

## Marriage

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by Rickie Jenkins

The reality is most couples spend more time planning their wedding than they do their marriage. Then, after the marriage many spend more time worried about changing their mate rather than themselves.

Think back with me, when we were dating did we not go overboard to please each other? Was there not a willingness, even an eagerness, to do things with each other that were of no personal interest? Didn't we just want to share the moment? Why? We wanted to build a relationship. It was important to us. After marriage why stop doing that? Why not delight, just as much, in pleasing each other? Why not awake every morning and say to ourselves, "Today, I am going make him (her) as happy as I possibly can"? Zig Ziglar said, "You can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want." That certainly applies to my mate. Paul said, "Love believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things." That, too, certainly applies to marriage.

Second, remember when we were dating we looked for and told others about the good qualities in our future mate? We would tell others how sensitive she was, how attentive she was and how she made us smile. Every moment we were apart our hearts ached. We were sure that he/ she was the one that would fulfill our needs and share our dreams. Looking for the good in our mates enhances our relationship at home. After all, what value is there in dwelling on each other faults? That only tears the heart out of the relationship. We must spend our time not looking for dirt but for gold. Look for gold (good) in our mates is not a fairy tale. It is the key to our success.

Goethe said, "If you want to treat a man as he is, he will stay as he is. If you treat a man as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become bigger and better man." Message: Give your mate something to live up to, not down to, and each will be better.

Life is so short. There is just not enough time to live miserable together. We must work hard on making ourselves the mate that will make our mate better. Jesus gave His life to make His bride to be holy and without blemish. He had plenty to find that was wrong. But instead He gave Himself for her. Why not try His way?

*via Wednesday's Walk with the Lord*

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