

7 Tools Every Home Needs to Survive

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Introduction

We sometimes have the mistaken idea that God has one set of rules for how Christians should act outside their homes and a different set of rules behind the closed doors of matrimony. But that's wrong. What would happen if you began applying all the principles of being a faithful Christian—with reference to your marriage?

1. The Bitterness Drain

- a. Matthew 5:21-26
- b. Do you sometimes save grievances after you've said they were forgiven?
- c. Ephesians 4:32
- d. Luke 17:3-5

2. The Lust Hammer

- a. Matthew 5:27
- b. It's a mistake to think we can make an occasional hobby of pornography and it not hurt our souls or our marriages. Pornography is as addictive as any powerful drug and breaks the trust bond in marriage.
- c. Men commonly underestimate the marketing skill of those who sell on-line pornography.

3. The Sacrifice Booster

- a. Matthew 5:29-30
- b. This isn't speaking of a literal eye or hand, but any sin which I have grown to treasure. If an activity is sinful, I must cut it away from me.
- c. If two people are compatible enough to get married and both are dedicated Christians, divorce will never interrupt their union. There is no sin-free divorce (Rom. 7:2-3; Matt. 19:9).

4. The Divorce Vac

- a. Matthew 5:31
- b. In Jesus' time, people trivialized divorce as insignificant. It was so common to divorce and remarry that when Jesus taught that divorce and remarriage for any reason other than adultery was sinful, those who heard it exclaimed that if that was true, it was better for people to not marry!
- c. Divorce-proof your marriage:
 - (1) Be present in your marriage.
 - (2) Be protective of your marriage.
 - (3) Be positive in your marriage.
 - (4) Be polite in your marriage.
 - (5) Be playful in your marriage.

5. The Deceit Trap

- a. Matthew 5:33
- b. Serious marriage problems almost always include deceit.
- c. We don't want to hear our spouses reminding us or criticizing us for our sins, so we lie.
- d. Vow now that you will always tell your spouse the truth. Every time.

6. The Retaliation Extractor

- a. Matthew 5:38
- b. When a counselor is with a couple and she says about her husband, "He hit me!" The counselor turns to the husband and asks, "Did you hit her?" Nine times out of ten the man will say, "Yes, but she hit me first!" What is he implying by that?
- c. What if you took retaliation out of your marriage? It is very difficult to have a good argument with someone who simply won't participate.

7. The Conditional Love Expander

- a. Matthew 5:43-47
- b. Jesus teaches us here how to love people without regard for how they might benefit us.
- c. Ask yourself, "Do I only love my husband for what I get out of him?" "Do I only love my wife for what I get out of her?"