

## Instructions for the Game of Life (Part 3)

### The Making of a Strong Marriage

(Proverbs 24:3-4)

**Introduction:** One of the wisest investments of our time is found in the time we spend planning for and building strong marriages.

So let's look to the book of Proverbs, where we find instructions for the game of life and where God answers three questions that make for strong marriages...

#### I. How to attract'em:

How do you attract the mate of your dreams?

##### 1. It takes wisdom –

a. Wisdom simply means seeing with discernment.

It is the idea of seeing the broad picture rather than petty details.

b. Wisdom is knowing what to look for – The purpose behind marriage is to find someone you can unite with in the deepest of all areas.

A strong marriage isn't magically created when you say, "I do." ...It is built on a lifetime of "I do's..." *"I do love you; I do cherish you, and I do choose you."*

##### 2. Wisdom says date – (*this includes already married couples*)

- To learn about others and let them get to know you.
- To share your spiritual, social, and intellectual values.
- To find the mate God has for you.

Too often our focus is wrong. We're looking for Mr. or Mrs. Right... instead of how to become Mr. or Mrs. Right.

##### 3. Wisdom says, beware of the pitfalls to dating...

- Dating for physical attraction alone – our bodies change.
- Allowing romance or companionship to blind us to the whole picture. What you don't like now, you'll have to deal with later...
- Thinking you can't fall in love with a non-believer

##### 4. Wisdom says know what you're building – a marriage for a lifetime. Don't

forget what you're trying to build and use the wisdom of God to attract'em (Ps. 127:1) (see also, Prov. 11:29; 31:10; 19:14)

#### II. How to treat'em:

##### A. Treat them with value –

- The word "built" here comes from the Heb. word that means restore.
- It is the same word God used when He took a rib from Adam and rebuilt it into a woman. (Gen. 2:18)

##### B. Treat them with understanding - *By understanding a house is established...*

men we need to understand how to love and treat our wives...

**Tips for husbands** – God's most important direction to husbands is found in *Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.* (i.e.) if you'll treat your wife like a queen, she just might think you're a king!

1. Let your love be *patient* and *kind* (Prov.15:1)

2. Let your love be *trusting* (Prov.27:4)
3. Let your love be *humble* (Prov.18:12)
4. Let your love be *good tempered* (Prov.14:29)
5. Let your love be *sensitive* (Prov.10:12)

##### 2. **Tips for ladies** - Ladies, you need to understand what you can do to help establish your house: *The wise woman builds her house, ...* (Prov 14:1)

- a. **The wise woman has an *adorning heart*** – Let your man know he's the world to you! (Prov 12:4)
- b. **The wise woman has a *submissive spirit to her husband as unto the Lord*** – It is a sweet spirit that will win your man. (Prov 21:9; 19:13)
- c. **The wise woman has a *holy life*** – (Prov.31)

##### **6 realities for husbands and wives that will help make your marriage stronger today, and all those who are perspective husbands & wives...**

1. We are all responsible for our own attitudes –
2. Our attitude always effects our actions –
3. We can't change our spouses, but we can influence them –
4. Our actions are not controlled by our emotions.
5. Admitting I have imperfections does not mean I am a failure.
6. Love is the most powerful weapon for doing good in the world.

#### III. How to keep'em:

*By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches*

(Knowledge = implies perception, learning, "as we grow to know our mate.")

Learning, growing, with your mate, knowing what they need and lovingly supplying it is how you make a strong marriage and keep'em!

- a. **She needs** to know that you're going to take responsibility for the leadership of your home (spiritually, financially, and futuristically).
  - b. She needs to know that she is meeting the needs in your life that no other woman can.
  - c. She needs to hear that you love her and believe in her as a person.
  - d. She needs to know that you understand her and will protect her.
  - e. She needs to know you enjoy setting aside time for her (just her)
  - f. She needs to know you think she matters most, even when there are other things on your mind.
  - g. She needs to know you are investing in her life and desire to see her fulfilled.
- a. **He needs** to know you respect him as a man –
  - b. He needs to know you accept him as a leader and will follow his authority.
  - c. He needs to know you still desire to attract him by developing inward and outward beauty.
  - d. He needs to know he is safe at home & when he is going off track, his wife and best friend will lovingly help him stay on track.
  - e. He needs time to be alone with God just as you do.
  - f. He needs to know you are grateful for what he does.
  - g. He needs a wife who has character and displays godliness in public.