

A man and a woman are sitting on a wooden bench, viewed from behind. They are looking out over a calm lake towards a dense, green forest. The woman has curly blonde hair and is wearing a grey sweater. The man has dark hair and is wearing a light-colored sweater. The scene is peaceful and romantic.

# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

**“IMAGINE THAT”**

TWO PEOPLE STAY TOGETHER, THE WAY IT OUGHT TO BE



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

## Genesis 2:18–25 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> And the Lord God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*” <sup>19</sup> Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. <sup>20</sup> So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

## Genesis 2:18–25 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said: “This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.



A couple is seen from behind, sitting on a wooden bench. The man is on the left, wearing a grey sweater, and the woman is on the right, with curly blonde hair and wearing a grey top. They are looking out over a misty, forested landscape. The title text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

God's ORIGINAL plan is  
STILL the PLAN! (Mat. 19:3-8)

God still HATES divorce  
(Mal. 2:14-16; Mat. 5:31,32;  
19:9; 1 Cor. 7:10,11)

Divorce RESULTS in MORE,  
and MORE SIN ...  
(Mal. 2:15; Mat. 18:6-10;  
5:31,32; 19:9; Rom. 7:1-4)



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

SIN INVOLVED IN EVERY DIVORCE (MAT. 5:31,32)



- Dishonors God (Gen 2:21-24; Mat 19:4-6; Prov. 14:2)
- Violates the law of love (Eph 5:25; Col. 3:19; 1 Pet 3:7; Tit. 2:4)
- Harms put away spouse (Mal. 2:14,16; Mat 5:31,32)
- Harms self (Is. 59,1,2; Gal 6:7-9)
- Harms children (Mal. 2:15)
- Harms society as a whole (Mal. 2:15; Prov. 14:34; Mat. 19:9)



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE



**A GOOD,  
LASTING,  
JOYFUL  
MARRIAGE  
DOESN'T  
TAKE 2 —  
IT TAKES 3**





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EXALT



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# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE



Marriage Is A  
Divine Institution  
& Governed By  
The Laws Of God

—  
Marriage Is To Be  
A Life-Long  
Union Between  
One Man and One  
Woman -



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE



A Happy &  
Successful  
Marriage is not  
determined by the  
perfection of our  
partner, but the  
level of OUR  
COMMITMENT  
to the LORD &  
OUR SPOUSE.



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE



Serving God In  
Our Marriage  
Means That  
We Become  
The Husbands  
& Wives God  
Wants Us to  
Become.



HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL

**NOT**

# MARRIAGE

7

1. UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS
2. SELFISHNESS
3. RESENTMENT
4. CONDITIONAL LOVE
5. WANDERING DESIRES
6. COMMUNICATION
7. FINANCES

WRECKING BALLS OF  
**MARRIAGE**



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

WARNING / DANGER SIGNS WE NEED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY



**WHO IS TO BLAME IF YOU  
FEEL THESE THINGS, OR ARE  
GUILTY OF THESE THINGS?**

- Don't listen
- Can't just talk
- Never laugh
- Prefer others
- Confrontational
- Easily irritated
- Always critical
- Angry / bitter
- Loss of respect



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

PROBLEMS ARISE AS ONE, OR BOTH, DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD



BAD ADVISORS

DESTRUCTIVE

ANGER / BITTERNESS

HURTFUL ACTS

DISAPPOINTMENT

DISCONNECTED

DISCONTENTMENT



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# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

Put GOD First  
(Mt. 6:33; 7:24-27; Mk 12:29-31)

Worship God together  
(Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:24,25)

Serve God together  
(Rom. 12:1,2; Eph. 4:16)

Grow spiritually together  
(1 Pet. 3:7; 2 Pet. 1:5-11)



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

HAVING A **BLESSED** MARRIAGE (Matthew 5:3-12)



- Humility (3)
- Sorrow for wrongs (4)
- Submissive (5)
- Seek righteousness (6)
- Merciful, forgiving (7)
- Purity, sincere, holy (8)
- Seek path of peace (9)
- Endurance (10-12)



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

HAVING A **FRUITFUL** MARRIAGE (Galatians 5:22,23)



- **Love** (value & commitment)
- **Joy** (Phili. 4:6-13)
- **Peace** (Mt. 6:19-33; Ro 15:13)
- **Longsuffering** (Heb. 6:12)
- **Kindness** (benevolent, merciful)
- **Goodness** (virtuous generosity)
- **Faithfulness** (trustworthy)
- **Gentleness** (humble submission)
- **Self-Control** (thought & deed)



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

## HAVING A **LOVING** MARRIAGE (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)



- LOVE suffers long and is kind;
- LOVE does not envy; does not parade itself, is not puffed up; Does not behave rudely, Does not seek its own, is not provoked,
- LOVE thinks no evil; Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- LOVE bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- LOVE NEVER FAILS!



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

HAVING A **LOVING** MARRIAGE (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)



**When two people  
TRULY choose to  
love one another  
in marriage –  
they are ensuring  
the permanency  
of their  
relationship!**



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE



SUBMIT to God's order -  
(Eph. 5:21-31; 1 Pet.  
3:1-7)

Learn to be CONTENT  
WITHIN God's will -  
(Phili. 4:11-13; Ep.  
5:21-31; 1 Pt 3:1-7)

HONOR our VOWS,  
commitment, covenant -  
(Prov 2:17; Eccl. 5:4,5)



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE



The Rule of Protection -  
(Guard against anything  
that weakens relationship)

The Rule of Care -  
(Provide emotional  
support)

The Rule of Time -  
(Undivided attention)

The rule of Honesty -  
(Historic, emotional,  
current, future)



# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE



We exalt God when we  
exalt His authority over our  
lives! (1 Pet. 3:15)

We honor God by valuing  
His institutions  
(Mal. 2:14-17)

We submit to God when  
we fulfill our roles  
(Eph. 5:22-25; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

We should be very afraid  
of the consequences of  
rejecting God's will  
(1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rev. 21:8)



A man and a woman are sitting on a wooden bench, viewed from behind. They are looking out over a misty, forested landscape. The man is wearing a grey sweater and blue jeans, and the woman is wearing a grey sweater. The background is a soft-focus view of a forest with mist or fog hanging between the trees.

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# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

True blessedness & success is  
**ONLY** achieved by the godly!

Our character and behavior will  
determine whether we will enjoy  
the fruit of true blessedness or the  
bitterness of ultimate failure!

IF a husband & wife apply the Lord's  
teachings to their own lives, they  
will experience true success -  
including a successful life together!



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# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

**Problems will come!**

**Agree beforehand that  
divorce will NEVER be an  
option!**

**ANY MARRIAGE CAN BE  
SAVED IF ... !**

**CHOOSE THE LORD,  
CHOOSE LOVE,  
CHOOSE JOY!**









# HOW TO HAVE A LASTING & JOYFUL MARRIAGE

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## Matthew 19:3–9 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?” <sup>4</sup> And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female,*’ <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’? <sup>6</sup> So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”



## **Matthew 19:3–9 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” <sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. <sup>9</sup> And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”