

MAINTAINING AGREEMENT AND HARMONY

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

A. With Understanding Attitudes.

- Be agreeable; be touched with what they are feeling; love as equals; be tenderhearted; thoughtful; rendering equality in rights and privileges.

1 Peter 3:9

Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called that ye should inherit a blessing.

B. Without Arguing.

- Another translation - Not rendering arguing for arguing, insult for insult, abuse for abuse. Not a pay back relationship. It is easy to argue but do not.

1 Peter 3:10, 11

For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

C. Harmony Starts With One.

- Notice the context of vv.1 through 11 is **wives** (v.1) and **husbands** (v.7) - yet this is singular (he, his, him).
- Keeping harmony starts with one. It only takes one to get the ball rolling in the right direction.

AGREEMENTS CAN ELIMINATE ARGUMENTS

I. Agree Not to Make All the Decisions.

- A. Talk things over – confer and discuss.
- B. When one party (either husband or wife) makes all the decisions, aside from making the other one feel stupid, insecure, inadequate, unnecessary; the side effect of one-sided-decision (one-person-dominated) households is arguments.

II. Agree to Listen to Understand.

- A. Pay attention to one another; listen as learners – not like you know it all.
- B. Without taking issue over words, but looking past the words to the real meaning.

III. Agree to Learn to Share How You Feel about Things.

- A. We all need to learn how to be open and honest about our feelings and viewpoints.
- B. At the same time, we need to learn how to accept how others feel:
 1. Rather than criticizing the other for how they feel.
 2. Rather than lecturing the other for how wrong the way they feel is.
 3. Rather than demanding they feel like you do and change.

IV. Agree to Share Your Feelings Only after Anger and Hostilities Subside.

- A. It is not a matter of having conflicts versus not having conflicts, but how you manage your conflicts when they do happen.
- B. Anger gives the wrong meaning to words you hear and say.

C. End every day with a clean slate between you.

V. Agree to Never Discuss Major Decisions Late at Night – Especially Financial Ones.

- It is easy to fuss over little points and fuss over minor things when tired.

VI. Agree to Have a Fair Division of Labor of the Responsibilities and Work around the House.

A. List all that needs to be done – make it fair.

B. Remember, no two households' job descriptions have to be the same.

VII. Agree to Never Speak Cutting Remarks, Belittling Remarks, or Uncovers One Another's Flaw in Front of Others (or the Children).

VIII. Agree to Never Neglect Common Courtesies and Common Politeness.

- It was once said that if husbands and wives were as polite and courteous to one another as they are to total strangers, their marriages would be better.

IX. Agree to Spend Time with One Another.

A. Never stop touching one another, holding one another, and being together with one another.

B. UCLA did a study one time that concluded that the average woman needs 8 to 10 meaningful touches from a loved one each day to stay physically and emotionally healthy.

C. While sexual needs of men and women are important, experts say over 80 percent of a woman's need for meaningful touch is non-sexual.

X. Agree to Ask Questions When You Do Not Understand.

- Watch your responses – do not underreact or overreact (be quick to hear; slow to speak; slow to anger).