**PREREQUISITES FDOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE**

**or *“SET THINE HOUSE IN ORDER”***

***“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” Psalm 127:1a***

***1. SPIRITUAL LIFE: (Spiritual before material) [home, car, smart phone, TV, computer, etc.]***

 ***\** Husband, wife & children with daily devotions**

 **\* Husband, wife & children involved in the Lord’s work together (services, bus min., soul-winning, crafts, etc.**

***2. ROMANCE: (Marriage before children, work, etc.)***

 **\* H & W have regularly scheduled “dates” e.g. meals out, etc. (1 night per week…)**

 **\* H & W do some things spontaneously occasionally (overnight, etc.) nothing necessarily pre- planned, etc.**

 **\* H & W make time for intimacy (1 Cor. 7:1-5; Heb. 13:4 ) “12 Magic words” (couples stand)**

 ***“I was wrong” – “I am sorry” - “Please forgive me” – “I love you”***

***3. FAMILY: (People before things)***

**\* Don’t permit job, home, possessions, hobbies, etc. to destroy priorities: (Your first priority is your marriage)**

***4. HOME: (Relationships before Possessions)***

**\* The house should be clean, but not a museum piece (If wife works…husband helps at home) (If wife sick…husband becomes her caregiver)**

***5. CHILDREN: (Relationships before Possessions)***

**\* God gave you your partner before your children…His priority (sometimes not these days! ☹ Divorce, living together, pre-marital sex)**

***6. FRIENDS: (Partner and family before friends)***

**\* Don’t allow friends to interfere with family time. (But mom needs some time with adults…dad can help)**

 **\* Don’t spend too much time with friends over family.**

***7. MONEY: (Home & Family before Possessions)***

 ***\*Money is not an end, it is merely a means to an end (workaholics beware)***

 ***\* Beware “separate” accounts, purchases, etc. and DEBT! (This can become a marital disaster! – Credit/debit cards…secret purchases, etc.) [I made the budget, Shirley made the purchases]***

***8. DISCIPLINE: (Personal, Family, etc. before Pleasure)***

 ***\* Discipline biblically (husband and wife agree…w/children)***

***9. HEALTH: (Body above Pleasure, etc. “Bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things.” 1 Timothy 4:8***

 ***\* Take care of God’s temple, you will need it for years of service: eat right, exercise, fresh air, supplements +)***

***10. PLEASURE: (Lord’s work and Family before vacations, etc.)***

 ***\* Getaways are great…give new perspective (“Come ye apart…and rest awhile…” Mk. 6:31)***

 ***\* Prevention is better than rehab!***

***…AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!***