

HEALTHY MARRIAGE: WORTH DYING FOR

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"For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:13 NIV84)

How to get a marriage "To Die For" in three easy steps...

I. DIE BY GIVING UP YOUR "_____."

Philippians 2:6 (NIV84) "[Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,"

A. Jesus _____ to give up his rights.

B. _____ men & slaves have no rights!

Galatians 5:24 (NIV84) "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 15:31-32 (NIV84) "I die every day-I mean that, brothers-just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. "

1 Corinthians 7:22-23 (NIV84) "For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men." (NIV)

II. DIE BY PUTTING OTHERS _____.

Philippians 2:7 (NIV84) "...but [Jesus] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

A. By considering the _____ of others. *How?*

Philip. 2:3-4 (NIV84) "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others..."

B. By extending _____ to others.

Luke 11:4 (NIV84) "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us..."

Col. 3:13 (NIV84) "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV84) "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

III. DIE BY TAKING UP YOUR _____.

Philip. 2:8 (NIV84) "And being found in appearance as a man, he [Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!"

A. Dying to your 'self' is a _____.

John 12:24-25 (NAS) "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal."

B. Selfishness will ultimately _____ you.

Luke 9:23-24 (TLB) "Then he said to all, "Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me! 24 Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it."

IV. SUMMARY: THE SECRET TO A _____ MARRIAGE...

A. Learn to _____ some more!

Romans 8:13 (NIV84) "For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live."