Sit down at the feet of Mr. Gaugolf Bauer, 88, and his wife, 84 years old. They celebrated last week at their home in Glenview, Illinois, 65 years of happy married life—something to celebrate, these days, you'll agree. Someone got Mr. and Mrs. Bauer to talk. Here are the dozen rules they give for a successful marriage:

1. "Don't expect more of marriage than you are willing to put into it." Selfishness lies at the bottom of plenty of divorces labeled "incompatibility," "mental cruelty," etc., etc., --selfishness that determines to get whatever its greedy eye rests pleasantly upon. Selfishness is a slime that prevents true union with anyone. If you habitually "get the worst" out of your relationships with other people, if you are petty, moody, crabby, ornery, if you "give" at such a high rate of interest that nobody can repay you, you are selfish; and, unless you change, you will make a poor mate.

2. "Keep the old-fashioned virtues shined up." Truthfulness will make you and her trust each other. Honesty will help out the grocer and butcher. Kindness will not only make the wife bear up but it often keep the neighbors from calling in the police.

3. "Have a religion and live up to it." Where is there another unfailing principle of conjugal fidelity, of unselfishness, of honesty? How else brings God's indispensable blessing upon the home? With what other force meet sickness, death, disappointment, want?

4. "Hang on to your sense of humor; you'll need it." It will help you recover from early-morning disillusionments. And when the world, or your wife, laughs at you, you will be able to join in on the laugh.

5. "Overlook your partner's faults; you have plenty, too." Let your wife do her own reforming. You'll have more time to do a better job on yourself.

6. "Be patient." Mr. and Mrs. Bauer know, after 65 years, that most fussing and fuming and worrying is so much energy lost.

7. "Look upon your marriage as something growing and permanent." Be sure that your prospective partner looks on it the same way, or her lawyer's may afterwards give you considerable difficulty.

8. "Put down roots; own your own home"—that is, own it unless someone insists on mortgaging your soul because you buy it.

9. "Don't marry too young." It becomes comfortable to have a little food in the pantry even if you're sure that the two of you can live simply on love. She'll wait if she really loves you, and if she doesn't, it's just as well that she hurry along some other victim.

10. "Raise a family." Even in this advanced age, that is still the primary purpose of marriage. And it is not to be artificially and criminally deferred because you want to attend more cocktail parties or have more elegant furniture or a ritzier home or a costlier automobile.

11. "Try to avoid a one-room kitchenette apartment." Otherwise, you'll find difficulties with Rule No. 10.

12. "Marriage is a partnership, but the man should be the senior partner. Or the woman should make him think that he is." Mrs. Bauer must have had her little laugh at that. And it didn't offend Mr. Bauer; and it won't offend you to accept this doctrine of Christ.