

## **TWENTY-FIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE**

1. Be faithful to each other - the rewards are beyond measure.
2. Do not go to bed with an argument left unsettled. settle it even if you have to stay up all night.
3. Do not argue about more than one thing at a time. Do not bring up what is past.
4. Share problems - workloads, etc. "60/60" so that nothing falls through the grates.
5. Be each other's best friend.
6. Communicate - communicate - communicate.
7. Do not nag - there must be another way to get your partner's attention.
8. Only shout when the house is on fire.
9. Respect the need of each to sometimes do something all alone.
10. The best money manager should manage the money subject to the overall direction of the marriage partners.
11. Make time for each other. Never be too busy to set aside some quality time for each other.
12. Have children when you want them. Do not have them to hold a marriage together. It's hard enough being a child without having to carry parental baggage.
13. Do not become each other's "mother" - each already has a mother.
14. It is important that you both encourage each other to reach his/her potential
15. Discipline the children when the misstep arises, but be consistent with your spouse. Adopt the lowest common denominator approach and work out your differences in approach away from the children.
16. As marriage partners decide questions by unanimous agreement even if you have to sleep on the question before reaching consensus.
17. Decide for your own life whether Jesus of Nazareth is Jesus the Christ.
18. Remember that careers are a means to create sustenance for the love that first brought you together and not an end in themselves.
19. No one in this world is worthy of more respect than the person who married you.
20. Ask yourself at the end of each day, if I asked her/him to marry me now, would she/he say yes?
21. To the outward world each of you has the authority to speak for and bind your marriage partnership: use that authority carefully.
22. Have children that you may better understand your place in God's creation.
23. Find a religious community to become a part of. People are at their best when they act on concerns beyond themselves.
24. Keep up family ties - they endure.
25. Your marriage is of prime importance: keep friends, in-laws, things and activities in proper perspective.

- Sam & Donna Swansen, September, 1984