

BUILDING A STRONG MARRIAGE

Psalm 127; 1 Corinthians 13

I. INTRODUCTION

A. THE BREAKDOWN OF THE AMERICAN HOME

1. “Doesn’t anybody stay together anymore”?
2. What can be done about it?

B. SOME BASIC BIBLICAL TRUTHS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

II. BODY

A. A STRONG MARRIAGE IS BUILT UPON THE LORD (Ps. 127:1)

1. “They labour in vain that build it”
 - a. Note that they are trying but are sure to fail
 - b. All of their efforts are to no avail
2. Reminds me of Paul’s words about the resurrection of Christ
 - a. “If Christ be not risen, your faith is vain” (1 Cor. 15:14)
 - b. Just like that: A marriage without Christ fails
3. Building a marriage on the Lord gives a divine dimension to life
 - a. Our first day: reading the Bible and praying
 - b. A desire to serve the Lord from the start
4. Building a marriage on the Lord makes a difference when the storms come
 - a. Many marriages fall apart when trouble comes
 - b. Debts drive many to divorce
 - c. But Christians know where to turn when storms rage!
 - d. The wise man and the foolish man (Luke 6:47-49)

B. A STRONG MARRIAGE IS BUILT UPON LOVE (1 Cor. 13:4-6)

1. Not the kind of love portrayed by Hollywood
2. God’s definition of love as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
3. The practical effects of love
 - a. Love suffereth long...is patient...not exploding
 - b. Love is kind. Are you kind to one another?
 - (1) Are you kind in word?
 - (2) Are you kind in actions?
 - c. Vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up...not out for number one
 - d. Does not behave unseemly...not rude
 - e. Seeketh not her own...not selfish

- f. Is not easily provoked...not irritable**
- g. Thinketh no evil...hardly notices when done wrong and does not hold grudges**
- h. Rejoiceth not in iniquity...not glad about injustice but pleased when truth wins out**

C. A STRONG MARRIAGE IS BUILT UPON LOYALTY (1 Cor. 13:7)

- 1. Beareth all things...loyal even when things are tough**
- 2. Believeth all things...believing in your mate...trusting**
- 3. Hopeth all things...expects the best of the loved one**
- 4. Endureth all things...defends when others forsake**
- 5. Note how all of these things are true in the Lord's love for us**
- 6. Note how this holds with the divine instruction for the first marriage...and those to follow**

III. CONCLUSION

- A. YOU CAN HAVE A STRONG MARRIAGE**
- B. BUILD ON THE LORD...ON LOVE...ON LOYALTY**
- C. OTHER HOUSES MAY FALL BUT YOURS WILL STAND**