

## **Some Things to Remember in Getting Married (Part 4)** by Rev. Tom Aicken

1. Marriage is not for everyone in every circumstance. It's not good for man to be alone, but God does give grace to those who wait upon Him.
2. Take the Lord into marriage, marry only in the Lord, and live according to biblical principles.
3. Marriage must be based on a mutual relationship of love, not on convenience, romantic notions, or mere feelings. Love has feeling, but it is much more than that. Love is a commitment, an attitude, and it embraces the principle that, for better or for worse, marriage is to continue until broken by death.
4. Love is giving rather than taking. Happiness is not an end in itself, and it cannot be achieved by reaching for it, but is a by-product of selfless giving.
5. Live for each other in marriage, not for your children. The husband-wife relationship is meant to be permanent. Work on that, therefore, and prepare to lose your children. Besides, children need to see parents who truly love each other and know how to live together. "The best way to be a good father to your children is to be a good husband to their mother."
6. Work on communication, on maintaining it and repairing all the breaches within it. A failure to communicate is one of the biggest problems in troubled marriages. Find out the root of the problem, confront it directly, and never assume that things could be much better if he/she would just smarten up and get on board. When a problem arises, check your own attitude (and his/hers) before attempting to deal with it. Don't let the sun go down on your anger.
7. Make plans together. Discuss what kind of budget you need and who will keep it. Talk over your debts, savings, bank accounts, investments, insurance policies, pension plans, etc. Make out a will, and plan whatever you can do to make it easier for your children in the event that you and your spouse should die together.
8. Think through each plan of action. Know your own line of duty before acting on it. Be more concerned about what you do than about what someone else does, or even what the results may be.
9. When having to make an important decision, don't allow yourself to be rushed unnecessarily. Sleep on it. You should feel some measure of peace about it. Love, joy, and peace are all contributing factors to good health and to a healthy marriage.

10. Don't worry or be anxious. Pray with and for your marriage partner. God is working all things together for good to those who love Him, remember, and He can do exceedingly abundantly above all that we even know to ask or think!