



Wendell and Betty Winkler's Advice on Marriage by Nel Pollard

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Wendell Winkler was a preacher of the gospel for over 60 years before his passing in 2005. He was a prince among preachers, and he influenced and trained hundreds of gospel preachers. He and his wife, Betty, were married for 55 years. On Valentine's Day in 2004, they responded to a request from brother Neal Pollard for some advice on marriage. Neal reported, "Their suggestions were broken into two categories, the first being positive things couples can do for their marriages and the latter being habits, actions, and attitudes that hurt a marriage. Here are the answers from a couple who seemed as happily married as any two people I have known."

Positive things:

- * Put your companion first.
- * Build the confidence of each other, never making the other feel inferior.
- * Maintain a beautiful togetherness [laugh, cry, plan vacations, and work together]. Walk through life together. Do not ride off in opposite directions [in interests, finance, recreation, etc.].
- * Adjust to your companion's interests [if he fishes, she learns to fish; if she loves to shop, he learns to shop].
- * Be united in your goals and aspirations [for your children, for your retirement].
- * Cooperate with each other [in disciplining your children, etc.].
- * Make your companion a partner in all things.
- * Be open, free, and uninhibited in your communication.
- * Close each day on a positive note.
- * Practice 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Things to Avoid:

- * Excessive debt.
- * "Me" and "I" syndrome instead of "we."
- * Suspicion and distrust.
- * Failure to understand what is involved in "headship" and "submission."
- * Misarranged priorities.
- * Failure to be commendatory.
- * Failure to notice and apply the little things.
- * Refusal to eliminate annoyances.
- * Failure to keep romance in the marriage [never become too old to hold hands].

Courtesy of the Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, U.S.A.