The Ten Commandments of Marriage

Part I

Todays’ discussion is based on Career of Happiness: True Joy in the Home, by Rabbi Avigdor Miller

**The Ten Commandments of Marriage:**

1 Be realistic

2 Do not disrupt the routine of marriage

3 Make peace

4 Never say the word “divorce”

5 Be loyal

6 Never say “I hate you”

7 Love your neighbor as yourself

8 Display your regard for your mate

9 Maintain your appearance

10 Don’t be a tyrant

**#1**

**Commandment 1 - Be realistic**

Be realistic and do not expect that in your marriage you will have a glorious career of endless enjoyment. Marriage is like life. When you enter life, you must take it with all details — its ups and its downs. Sometimes there is smooth driving; sometimes the road is rocky and not comfortable. Sometimes there are periods when you are in the depression of unhappiness; and sometimes you climb to heights of success.

Life is full of variety and it is planned by the Holy Blessed One for a purpose. The purpose for the variety of life is in order to test us under all circumstances. What will be our reaction in times of success? How will we act when we are faced by obstacles or worries?

**Questions:**

* **What do you think about this “commandment”?**
* **Should one have no expectations at all?**
* **What should one expect?**
* **What if those expectations are not met?**

**#2**

**Commandment 2 - Do not disrupt the routine of marriage**

The wife should continue to prepare meals\*… It doesn’t matter if you’re fighting...

… They also have to come to their meal. You have to sit down in your regular place and eat supper. Ah, you’re having a fight? So, don’t talk to each other. You don’t have to talk to each other. But you have to continue in your routine…

...Or the husband should never refuse to give his wife money\*...

And a man should never leave home. Don’t sleep out and say, “I’m leaving. I’m going to my friend...

*\*Rina’s Edit: Rabb Miller is giving examples of behaviors routinely found in typical marriages of his day – replace it with whatever is typical for you in your marriage. No, the wife does not have to prepare all the meals etc LOL.*

**Questions:**

* **What would happen if you “disrupt the routine of marriage?”**
* **How does this “commandment” help to have a successful marriage?**

**#3**

**Commandment 3 - Make peace**

Do not let a quarrel continue for long ...

As soon as possible, even if it means going beyond what the other party is entitled to — even if the other party was wrong — make peace as soon as possible. Even if it means that the wife should offer her husband a tidbit or a piece of cake, and even if, from anger, he turns it away, she should not become angry. It is already an overture for peace. It is already a success.

**Questions:**

* **What if it is obvious to both parties that the other one is wrong and you are right, should you still ask for forgiveness in the name of peace?**
* **Is there a time when it is too late to try to make peace?**
* **Is this commandment the same as the popular advice, “Never let the sun set on an argument?” How is it different, and why do you think it was stated that way?**

**#4**

**Commandment 4 - Never say the word “divorce”**

“If you don’t like it, you can divorce me.” Never say that! That should be entirely out of the realm of possibility. There is no such thing!

**Question: What could be the reason for this?**

**#5**

**Commandment 5 - Be loyal**

“Jenny isn’t such a good cook.” Oh no! You must leap to the defense of your wife! Whether she is or not, you must be loyal. She must always be loyal when she speaks about her husband to her parents.

No matter what happens in the house, the loyalty of the couple has to be unimpeachable! It is not a matter of affection — it is your duty to fight for each other.

**Questions:**

* **Does this mean you are supposed to lie to save your spouse’s reputation?**
* **What if your spouse is not loyal to you in this way? Should you continue to be loyal in this way?**

**#6**

**Question: What’s your takeaway from today’s discussion?**