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"A MARRIAGE YOU CAN LOVE"

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PHILIPPIANS 2:2 (ESV); EPHESIANS 4:3 (ESV)

QUESTION: What is the biblical pathway to harmony in the home, intimacy between husband and wife, and day-to-day unity in the house?

I. COMMUNICATION, Proverbs 13:17 (AMP & LB)

TRUTH: If you and your spouse want to make progress in your marriage, you have to communicate verbally!

TRUTH: It is estimated that 85% of all marriage problems are from poor communication.

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II. CONSIDERATION, Ephesians 4:2 (NLT)

DEFINITION: Consideration simply means paying attention to what your spouse says, showing common courtesy, treating your spouse with respect.

TRUTH: All of us lose consideration for each other unless we work at treasuring our marriage and our spouse (James 3:17 AMP).

TRUTH: Wisdom is being considerate of your spouse.

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III. COMPROMISE, 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)

INSIGHT: It is unloving to seek to change our spouses to reflect us.

THREE LAWS OF MARRIAGE COUNSELING:

1. You will have conflict in your marriage.
2. In your marriage there will be issues you'll never agree on.
3. Compromise is the proof of genuine biblical love, because your spouse will never be you.

TRUTH: Every Bible-driven marriage learns THE LAW OF MEET IN THE MIDDLE!

INSIGHT: More marriages die from inflexibility than adultery, alcoholism, or abuse.

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IV. COURTSHIP, Proverbs 5:19 (TLB)

TRUTH: Physical affection is absolutely vital to a satisfying marriage.

INSIGHT: Many marriages are on life support because one or both stopped courting the other (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

CHALLENGE: The things you did before she was your wife, do those same things now that she is your wife.

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V. COMMITMENT, Malachi 2:16 (NLT)

TRUTH: You'll never build a great marriage if divorce is always an option for you.

INSIGHT: The escape hatch for your marriage has to be locked and the key thrown away if you want a great marriage.

TRUTH: Good marriages don't just happen; they are worked at.

INSIGHT: One of the enemies of marriage is THE MYTH OF INCOMPATIBILITY! (Paul Tournier)

TRUTH: Your marriage will become what you both are committed to!

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VI. CHRIST, Philippians 2:5 (NLT)

INSIGHT: The pathway to the first five insights is Christ in your marriage.

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