

SERIES G: Topic 4

Marriage

Your Marriage Is the Home of Your Relationship

Marriage subjects our happiness to the whims, moods and inadequacies of another person. We all have powerful and specific feelings about almost every issue. We all have weaknesses and faults, so finding a person who is "workable" is crucial. Workability can only be determined by talking openly about a lot of subjects over time. Take your time; get it right.

> **Many times one or both people project their wants and needs onto the person they are about to marry, and then marry that image instead of that person.**

That sets up one or both parties for disappointment because it's the reality you will have to live with for your entire marriage.

It may seem like the easy way out is to divorce, but statistics tell us we tend to make the same mistakes going forward. Each successive marriage has a higher rate of failure than the one before it.

> **Many of those who have been married multiple times admit the compromises they had to make with subsequent spouses were just as great as the ones they chose not to make to save their first marriage.**

They felt that, overall, their first spouse was just as good as or better than subsequent spouses.

My responsibilities: 

- To take responsibility for my own happiness.
- To work on my limitations diligently.
- To compromise willingly.
- To be able to financially support the family if necessary.
- To stop what I am doing and listen attentively when my spouse is talking.
- To accept his or her Bubbles cheerfully.
- To readily admit when I am wrong.
- To be offended less and be more open about my feelings.
- To show faith and support for my spouse.
- To get over my hang-ups, baggage, sarcasm and attitude.

It's Never Too Late to Give Up

Fred's marriage had never been very good. Anita refused to understand his side of any issue and interpreted his comments as criticism. In about their 30th year of marriage he finally realized what he was doing wasn't working. He gave up and quit wishing she were different. That made her less defensive, and they both started to notice some of the qualities that attracted them to each other in the first place. Today they are enjoying life and each other more than ever.

ASK YOURSELF

What am I doing to annoy my spouse?

What have I gained from being that way?

How can I nag less and show more affection?