

# Characteristics of a Marriage That Works The Way God Intended

## 1) Each must know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

*“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?” 2 Corinthians 6:14-15*

## 2) Each must put Jesus first.

### The Marriage Triangle



*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33*

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Deut. 6:4-5*

## 3) We must not think divorce is an option or even a word.

*He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matthew 19:4-6*

\*A positive attitude that commits to find the way to work things out is what is needed.

## 4) We must give love and respect to each other.

*“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:33*

\*Giving love and showing respect is part of obedience to Jesus!

\*Love and respect is something learned and to grow in!

\*Being able to say I was wrong will bring energy and life to marriage!

## 5) We must invest in time with each other. Talking with each other regularly to communicate and share what bothers us helps keep us from all of a sudden exploding.

*“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.” Proverbs 19:20*

*“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,” Ephesians 5:28-29*

\*Hard times are a part of marriage, but it is what makes marriage good as we grow in obedience to Jesus!

\*Marriage is not 50 / 50 but rather 100 / 100

\*Two great videos on the differences in men and women’s brains: <https://youtu.be/SZ6mVumHY9I> also <https://youtu.be/BLybeGVgtJ8>

\*“I Love You, But Sometimes You Drive Me Crazy-Real Relationships”: [https://www.youtube.com/live/CIPBM0jhu\\_Y?si=U-is\\_qRKV1HNkpyd](https://www.youtube.com/live/CIPBM0jhu_Y?si=U-is_qRKV1HNkpyd)

\*A great book on what makes good marriages is “Love & Respect” by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs