



“Four Super Smart Things that Wise Couples Still Do!”

Sometimes I do not know how my material is going to be used. Perhaps you are using this material as an individual who is looking forward to getting married. On the other hand, you may be part of a small group doing a Bible study on Biblical marriages. Maybe you are married and want to think of ways to improve your marriage.

Regardless of your situation, I want you to think of two things:

Your _____ requires effort! Your _____ requires deposits!
This is true in your marriage as well.

Investing in marriage is worth every ounce of effort. Karen and I have a little craft in our home which reads, “Grow old with me. The best is yet to be!” While the best days physically may be past, the best days of closeness and connection continue. For any marriage to grow stronger and closer, there are four important things to remember! Here are the super smart things that wise couples still do.

4. They _____ (Proverbs 10:31a, 32a).

This is not just an Old Testament principle. Paul told the Ephesian believers, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29). The word “corrupt” means, “That which is rotten, unfit for use.”

Stop the video. Take a few moments to pick out the following from Proverbs 10 and write them in the space below.

The description of wise words

The description of foolish words

3. They _____ (Matthew 7:12)

The practical applications are amazing when understood in the context of the teachings of our great God. They seem so simple to understand and yet they are so powerful. Think of it.

Do I appreciate being treated respectfully?

Do I like it when I am thanked for something I have done or for who I am?

Do I enjoy a compliment?

Do I find it uplifting and encouraging when someone tells me that I am appreciated? Of course you do.

The Lord Jesus instructs us that if these are the ways I want to be treated, then I should treat others as well. Think of how this relates to marriage.

2. They _____ (Ephesians 4:30-32).

The Apostle Paul uses several very key words.

“**Grieve**” which is the Greek word *lypeo* (lu-PE-o) which means _____

“**Forgiving**” which is the Greek word *charizomai* (kha-RE-zo-mi) which means _____

1. They _____ (Song of Solomon 2:16)

This love is not a feeling. It is a decision of the will that I will seek the well-being of my spouse even if it is not deserved. This love can best be described as:

Fruit that grows (Galatians 5:22-23)

Works that show (Ephesians 2:10)

Trust that knows (1 Peter 3:1,7)

Questions to consider

1. What did the Lord Jesus teach us concerning forgiveness according to Matthew 6:12?

2. Select several principles from Ephesians 4 that couples should have in their marriage.

3. Is there anything that you and your spouse need to work on together that is keeping you from a close connection and fellowship? _____