

A Recipe for a Happy Marriage

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1. **Choose** healthy ingredients: agape love (God’s unconditional love), commitment, trust, hope in God.
2. **Creatively combine** ingredients by dreaming together—with a sense of adventure! **Dream:** “to imagine something that you would like to happen.” **Adventure:** “an unusual, exciting, and possibly dangerous activity, such as a trip or experience, or the excitement produced by such an activity” (Cambridge Dictionary).
3. **Mix** your moments together **in God’s Word**, following His step-by-step instructions.
 - ♥ **Be each other’s best friend.** Love intentionally, using God’s model of love (1 Corinthians 13: 4-6).
 - ♥ **Forgive each other.** ...*be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you* (Eph. 4:32, NLT).
 - ♥ **Be content**, finding fulfillment in God. *But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment* (1 Timothy 6:6, NASB).
 - ♥ **Take care of your bodies:** exercise, eat healthfully, etc. *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up...* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a, NIV).
 - ♥ **Spend time alone with the Lord**, then share what you learn with one another.
 - ♥ Read **books** and discuss them. **Find other common interests:** Go to church; get involved. Fellowship with others. Notice and respond to your spouse’s **bids for attention**. Savor and enjoy life!
4. **Serve God together.** Be creative and look for ways to utilize your strengths and/or weaknesses for His glory! Remember, you are God’s created masterpiece to do the works He has planned for you (Ephesians 2:10). Live with purpose—especially when life is challenging. Illness, job loss, anxiety, depression, or other complex concerns are opportunities to put your trust in God, being supportive, and building each other up in love, in hope, and in faith.

Trust God to empower you to serve Him as you wait on Him. Enjoy each moment with gratitude for His presence, being fully alive in His unfailing love (Romans 8: 28-39).



5. **You are Christ’s ambassador** (2 Corinthians 5:11-21), and your home is His embassy! As God’s ambassador, you are representing the **King of Kings!** We are to be “devoted to a Person, not to a cause” (Oswald Chambers). *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified* (1 Corinthians 2:2, NASB). Allow God to do more than you can ask or imagine. **Anticipate** God’s goodness and live expectantly.