

Sacrifice Helps Make Marriage Work

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future. Our people are told that unless they have the latest appliance, car, or wardrobe, that they are unsuccessful in life. And, in order to achieve this type of "success," very often both of them must work; perhaps the husband is working at two or more jobs. Imagine for a moment what could happen to such a family living on these incomes if an accident or serious illness struck. Utter tragedy.

A happy marriage and indeed a successful one must be built on a secure life made with some thought of the future. Yet our present way of living doesn't encourage such planning. We must turn a deaf ear to the noisy salesman of the world and turn our thoughts to what really are the important and essential things in making the family successful.

No Simple Solution

There are no easy answers to these problems which our present culture and society have brought into family life. We feel that to be simply aware of these pitfalls of false values and false security can help many couples avoid them. The modern couple must be realistic with present day life and still plan for the future.

The couple should take a genuine interest in others outside their immediate family as well as those closely related. Perhaps they could take an active part in community projects or church or-

ganizations where they can put Christian Love into practice. Much of their leisure time could be spent in doing more things together as a family. To take more time to be with their spouse and children. Many of the moments wasted in watching poor television programs or the time used in reading much of the published trash could be put to better use. There are many fine television shows, which might require the effort to get up and change the channel, or many fine publications, which might require a little effort to find, which would enrich the family. There are many fine sources of cultural enrichment in our communities if we will only make the effort to find them.

So often today we hear criticism of

It Takes Three to Make Love Endure

The basic error of mankind has been to assume that only two are needed for love: you and I, or society and I, or humanity and I. Really it takes three self, another self, and God: you, and I, and God.

Love of self without love of God is selfishness; love of neighbor without love of God usually embraces only those who are pleasing to us, not those who are hateful.

If only two love, love dies of exhaustion, because one can only give so much of oneself. Love is triumphant, or it dies. It requires three virtues: Faith, Hope and

our young people as being selfish, too demanding, having little concern and respect for others. Haven't we made them this way? If in our families the couples themselves could have more respect for each other, if in the example of their lives they could be more Christian in the practices of justice and charity, we are sure that their lives would be much more meaningful and successful.

Our whole system of values in life must be challenged. Let us ask ourselves what is really important in making marriage work.

It is only the totally unselfish person who really loves and cares for his spouse and family — the person who respects himself as a person with all the dignity

that being human demands; the person who respects the dignity and rights of others, not in words but by example; the one who is concerned about the lasting qualities which will enrich his marriage, his marriage partner and his family — who will be truly happy and successful. We feel that in our world this is possible to attain. However it will be truly realized only with difficulty and real effort.

We hope that our young couples will be mature, unselfish, and willing to make the personal sacrifices that are needed to make their lives successful, in an age when so many families are unhappy and failing.

It is hard—but it is well worth all that it costs.

Charity, which intertwine, purify and regenerate each other.

To believe in God is to throw ourselves into His arms; to hope in Him is to rest in His heart in patience amidst trials and tribulations; to love Him through a participation of His Divine nature through grace.

God never intended that the "I" and the "Thou" should be separated. God is no obstacle to the full enjoyment of self, nor is He a competitor against the love of neighbor.

But when love becomes triumphant, God is installed in the center of the "I" and

the "Thou", thus preventing the "I" from becoming an egoist and the "Thou" from becoming a tool or an instrument of pleasure.

Such love is God in pilgrimage. But if we would seek the reason why it takes three to make love, we must look into the heart of God Himself. Human love has reached its peak when it says: "I love you, because God gave you to me."

—Bishop Fulton J. Sheen in "Love, Marriage and Children."

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