

1. Pray for Genuine Union

- a. The union of a husband and a wife merges two persons in such a way that little can affect one without affecting the other
- b. Men learn to identify with the needs, pain or hurts of your wife- don't just brush it off- let her share what's going on inside even if it does sound crazy to you – if it is affecting her it should touch you too.
- c. This kind of union does not mean your personality is the personality of another
 - i. Instead it means caring for your wife as you would for yourself.

i.e. shining through (Mike Douglas Melanie Griffin)
- d. Protecting your union (your wife)
 - A wife just wants to know you will “take a bullet for her” not actually it happen – just that you are

willing – whether she be right or wrong in her behavior

- Melanie Griffin was crazy to go over as a spy!
- But he still protected what was his

2. Pray for faithfulness and excitement with your wife

- a. Marriage should not be boring, lifeless, pleasure less or dull
- b. Continue to do (plus more) when you were trying to date her.
- c. Create moments & memories together
 - i. Provide a legacy for your children – show your children what to look forward to
- d. The joy you receive in the presence of your heavenly father should flow into your time with her
 - i. Keep the sparks flying!
 - ii. Get rid of the sweat pants for bed, invest in some nice pajamas or lounging pants

3. Give your spouse room to grow / and learn to cultivate her

a. It is wonderful to belong to one another but belonging is not possessive!

b. Trust your wife enough to release her to do the things that interest or she had been called by God to do.

c. Allow her to grow spiritually at her own pace and don't become judgmental when she is not moving as fast as you would like.

d. Don't compare her with other woman. (A total no-no!)

e. Loving someone is like holding sand, when you close your hand too tight you lose some sand, when you leave your hand open more sand remains.

4. Pray that you & your wife remain friends

a. In a "heavenly" marriage lovers are also good friends

b. Too often some relationships start off on lust or just exciting feelings before they take time to develop into deep friendships

- c. Listen to each other the best art of communication.
 - d. Understand the likes & dislikes of one another – be a friendship builder – what have you built when all the kids are grown up and gone?
5. Pray for permanency with your wife
- a. Don't let "divorce" be in your vocabulary
 - i. Don't throw the "D" card on the table
 - b. "Gary Smalley once said it takes at least 20-30 years for the results of divorce to stop becoming damaging to the lives of children from that divorce- (2-3 divorces, must be a total tragedy)
 - c. Rehearse your vows – stay committed to them
6. Pray against evil thought that you married the wrong woman –
- 1 Cor 7:17 (LVB) "But be sure in deciding these matters, that you are living as God intended, marrying or not marrying in accordance with God's direction and help and accepting whatever situation God has put you into."

We put more concentration on wanting to be on the other side of the fence, than to fertilize our own grass seeds – look for opportunities for your marriage to bloom.

7. Pray against every evil attack that could destroy your covenant with your wife

a. Deal with anger issues- you can be angry for a moment, but it is not allowed to win a day!

b. Deal with unwholesome affection

i. Make a covenant with your eyes and emotions and thoughts throughout the day.

ii. (That other woman may look nice but she is not mine – 1 look only!) 2nd one is a wrap

c. Watch how you handle other women – (you're in covenant with your wife) set up boundary lines that you don't cross.

d. Don't allow third parties in your marriage

i. The Bible says "leave & cleave"

- ii. Don't allow other family members to have precedent over your wife
- e. Discern ways to leaving a legacy for your children – this brings security to your wife
- f. Learn the “art of apology”
 - i. Gary Chapman “five love languages of apology”
- g. Lastly – fight like a man in prayer for your marriage, for your children, and your future!