

Lord of the Rings: Great Marriages Don't Just Happen

📖 *Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)* "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

1. A great marriage requires [Christ](#).

📖 *Matthew 6:33 (NIV)* "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

📖 *Hebrews 1:1-3 (NIV)* "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

📖 *Philippians 2:1-5 (NIV)* "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:"

2. A great marriage requires [commitment](#).

📖 *Malachi 2:16 (NIV)* "I hate divorce," says the Lord God of Israel..."

📖 *Matthew 19:6 (NASB)* "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

3. A great marriage requires [communication](#).

📖 *Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)* "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

📖 *Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)* "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."

📖 *Proverbs 13:17 (Msg)* "Irresponsible talk makes a real mess of things..."

📖 *Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)* "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

4. A great marriage requires [consideration](#).

📖 *James 3:17 (NIV)* "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

📖 *Ephesians 4:2 (NIV)* "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

📖 *Colossians 3:13 (NIV)* "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

5. A Great marriage requires [compromise](#).

📖 *1 Corinthians 13:4-5a (NLT)* "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way."

📖 *Colossians 3:12 (NIV)* "...as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

6. A great marriage requires [courtship](#).

📖 *Proverbs 5:19b (NCV)* "...Let her love always make you happy; let her love always hold you captive."

📖 *1 Peter 3:7b (Msg)* "Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them..."

📖 *Ecclesiastes 9:9 (LB)* "Live happily with the woman you love through the fleeting days of life, for the wife God gives you is your best reward down here for all your earthly toil."

7. A Great marriage requires [companionship](#).

📖 *Ecclesiastes 9:9 (NIV)* "Enjoy life with your wife..."

📖 *Prov 17:22 (NCV)* "A happy heart is like good medicine, but a broken spirit drains your strength."

Digging Deeper: If you are married, how would you rate the health of your marriage (scale from 1-10)? What does your mate rate it? Would you say that your marriage is "great"? Can you honestly say that you are giving your marriage all that you've got? Do you still date your mate? Are you committed to staying together? Is Jesus the Lord of your life? Is Jesus Lord over your marriage?

