

Commitment

If marriages are to last, commitment is essential. Few couples rarely imagine the “hard times” ahead as they say their vows. Jobs are lost, deaths occur, and the tragedies of life come along



when least expected. Commitment means that both will remain and offer support through those tough times. Commitment also requires honesty and the ability to help each grow and see personal improvements required. Commitment does not mean becoming blind to a spouse’s personal flaws. It means continuously helping one’s spouse to evaluate and make necessary personal changes. Commitment means “steady the course” of marriage, even when it becomes frustrating and very uncomfortable. Commitment means being able to look back after time and say, “I am sure happy we got through that!” Experiencing the struggles of life makes a couple stronger and healthier.

Time

Families need time together. Family night, game night, or something similar is very important. Talking, sharing, eating together builds relationships and fosters healthy family growth. Sometimes it becomes difficult for family members to talk to each other and other priorities take over. However, finding family time in a very busy world is one of the most important

priorities. Families need both structuring and nurturing to survive. Structuring time is spent doing chores, improving the house, and enforcing rules. While these events may not sound very attractive, they are important for family bonding and support of all the members. The nurturing time is spent showing affection and praise. It is difficult to hold relationships together without investing time.



Fun

Families also need to have fun together. Vacations do not need to be expensive and the time spent together is priceless. Precious fun can also occur in one’s own back yard.



Laughter is good medicine for the soul and heart. Laughter can also improve physical health. Having fun and laughing is critical to family life. Parents teaching children to have fun may help them avoid the pitfall of addictions later in life. Parents also teaching their children to laugh at moments that are funny and not “people who are perceived as funny” is also an important lesson

Faith

The ability to love and find compassion also brings the ability to feel life’s disappointments. Families help each other make sense out of life and death.



Parents teaching children and spouses reminding each other that there is a purpose and a plan for our lives is critical. The spiritual belief in a higher power and the critical positive impact made on another’s life becomes increasingly meaningful as we age. Family members need to help one another feel purposeful and valued. Family members may also help each other deal with grief and loss in a productive way. Parents need to introduce spirituality to children and provide guidance until the children find their own spiritual path.

Being a committed couple or a family is not easy. It also is not magical resulting from stardust sprinkled in one’s hair. Relationships require effort, time, and commitment and are often frustrating. However, the effort and time can result in one of life’s sweetest promises, sharing of oneself with others.

Need a wife?

You could follow the examples of these great men of the Bible.

Find a man with seven daughters and impress him by watering his flock. Moses (Exodus 2:16-21)

Find an attractive prisoner of war, bring her home, shave her head, trim her nails, give her new clothes, then she’s yours. Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 21:11-13)

Go to a party and hide, when the women come out to dance, grab one. Benjaminites (Judges 21:19-25)

Have God create a wife for you while you sleep. Note: this will cost you a rib. Adam (Genesis 2:19-24)

Purchase a piece of property and get a wife as part of the deal. Boaz (Ruth 4:5-10)

Wander around a bit and you’ll definitely find one. It’s all relative of course. Cain (Genesis 4:16-17)

When you see someone you like, go home and tell your parents “I have seen a woman, now get her for me”. Samson (Judges 14:1-3)

A wife? ... NOT!!! Paul (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)