

Sacrifice Helps Make Marriage Work

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If we could describe the times in which we live — the times in which our young married couples will begin their new life together — they would be ones of great emphasis on personal comfort, pleasure and material wealth.

In themselves, these things are well worth striving to attain and we would be the last to say that they are not important. However, we must also realize that these are not the things which will automatically guarantee a happy and successful marriage. It would seem that in many cases these are some of the elements which bring about failure and unsuccessful marriages.

Perhaps many of our young couples have a wrong sense of values because our society has overstressed many of the less important elements in successful living. Let's take a closer look.

Only in America where we have such a high standard of living, where we have such opportunities for personal advancement, where we have more time to enjoy life, do we find so many unhappy couples. There are more jobs available than ever before. The standard of pay is the highest in history. The working day is shorter, affording man more leisure time. The exhaustive burden of hard work is often lightened by automation.

Today much more emphasis is plac-



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ed on man's comfort. He can live in a comfortable home filled with the latest appliances. Modern medical research has developed a pill to alleviate all pain or discomfort. Yes, man's life can be one of great comfort if he only makes the effort.

With more money, more time, more places to go, more things to do, man is constantly told to enjoy himself. After all, that is what life is for — personal pleasure! We are living in a time when man's body is so well cared for, but so often he is undernourished in the things that will make him a successful and fulfilled human person.

Because of the age of industry and prosperity, man today can have more and use more things than ever before. He is able to purchase things considered necessities today that were formerly in the class of luxury.

It is the rare case today of young couples unable to furnish their homes and apartments with those things which their parents could only have acquired after years of work and saving. We are living in an age of have-it-now and pay-for-it-later.

Now, the picture we have described is not too unrealistic. It exists in the families down the street and in our own.

The question we now ask is whether these elements which are so emphasized in our culture are those which add to happy and successful family life. In many cases we feel that they are tearing down and slowly destroying many a home.

Sacrifice is Contradicted

At a time when personal comfort is stressed, the notion of sacrifice and going-without is greatly minimized. Today many of our young people have had to go without very little and the idea of denying themselves anything is often hard to accept. Yet where else than in marriage will you find daily situations which will demand much sacrifice and going-without for the good of the other person or the family.

In marriage the person has to sacrifice comfort often and learn to discipline himself for the greater good of the family. This idea in our present culture is often hard to accept.

The great emphasis on personal achievement at any cost often leads to an added emphasis on selfishness. Personal responsibility is often so important that the responsibility to others is neglected. Concern for the sick, the aged, the poor, the underprivileged is something that many of our young people worry little about. They know that "Society", whoever that means, will take over and care for them.

The close tie that formerly bound families together is no longer there. The modern young couple is often so separated from their parents, brothers or sisters that their concern about them is lacking. Because of this isolation, many of the problems in life which were shared and often solved with the help of their parents and relatives are now left entirely to the young couple to solve by themselves. We feel that our present social structure has isolated families and thus brought them farther apart rather than closer together.

The industrial revolution has brought great prosperity and wealth into many families. But the added emphasis on material wealth has brought with it a false sense of security. There is little encouragement today to save for the

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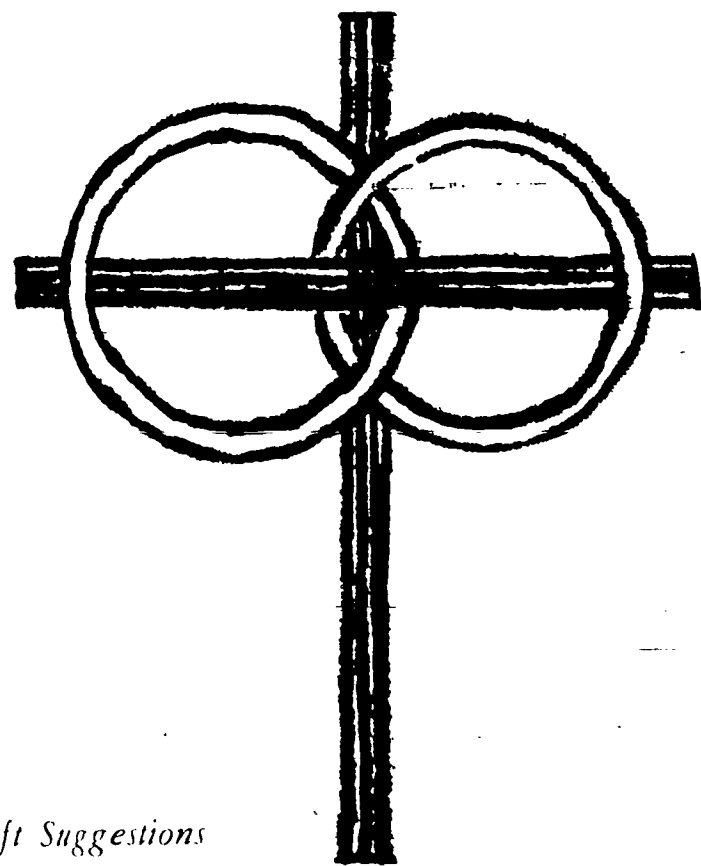
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