E·V·A·L·U·A·T·E

March 10, 2013

A successful marriage is based on two things: "finding the right person, and "becoming the right person. And the second ~~thing~~ thing is harder than the first. Just because two people share the same bed and the same name, doesn't guarantee harmony. So let's breakdown the word evaluate, letter by letter, and see how influencetial this single word can be to a relationship/marriage.

Enjoy. Do you enjoy the same things? Maybe it's no big deal now, but later when your husband is glued to the ballgame on T.V. and you want a little conversation, it will be.

Values. The Bible asks, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" Are you able to agree on major issues such as intimacy, child rearing, finances, in-law goals, and your relationship with God?" You may disagree on many things, but these are make-or-break issues.

Accessibility. Are you both emotionally accessible, or is he the strong silent type who doesn't communicate - or understand your need to?

Love. Do you really love each other? Not the Hollywood version but the kind that listen's to your spouse's opinions & concerns, overlooks their faults & failings, values them, & expresses itself through kindness?

Understanding. As surely as God doesn't make two snowflakes alike, He doesn't make two people alike. So, can you understand & handle each other's differences?

Appreciation. Your mate can't read your mind, so get into the habit of expressing your appreciation for one another.

Temperment. If you're naturally upbeat but they're moody & introverted, you may have an oil-and-water mix. How will you handle this?

Environment. If you're from different backgrounds, are you comfortable in the same social and spiritual settings? The only guarantee for failure in a marriage is when both parties stop trying. Let's turn this divorce rate around and start to e·v·a·l·u·a·t·e before we leap, jump the broom, get hitched, or tie the knot! God bless!