

FOCUS ON YOUR FAMILY

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.

Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

❖ THREE SECRETS TO A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE:

"But God's plan was seen from the beginning of creation, for 'He made them male and female.' This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together."

Mark 10:6-9 (NIV)

1. A CHRIST-CENTERED Home – Families that PRAY together, STAY together.

"For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:20 (NLT)

2. Lasting COMMITMENT – Families that STAY together, STAY together.

Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Proverbs 5:18 (NIV)

3. COMMUNICATION – Families that SHARE together, STAY together.

If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.

Deuteronomy 24:5 (NIV)

❖ GUESS WHAT? WE ARE DIFFERENT!!

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

1. Girls are blessed with greater LINGUISTIC SKILLS from birth.
2. Boys in the womb experience a BRAIN BATH.
3. Common complaint of women... "A husband's unwillingness to OPEN UP."
4. No one person can meet all YOUR NEEDS... don't expect your spouse TO.

❖ THREE STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATION:

1. STOP - Give FOCUSED attention and set aside TIME to talk every day.

"But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her out into the desert and speak tenderly to her there."

Hosea 2:14 (NIV)

2. LOOK - Make DIRECT eye contact and put BLINDERS on.

A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.

Proverbs 15:30 (NIV)

3. LISTEN - Get INVOLVED with your EARS, more than your MOUTH.

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...

James 1:19 (NIV)