Hollywood Marriages Vs. God's Model For Marriage

Tony Mauck · Ephesians 5:1–2

INTRODUCTION

- Where is your hope fixed? Upon what is your mind focused the most?
- Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.
- Beyond material things, many will place their hopes on the pursuit of and obtaining the ultimate relationship.

1 The Media Is Teaching You About Relationships

- Everywhere you turn, the media is teaching you and instructing you about relationships.
- What you don't see in any of these Hollywood stories, very rarely, is grocery shopping, piles of laundry, cooking dinner, paying bills.
- None of the reality of married life is usually considered.
- Number one, the seeds of discontentment can be sown. We look at our spouse and this person on the screen, and we say, he don't measure up.

2 Hollywood's Formula for Marriage

- The key to it all, you've got to find the right person.
- And then when you happen to find the right person, then you fall in love.
- There's this endorphin rush. to Hollywood, it's literally all chemistry.
- You fix your hopes and your dreams on this relationship and this person above everything else.
- If failure occurs, this is a four-step process. You repeat steps. One, two, and three. This is Hollywood's model for marriage. And it's a disastrous model.

3 Be the Right Person

Ephesians 5:1–2; Romans 12:18

- Isn't it really more about being the right person?
- Be imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- He says to all of us, be the right person. Work on you.
- As much as lies in you, be at peace with all men. The only thing you can really control is you.
- My overriding goal here is to become a better imitator of God.

4 Walk in Love

Ephesians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

- The hardest part of marriage is not the falling in love part. The hardest part of marriage is to walk in love.
- Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.
- My obligation toward my spouse, my children, my brothers, is to walk in love regardless of what they do or don't do.
- One of the things that make marriages go sour is that kindness disappears. Patience disappears.

5 Fix Your Hope on Him

- God has foremost pointed us to him. And that a relationship with him supersedes even this marriage relationship.
- When we fix our hope on him, when we set ourselves to being the right person and walking in love, you will bring the ingredients to your marriage for success.

6 If Failure Occurs, Repeat Steps One, Two, and Three

- This is the fourth step in God's formula for marriage. If failure occurs, repeat steps one, two, and three.
- All of us bring sin into the equation. We bring imperfection into the equation.
- A lot of what goes wrong with marriages in the local church has to do with something that has first gone wrong in a person's relationship with God.

THE CHALLENGE

Where are your hopes fixed? On God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy? Have you fixed your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ?

MY NOTES