

Introduction: The secret to a lasting relationship

Hollywood's prescription for lasting relationships:

4 steps to follow!

1. _____ the right person.
2. _____ in love.
3. _____ your hopes and dreams on this person for your future fulfillment.
4. If _____ occurs, repeat steps 1, 2, and 3.

The success rate:

The pain, the fall-out, and the damage:

God's prescription for lasting relationships:

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NASB)

4 steps to follow!

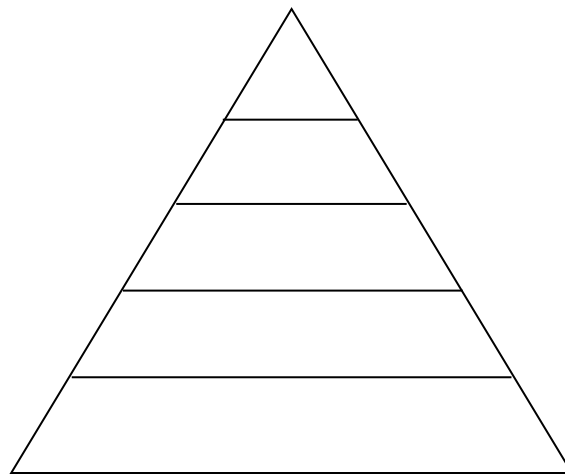
1. _____ the right person.
2. _____ in love.
3. _____ your hope on God and seek to please Him through this relationship.
4. If _____ occurs, repeat steps 1, 2, and 3.

The success rate:

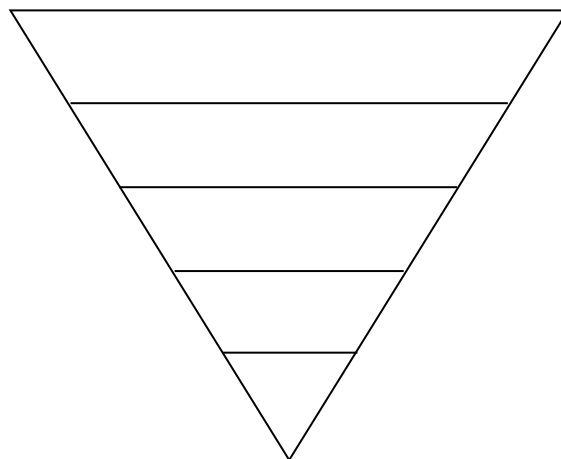
The reward, the legacy, and the blessing:

Pictorial Summary: 2 models for lasting relationships

Model #1: God's Prescription



Model #2: Hollywood's Formula:



Biblical Summary:

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

Personal evaluation and analysis:

1. Which triangle most represents your approach to building lasting relationships?
2. What would you like your present and/or future relationships to look like; model #1 or model #2?
3. What specific steps do you need to take to begin implementing **God's secret** to lasting relationships?
4. A word to . . .
 - . . . uninvolved singles.
 - . . . involved singles.
 - . . . divorced/widowed.
 - . . . married couples.

Reference: Judith Wallerstein & Mavis Hetherington – University of Virginia
U.S. News Weekly