LIVE

- With Short Memory of the Past
- Be in the Moment in the Present
- Keep An Eye on the Future

2. LOVE

- Your Wife Your Children Your Church Family

3. LAUGH

- At Yourself At Situations At Church

4. LEARN

- Your Bible
- Your Wife
- Your Children

5. LAST

- Hang In There... Be In It For The Long Haul