

'C'ECRET INGREDIENTS

The Six Non-negotiables For Lasting Love

THESIS: Marriage is less like making a bowl of instant ramen noodles for dinner and more like making a gourmet meal. The first preparation requires no preparation or skill, and no special combination of ingredients. The gourmet meal, however, requires all three. In the matter of marriage there are six vital ingredients that should be considered non-negotiable as you evaluate potential people you may spend your life in marital union with. If any one of these six factors is absent, the person under evaluation should be ruled out. If these secret ingredients for lasting love are present, then move forward with prayer.

1. Christ

Colossians 1:16-17, NIV—**16**By him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. **17**He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18—**17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **18**Now all things are of God...

2. Character

Proverbs 11:5—The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

Psalms 1:1-3—**1**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **2**but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. **3**He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalms 15:1-5—**1**LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? **2**He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; **3**He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; **4**In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the LORD; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change; **5**He who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

3. Compatibility

Song of Songs 5:16, NCV— *Shulamite*: His mouth is sweet to kiss, and I desire him very much. Yes, daughters of Jerusalem, this is my lover and my friend.

Song of Songs 1:4, GIK—*Solomon*: Behold, you are beautiful, my darling companion. Behold, you are beautiful.

Song of Songs 1:7— *Shulamite*: Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock, where you make it rest at noon.

NOTE: Also, marriage is less like flying a hang glider and more like flying a 747. To form and maintain a good marriage requires skill and attention to detail. No "gliders" will survive.

NOTE: The reason for the repeat of the words, "You are beautiful," is because girls forget you said it within approximately 59 seconds.

Zechariah 13:7—“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd (Christ), against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the LORD of hosts (the Father). NIV—...the Man who is *close to Me*. NCV—...the Man who is *My Friend*.

Proverbs 8:30—I (Christ) was beside Him (the Father) as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.

Song of Songs 7:10, Glk.—*Shulamite*: I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me.

4. Communication

Song of Songs 7:4, 6, Glk.—*Solomon*: **4**Your eyes are pools of understanding... **6**Love flows through your affection.

5. Commitment

Song of Songs 6:3, NCV—*Shulamite*: I belong to my lover, and my lover belongs to me.

Song of Songs 2:2, CEV—*Solomon*: My darling, when compared with other young women, you are a lily among thorns.

Song of Songs 5:9-16, Glk.—*Young Women*: How is your beloved better than another beloved, O fairest among women?... *Shulamite*: My beloved is radiant and lustrous, distinguished among ten thousand. His head... His hair... His eyes... His cheeks... His lips... His hands... His abdomen... His legs... His mouth... Everything about him is desirable to me! This is my lover and companion, O young women of Jerusalem.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7, NASB—*Shulamite*: **6**Put me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol; its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord. **7**Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; if a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised.

6. Chemistry

Song of Songs 1:4, Glk.—*Shulamite*: Draw me after you! Let us run together! How I wish the king would bring me to his chambers!

Song of Songs 1:13—*Shulamite*: A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me, that lies all night between my breasts.

Song of Songs 2:5-6, CEV—*Shulamite*: **5**Refresh and strengthen me with raisins and apples. I am hungry for love! **6**Put your left hand under my head and embrace me with your right arm.

Song of Songs 4:9, Glk.—*Solomon*: You have made my heart beat fast, my sister, my bride. You have made my heart beat fast with one glance of your eyes, with one strand of your necklace.

Song of Songs 7:11-12, NCV—*Shulamite*: **11**Come, my lover, let’s go out into the country and spend the night in the fields. **12**Let’s go early to the vineyards and see if the buds are on the vines. Let’s see if the blossoms have already opened and if the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.

NOTE: References marked Glk. are from Dr. Craig Glickman’s translation of *The Song of Songs*. This is an excellent translation that has sought to achieve linguistic accuracy while endeavoring to preserve the poetic form of the song.

NOTE: The reason this message has only one verse for “communication” is because it was created by a guy.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9