

MP IX Rules of the Game
By Greg Rangel

One of the most blessed things that a person can do is get married. As Proverbs 18:22 says, “*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*” But as everything in life has rules, so marriage too has rules that both parties must abide by. And one of the best things that a married person can do is to keep the rules of marriage.

Everything has rules that one must keep in order play the game correctly. The government has laws that apply to driving. In order to keep people from killing themselves, the government has placed traffic lights that direct the traffic. When the light is green, one can drive through the intersection without worrying if other vehicles are coming the opposite way. Failure to observe the red light will most likely end up in a collision with people either getting injured or killed.

Everything else in life has laws that must be observed. You look at every game that has been invented and they too have rules. In order to play the game properly, one must abide by the rules or most likely the game will be lost. Unfortunately though when it comes to the rules that apply to marriage, many have failed to observe the rules of the game and due to that the marriage has ended up in divorce.

Throughout this series we have dealt with the rules of the game when it comes to marriage. Would you like to have a very beautiful and successful marriage? Then keep the rules of the game. If you fail to keep the rules, then you will most likely not have a wonderful marriage.

A husband must love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25). That is the rule that applies to the husband. There is nothing wrong with loving your wife, with treating her fairly, with showing her honor and respect, with exalting her and praising for everything that she does for you. There is nothing wrong with treating her like the most important person in your life. Instead of putting her down and insulting her, show her how much you love her. Sing to her. Treat her like when you first met her. You don’t have to be rude to her. You don’t have to mistreat her. Thank her for everything that she does for you, especially for washing your dirty socks. Husbands, there is nothing wrong with truly loving your wife as you ought to, and as the Lord commands you to.

The Apostle Paul has some excellent advice that I believe would be very beneficial for married couples to observe. He wrote in Ephesians 4:26-32 “*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath,*

and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

How often do married couples have a heated argument for any little thing? Quite too often unfortunately. But whenever there is an argument within the marriage, instead of going to sleep angry at each other, it will be very healthy for the marriage if both parties forget about the argument and forgive each other. That is why Paul said to not let the sun go down upon your wrath. Paul also said to not give place to the devil. That is, whenever there is something wrong, close the gap. Don't let the devil make the gap wider because destruction will loom over the horizon.

Forgiveness is one of the most important rules of the game. None of us are perfect, and so therefore each one of us will need to be forgiven at one time or another. But forgiveness within a marriage is essential. Another rule is to never bring up the past.