

A MARRIAGE THAT WILL NOT FAIL!

By Keith Greer

Surely, we must all be concerned with the high divorce rate in this country. One out of two marriages will end in divorce. Sadly, the church is not immune to this great problem. How can we make sure marriages "**will not fail**"?

Many years ago, while attending a gospel meeting, brother Micky Galloway gave some excellent points from the Sermon on the Mount, to consider. While the immediate context of the sermon discusses other matters, the principles can be applied to marriage as well.

Matthew 7:24-27; **Build upon the right foundation.** Any marriage that leaves God out, will be "built" on shifting sand. What should be our greatest goal in marriage? That both partners get to heaven! Marry one who has this goal, and you will work together to make it a reality!

Matthew 5:20-22; **Do not murder.** Please read Ephesians 4:26 and Proverbs 15:1. Do not allow anger to grow! We must admit mistakes, and never hold "grudges". Don't allow feelings to turn to hatred and malice. We can "kill love" by our words of anger towards our spouse.

Matthew 15:18-20; **Do not commit adultery!** Keep your mind in check! Many people plant the "seed" long before the physical act ever takes place! Guard your attitudes towards the opposite sex. Sadly, many set the stage for disaster by placing themselves in compromising situations.

Matthew 5:31,32; **Do not divorce.** Many "plant" this seed in anger. Remember, this is not a solution to problems in marriage. Marriage is for life! Be faithful to your promises! Don't threaten it and don't ever talk about it – not an option!

Matthew 5:38,39; **Avoid retaliation.** Please read Romans 12:17-21. Never have the attitude of "getting even". One wrong, does not justify me to do another.

Matthew 5:43-48; **Do not marry for "conditional love."** Why did you marry your mate? Looks? Job? Potential for making a good living? What happens when they turn old and gray? What if they become sick? What if the job falls through? Will you still love your mate? Remember, "better or worse."

Matthew 6:19-21; **Materialism.** Avoid the love of "things." Some have a house full of "things," but these "things" don't make a home. Live within your means on a budget. Many a home has been destroyed because of strains placed on the relationship by poor money managers. Happiness does not have a price tag, but can be destroyed by failing to know what is truly priceless and ageless.

Matthew 7:1; **Avoid petty criticism.** Fault finding and nagging will hurt the relationship. Constructive criticism is one thing, but constantly belittling your mate at every turn will cause the fires of

love to be snuffed out! Here is a suggestion, be sure that whatever you are going to criticize will make the relationship better – not more on edge!

Matthew 7:12; **The golden rule**. Treat your companion like you want them to treat you. If this rule is followed, many problems will disappear! Often this passage is quoted in our dealing with those outside of Christ. While it does have an application in that situation it also can be applied in any physical relationship. Try it; you will like it!

Why not give these “**principles**” a try in our marriage. Proper application of these principles will secure a happy marriage that doesn't end in a divorce!***