**TEN COMMANDENTS OF MARRIAGE**

1. “The ***family tie*** is the ***closest,*** the most ***tender and sacred***, of any on earth. It was designed to be a ***blessing* to mankind**. And it is a ***blessing*** wherever the ***marriage covenant*** is entered into ***intelligently***, in the ***fear of God***, and with due consideration for its ***responsibilities***.” The Adventist Home, 18
2. “When the ***divine principles******are recognized and obeyed*** in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it ***guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man's social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature***.” The Adventist Home, 26
3. “***Christ honored the marriage relation*** by making it also a ***symbol of the union between Him and His redeemed ones***. He Himself is the ***Bridegroom****;* ***the bride is the church***, of which, as His chosen one, He says, "Thou art all fair, My love; there is ***no spot in thee***." The Adventist Home, 26
4. Christ ***honored our marriage to Him*** by being ***faithful and true*** all the way to the cross. He was ***willing to die*** for us.
5. **Are we willing to die for Him**?
6. It is ***only in Christ*** that a ***marriage alliance can be safely formed***. Human love should draw its ***closest bonds from divine love***. Only where ***Christ reigns*** can there be ***deep, true, unselfish affection***.”
7. “***Marriage, a union for life***, is a symbol of the union between ***Christ and His church***. The ***spirit that Christ manifests toward His church is the spirit that the husband and wife are to manifest toward each other***. If they love ***God supremely***, they will ***love each other*** in the Lord, ever ***treating each other courteously***, drawing in even cords. In their ***mutual* self-denial and *self-sacrifice*** they will be a ***blessing to each other***.” The Adventist Home, 95
8. Our marriage union to Jesus is a ***marriage union for Eternity***!
9. By the ***grace of God*** you can succeed in ***making each other happy***, as in your marriage vow you **promised to do**.”

**RECONCILIATION**

1. Recognize, confess, forgive, be humble, ***not proud***.
2. “If we have in ***any way grieved or wounded others***, it is ***our duty to confess*** our fault and ***seek for reconciliation***. This is an ***essential* preparation** that we may come before God ***in faith***, to ask His blessing.” Christ Object Lessons, 144
3. “***Through Christ***, restoration as well as ***reconciliation is******provided*** for man.” Faith and Works, 93

**FORGIVENESS**

1. We can ***receive forgiveness*** from God ***only as we forgive*** others.
2. “But if you ***do not forgive****,* ***neither will your Father in heaven forgive*** your trespasses." **Mark 11:26**

**CONFESSION**

1. “***Confess your faults*** one to another, and ***pray one for another***, that ye may ***be healed***. The effectual fervent prayer of a ***righteous man*** availeth much.” **James 5:16**
2. “***If*** we ***confess*** our sins, he is ***faithful and just******to forgive*** us our sins, and to cleanse us from ***all*** unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9**

**PRIDE**

1. **Proverbs 16:18-19**: “***Pride goes before destruction***, And a ***haughty spirit*** before a fall. Better to be of a ***humble spirit*** with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.”
2. ***Haughty****;* arrogant. In other words, ***pride and arrogance*** go before a fall.

**HUMBLE**

1. "God resists the ***proud*,** But ***gives grace to the humble***.” **James 4:6**
2. **Proverbs 29:23** “A man's ***pride shall bring him low***: but honour shall uphold the ***humble*** in spirit.”
3. These same ***principles and commands*** apply to our ***personal relationship*** with Jesus. When we accepted Christ into our lives and were baptized we ***took a vow to be His disciples***.
4. We became ***married to Christ*** and the ***same responsibilities*** applied to our earthly marriage apply here.
5. These Ten Commandments of Marriage ***include how we are to treat Jesus***.
6. **Revelation 3:22** “He that hath an ***ear*,** let him ***hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches***.”

**TEN COMMANDMENTS OF MARRIAGE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 10 Commandments  Exodus 20:1-17 |  | 10 Commandments  Of Marriage |
| 1 | “***You shall have no other gods before Me****.* | 1 | **Exclusivity -** What is God saying in this commandment? That He wants to have an **exclusive relationship** with you. He wants to be your **one and only**.  And how appropriate in marriage as well.  God designed marriage to be an **exclusive relationship** between you and your spouse. God created the **husband and wife to steer each other in His direction**.  God designed marriage to provide: **partnership**, **spiritual intimacy** and the ability to **pursue God** — **together**. |
| *2* | ***You shall not make for yourself a carved image****…* | 2 | **Don’t Love a Substitute -** Love your husband only. Love your wife only. Do not look for **fulfillment** in some **other relationship** or in some other **thing**. Find your fulfillment in that relationship. |
| *3* | ***You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain****…* | 3 | **Speak Well of Your Mate -** Many misunderstand the term, *in vain*. It means **empty**, **meaningless**, **insincere**, not showing **due respect**.  When we speak **flippantly or lightly** about someone, we **erode our respect** for that person. Some people are just far **too casual** in the way they speak of their spouse, and it erodes your respect for him or her.  In marriage, few things can affect the relationship like **words**. Words are **containers**. They can **contain love**; they can **contain hate**; they can **contain joy**; they can **contain bitterness**. |
| *4* | ***Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy****.* | 4 | **Spend Exclusive Time Together -** *Sabbath* means **an intermission**. It means to put down your work and **rest**. Take a break. And *holy* means **separate** to the Lord. “If you want a long-term relationship with Me,” God says, “We have to have **time together**. I want **special time**, **exclusive time**. I want a **whole day**.”  In the same way, in order to have a **healthy**, **growing marriage**, husbands and wives ***need time together***…**special time**, **exclusive time**, sometimes extravagant time. And I think we all know that if we do not schedule it, it will not happen. |
| *5* | ***Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you****.* | 5 | **Honor Your Spouse by Showing How Grateful You Are -** If you do not demonstrate your **gratitude**, I doubt if you are really **grateful** because Jesus said, *“Out of the* ***abundance of the heart the mouth speaks****.”* If it is not being expressed, chances are it is not truly there.  You may be thinking, “I don’t say it, but I am grateful in my heart. I truly am!” Well, hooray for you. You are blessed because in your heart you know you are grateful. But it does your spouse no good if you do not **vocalize it**.  Maybe you think you don’t have a lot to be grateful for. But there must be **something** you can say “thank you” for. There is something you can praise your mate for. Look for those things, and **accentuate the positive**. |
| *6* | ***You shall not murder****.* | 6 | **Don’t Destroy Your Spouse But Learn to be Gentle -** While you might think this commandment is not too applicable, I believe it is **vital.** It is telling you not to **destroy your spouse**!  **Jesus helps us** understand this principle in Matthew 5. He said, “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is **angry** with his brother will be subject to judgment.”  Jesus went right to the **root** of murder: **anger and hatred**. If you are going to  have a **good, healthy, lasting marriage**, you need to **learn** to be **gentle**. People who are **easily angered**…who are **violent** or have an **explosive temper**…**destroy relationships**. |
| *7* | ***You shall not commit adultery****.* | 7 | **Be Faithful** - In a marriage, you would be hard pressed to imagine anything more damaging than your spouse being unfaithful. But being faithful is not only being faithful in action, but also in thought.  Again, Jesus expanded on this in Matthew 5, and I want you to read these words very carefully. He said, “*You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart*.”  Having a lustful, exploitive disposition has no place in marriage. **Love gives**; lust takes**. Love serves;** lust demands**. Love nourishes;** lust chokes**.**  What a wonderful gift God has given us in this thing called sex. It was His idea. It is just as holy as when you lift your hands in church and worship Him. It is God’s idea within the context and the confines of marriage. It should be enjoyed.  But lust has no place in marriage. It is a poison that will destroy the fabric of your relationship with your spouse. |
| *8* | ***You shall not steal****.* | 8 | **Be a Person of Integrity -** You may be wondering how stealing applies to marriage. Simple. Not to steal is to be a person of integrity.  If you are always cheating or cutting corners, it will be hard for your spouse to respect you. Your uprightness should make your marriage partner feel proud. Your spouse and your family ought to testify of your integrity. This is really one of the things at the heart of a good marriage.  If this is an issue in your life, take it to God today. He will help you become the person of integrity He desires you to be. And when you do, you will find your spouse will come to respect you, and your marriage will be strengthened! |
| *9* | ***You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*** | 9 | **Be Truthful -** Honesty and trust are at the heart of a good marriage. If you take advantage of your spouse for your own gain, speaking untruthfully to get ahead, you are not a person to be trusted. |
| *10* | ***You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s***  ***wife, nor his male***  ***servant, nor his***  ***female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s****.”* | 10 | **Be Content with What You Have -** This command is very direct. *Do not covet*. Don’t be discontent with what you have. Do not make what you don’t have the focus of your life. Accentuate what you do have and what God has blessed you and your spouse with.  You do this by ***celebrating*** your husband’s or wife’s **strengths and gifts** rather than thinking, “Oh, I wish he was this way,” or, “I wish she had that.”  You will ***always get into trouble*** if you think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. Just water your own grass. |

**Definition of Love**

**The *willful decision* to seek the well-being (blessedness) of the beloved.**

**The Greatest Commandment - Matthew 22:35-40.** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him (Jesus) with this question: “***Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law***?”

**The Greatest Commandment - Matthew 22:35-40. *Jesus replied****: “‘****Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind***.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is ***like it****: ‘****Love your neighbor as yourself***.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these ***two commandments***.”

**The Greatest Commandment Principles for Marriage**

1. ***Love your mate*** like you are to ***love God, with “all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind***.”
2. “God has ordained that there should be ***perfect love and harmony*** between those who enter into the marriage relation. Let bride and bridegroom, in the ***presence of the heavenly universe***, pledge themselves to ***love each other*** as God has ordained they should. The wife is to respect and reverence her husband, and the husband is to love and cherish his wife.”
3. **Revelation 19:7**: “Let us be ***glad and rejoice***, and give honour to him: for the ***marriage of the Lamb*** is come, and ***his wife hath made herself ready***.”

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**