

Strategies for a Successful Marriage

The Top Ten List from Ed and Donna Edward, Living Well

1. Seek God to meet all the needs of your life through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Enjoy God and allow Him to satisfy your life. He can become your source of joy and peace and hope.
2. Seek to meet the needs of your spouse through giving out of what you have received from God without expecting anything in return.
3. Be a student of your mate. Learn how to communicate love, acceptance and respect in a way that your spouse can receive them.
4. Make your spouse your priority relationship, before parents, children, friends, or work. Take time together for dates and time away. Laugh and have fun together!
5. Listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen, listen to the heart of your mate.
6. Forgive, forgive, forgive, forgive, forgive, forgive. Never say the word "divorce."
7. When angry, go to God with the problem first. If the issue cannot be resolved, find an objective third party who will give Godly counsel. Do not call family members to complain about your spouse. Expect problems, don't be surprised by them. It means you are part of the human race.
8. Remember that there is more than one right way to do things.
9. Always seek what is best for your spouse. Put off selfishness. This attitude is the essence of unconditional love. Do everything in love.
10. Agree on a budget and put it into practice. God owns it all. Ask Him how to allocate 100% of your money, not just what you give Him. Spend less than you earn. Stay out of debt.

Marriage is a wonderful experience. Our greatest desire is to see you grow first in your relationship with God and secondly in your relationship with each other. God's faithfulness, unconditional love, and forgiveness are pictured in marriage. As you pursue intimacy with Him, intimacy with your mate will grow. We pray you will enjoy a lifetime together.

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