

**Building On A Solid Foundation**  
**Matthew 7: 24-27**

**Russell Cook**  
**West End Church of Christ**  
**Knoxville, TN**

1. Homes need repairs and remodeling at times.
2. Marriage for some is like going down the river where some go over the cliff.
3. What are the foundations on which to build our marriages? If you want your marriage to go the distance, you have to have a solid foundation. If the foundation is not solid, it doesn't matter what you do to the rest of the building, it will eventually fall apart.

**I. An Active Faith in God.**

- A Our faith in God plays a vital part in lives of a strong family.
- B God intends for his people to have happy homes and healthy families
  1. **Eph. 5; Col. 3; 1 Tim.; Titus; 1 Peter 2, 3;** all talk about the home.
- C What is the effect of Christian qualities on the family?
  1. Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. (**Psa 127:1**)

**II. Putting Into Practice a Biblical Model of Love.**

- A The number one question asked of marriage counselors is ...?
- B Consider a couple of reasons why marriages go bad.
  1. Familiarity factor and the fatigue factor.
- C One of two types of love will be the foundation of your marriage.

**III. Expressing Appreciation and Support For One Another.**

- A The members of strong families like each other and keep on expressing their appreciation! They give each other very positive feelings of self-worth.
  1. **Ephesians 4:29**
- B Suggestions for developing love and affirmation.
- C Often we hurt the ones we love the most.
  1. (**Rom 12: 9-10; Eph 4:31**)

**IV. Keep Your Commitment.**

- A Apart from our commitment to God, our commitment to our family should be the number one priority in our lives.
- B Commitment means being faithful in spite of the flaws you discover.

**V. Maintain a Friendship Relationship.**

- A There is a desperate need for families to spend time together.
- B In the Old Testament, Samuel was a great man of God, but his sons were evil.

These foundations for strong families are deceptively simple. One might ask the obvious question, "Why isn't every family a strong and happy one?"