

## Safeguards In Our Marriages

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*Gleaned from Sermon by John McPherson*

**Editor's Note:** Seven safeguards were suggested by John McPherson in last Wednesday night's lesson. It is no secret that the family and the home are in grave danger in America. Let me recount those seven points and encourage you to make a list and post it in a visible place in your home. I would also strongly encourage you to listen to this sermon if you missed it. **WG**

### **1: Jesus in the Home, Psalm 127:1**

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it;..." Putting Christian living in the home is invaluable. Teaching God's Word in the home is commanded, and honoring husbands and wives in the home is priceless! Read Proverbs 24:3-4

### **2: Commitment, Ecclesiastes 5:5; Matthew 19:5-6**

"Better not to vow than to vow and not pay," Eccl. 5:5. "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. 19:5-6. Commitment to one's marriage is essential to success. Man dare not separate what God has joined together! Husband and wife are to be "one flesh" (mind, body, spirit). This attitude secures the home and family. God remembers the vows you made to your mate during your wedding.

### **3: Love & Respect, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." There are always imperfect people in every marriage. There are always "ups" and "downs" in life. The road to success is paved with many pitfalls. When the husband and wife so love and respect each other especially during the difficult times, then that bond becomes strong. True love is an act of the will, not the emotions. Do you love and respect your spouse?

### **4: Giving, Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:7; John 3:16**

The Lord said "...It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). God demonstrated His own giving nature by offering His only begotten Son for our sins! John 3:16. What more could God do to prove Himself to us? Likewise, giving selflessly to our mate in marriage is a guaranteed way to a happy marriage. Make "daily deposits" into your "love account" and you will not go "bankrupt" in times of trouble.

### **5: Money, 1 Timothy 5:8; 6:6-10**

"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8). The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:10). So it is no surprise to learn that money and finances are the number one cause of divorce! It can put a lot of pressure on one another, so make sure you learn to live on less than what you make. See Prov. 21:20; 22:7 and Psalm 32:71.

### **6: In-Laws, Genesis 2:24**

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Husband and wife are to cleave to each other, be united in their own marriage, and not let even Mom and Dad get between them.

### **7: Faithfulness, Ephesians 5:3; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5**

"But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints" (Eph. 5:3). "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (1 Cor. 6:18). "Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband" (1 Cor. 7:3). Fidelity in the sexual relationship of husband and wife is absolutely essential. Each mate must take great care in providing for the needs of the other, and to realize the difference between love and lust! "Build a wall" around your relationship with one another.

