

# **BUILDING A STRONG MARRIAGE**

*Psalm 127; 1 Corinthians 13*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. THE BREAKDOWN OF THE AMERICAN HOME**

1. “Doesn’t anybody stay together anymore”?
2. What can be done about it?

### **B. SOME BASIC BIBLICAL TRUTHS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## **II. BODY**

### **A. A STRONG MARRIAGE IS BUILT UPON THE LORD (Ps. 127:1)**

1. “They labour in vain that build it”
  - a. Note that they are trying but are sure to fail
  - b. All of their efforts are to no avail
2. Reminds me of Paul’s words about the resurrection of Christ
  - a. “If Christ be not risen, your faith is vain” (1 Cor. 15:14)
  - b. Just like that: A marriage without Christ fails
3. Building a marriage on the Lord gives a divine dimension to life
  - a. Our first day: reading the Bible and praying
  - b. A desire to serve the Lord from the start
4. Building a marriage on the Lord makes a difference when the storms come
  - a. Many marriages fall apart when trouble comes
  - b. Debts drive many to divorce
  - c. But Christians know where to turn when storms rage!
  - d. The wise man and the foolish man (Luke 6:47-49)

### **B. A STRONG MARRIAGE IS BUILT UPON LOVE (1 Cor. 13:4-6)**

1. Not the kind of love portrayed by Hollywood
2. God’s definition of love as described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
3. The practical effects of love
  - a. Love suffereth long...is patient...not exploding
  - b. Love is kind. Are you kind to one another?
    - (1) Are you kind in word?
    - (2) Are you kind in actions?
  - c. Vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up...not out for number one
  - d. Does not behave unseemly...not rude
  - e. Seeketh not her own...not selfish

- f. Is not easily provoked...not irritable**
- g. Thinketh no evil...hardly notices when done wrong and does not hold grudges**
- h. Rejoiceth not in iniquity...not glad about injustice but pleased when truth wins out**

**C. A STRONG MARRIAGE IS BUILT UPON LOYALTY (1 Cor. 13:7)**

- 1. Beareth all things...loyal even when things are tough**
- 2. Believeth all things...believing in your mate...trusting**
- 3. Hopeth all things...expects the best of the loved one**
- 4. Endureth all things...defends when others forsake**
- 5. Note how all of these things are true in the Lord's love for us**
- 6. Note how this holds with the divine instruction for the first marriage...and those to follow**

**III. CONCLUSION**

- A. YOU CAN HAVE A STRONG MARRIAGE**
- B. BUILD ON THE LORD...ON LOVE...ON LOYALTY**
- C. OTHER HOUSES MAY FALL BUT YOURS WILL STAND**