

7 Choices to Tighten the Marriage Knot:

Choose to Grow Spiritually (Matthew 7:24-27)

We all make choices as to what is important in our lives. What we choose to believe, practice, and model influences who we are and what we are becoming. Jesus taught that building our lives on the rock of who He is and what He has done will lead us to a solid foundation of spiritual growth and maturity. This is a choice that we must make individually and as a couple to build on the same foundation as we choose to grow spiritually.

Choose to Love Unconditionally (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

We love because Christ first loved us. It's not because of anything we did to earn it. He loves us unconditionally. We're called to model this love to one another, particularly to our spouses. Sometimes it's easy, and other times it's difficult as this love is not self-serving but self-sacrificing. This is a love that results in action and needs to be learned and learned again through every changing season of life as we choose to love unconditionally.

Choose to Serve Sacrificially (Ephesians 5:22-24)

There are many ways that husbands and wives can serve each other in marriage. But one of the best ways is for each to know their biblical roles and responsibilities and fulfill them faithfully. The Bible teaches that husbands are called to lead through love, and wives are called to honor through respect. No one person in a relationship is better or more important than the other. Instead, we're called to mutually submit to and serve one another by following Christ's example as we choose to serve sacrificially.

Choose to Please Regularly (1 Corinthians 7:4-5)

We're not talking about pleasing your spouse by doing the dishes, walking the dog, or taking out the trash - although those are all good things to do regularly! Nope, we're talking about sexual intimacy here as the Bible says that "a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Sex, although it has become a god in our society, is a good gift from God for the covenant of marriage that is to be mutually enjoyed as we choose to please regularly.

Choose to Persevere Persistently (James 1:2-5)

Life isn't always easy. We all know that! It's not a matter of if your marriage will endure hardship, it's a matter of when. And when those difficult times come the Bible calls us to persevere together not throw in the towel and give up. Nothing brings a couple closer together than weathering a storm rooted in God and His Word and seeing Him bring you through to the other side. See, all of us are either in a storm, coming out of a storm, or being prepared for an upcoming storm so we must choose to persevere persistently.

Choose to Communicate Respectfully (Ephesians 4:29)

What we choose to say and how we choose to say it can make or break your marriage relationship as our words will either build up or tear down. Words have power as some are still wrongly defining themselves by a careless word from a person of influence in their life. There are some words that we need to cut out, that we need to change out, or that we need to call out for the mutual benefit of our growth in character and conduct as we each choose to communicate respectfully.

Choose to Bless Abundantly (Proverbs 3:27)

It's the little things that we do in marriage, the daily things, the sometimes silly things, that matter and can make the most impact. We must learn to be consistent and caring in how we show and shower blessing on our spouses as we move from year to year and season to season. Too often we can fail in this area by taking for granted that which God has entrusted us. As we mutually desire a healthy and happy marriage that lasts a lifetime, we need to choose to bless abundantly.

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