

LEAVE FATHER & MOTHER, AGE & MATURITY

Ephesians 5:31 "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Before sin entered into the human race, two commands were given to Adam:

- (1) Genesis 2:7
- (2) Get in-laws out of marriage

God was looking down the corridor of time.

The bride and groom are to separate physically, emotionally, and financially from their parents.

There is a welding together so that there can be a taking apart.

Age in marriage -- Must be mature enough

Statistically -- 26 best age for women
27-31 best age for men

Fewer divorces result.

Getting married in the will of God is the key. As Eve was brought to Adam, so God will provide the right woman for the right man.

THE HUSBAND'S ROLE

Ephesians 5:22, 25 Husbands lead and love.
Wives submit.

The husband becomes the custodian or Lord of her soul, as well as her body.

As a husband loves his wife, the more submissive she will become.

You do not demand submission. (Romans 12:1)
Christ beseeches the believer on the basis of what he has done for us. (fair trade)

Agape love is divine, stable, unselfish.
It is the love produced by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22, 23)

It is love expressed in word and action, which motivates the one being loved to give of herself in return.

"Submit" is a military term. It means "to move in an organized manner; to fulfill an assigned role as a help meet."

Submission is the most important gift a wife can give her husband.

Too many men are unable to love. They marry to get, not to give.

(Contrast Phileo and Eros to Agape.)

She surrenders her freedom for his love, adoration, protection, and provision, as the Church does to Christ.

THE WOMAN'S ROLE

The wife is to respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)

Reverence = Respect

It is difficult for a woman to respect her husband if the husband does not act respectable.

For the man to stand before the Lord not respectable failing to be the illustration to his wife as a submissive Bride to Christ, how can he demand her to respect and submit to him? He can't.

She must see something that is worthy of respect.

This is her full time job -- to please her husband.

The man has so many interests and many things to occupy himself.

Her job is simple -- she seeks to please him.

Men have failed so miserably that the term "housewife" symbolizes unfulfillment, inferiority, and insignificance, etc....

Many women in their frustration have moved in the direction of Women's Lib.

THE WORD OF GOD & PRAYER

Spend time with the Word and in prayer.

It's not a matter of my way or your way, but a matter of His way.

We jump first and think later.

Don't impose your will on God or each other.

The Word of God provides that spiritual foundation. (Matt. 4:4; Psalm 119: 9, 11; Psalm 1; Prov. 3:5,6)

Prayer -- Phil. 4:6,7
James 1: 5,6

If your hearts are opened before the Lord in prayer before each other, how can you fight?

Acknowledge your failure with each other before the Lord.

Use the Father as a stepping stone to success.

Your failure to read the Word and hear the Word as you are now, means you are neglecting to expose your thinking to God-given formulas to make your marriage a success.

Build your house upon Christ.

Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

COMMUNICATION

TV -- The thief in the night.

1 Peter 3:7,8 "Ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife and be ye of one mind."

Philippians 2:5 -- The Bible is the Mind of Christ.

I Corinthians 2:16 -- Communication and fellowship are the key to success in the Christian life.

A communication breakdown is the major problem. She becomes distantly nice.

Christ looks at the Church as a prized possession. He gave His all to redeem her.

Keep the communication line open.

Some have suggested that the TV should be sold or thrown out for at least one year. It is a thief in the night. It steals moments that could be spent with your wife; and later, your family.

Many families have lost the art of communication.

The home has become a motel, as we all bow to the shrine of TV and fight oft times over what program will be on.

CONFLICTS

Never go to bed with a conflict.

Ephesians 4:26,32 "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath...Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."

Communication will be lost, for we are still sinners and possess the old sin nature.

Colossians 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them."

Resentment will turn to bitterness.

Hebrews 13:13,15 -- A failure to move out for Christ and live in the light of his gracious provision results in a root of bitterness springing up, and many will be defiled. (Meino)

Meino: Two people on their way to a special occasion...chamber pot is dumped on one..."He stinketh."

I John 1:9

It's the little things that aggravate us:

- One may roll the toothpaste up neatly, the other strangles it.
- One may want the toilet paper to roll off the top, the other wants it to roll off the bottom.
- Where the phone book should be...etc.

\$\$\$MONEY\$\$\$

Money has been listed as a common problem in marriages.

One's attitude toward money is the problem.

Jesus said (Matt. 19:23,24) that a rich man shall hardly enter into heaven.

Money makes us independent. And we are told to take care of our family. (I Tim. 4:8)

If a man provides not for his own house he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.

I am talking about attitude.

Hebrews 13:5,6 "Let your life be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have, for he hath said, I will never leave thee for forsake thee. So we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

I Timothy 6:6-10 (Vs. 9) "But they that will be rich fall into many foolish and hurtful lusts."

Wives, don't set your material goals so high that it will take your husband all of his life while working two jobs to obtain all that you want.

"Life does not consist of the abundance of the things a man possesses." (Luke 12:15).

**AND NOW THAT YOU, ____ & ____, HAVE COME TO PLEDGE TO EACH THE OTHER YOUR UNDYING DEVOTION AS YOU ASSUME THE GOD-ORDAINED ROLES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE, YOU HENCEFORTH WILL NO LONGER BE TWAIN BUT ONE FLESH.

**THE CONTRACT THAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER INTO IS NOT ONLY A LEGAL CONTRACT, BUT A BOND OF UNION MADE IN HEAVEN UNTIL DEATH DO PART.

**WHO GIVETH THIS WOMAN TO BE MARRIED TO THIS MAN?

**WILL YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD AND JOIN YOUR RIGHT HANDS?

**WILT THOU, ____, TAKE ____ TO BE THY WEDDED WIFE, TO LIVE TOGETHER AFTER GOD'S ORDINANCE IN THE HOLY STATE OF MATRIMONY? WILT THOU LOVE, HONOR, AND CHERISH HER IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, BE TRUE AND LOYAL TO HER, AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?

**WILT THOU, ____, TAKE ____ TO BE THY WEDDED HUSBAND, TO LIVE TOGETHER AFTER GOD'S ORDINANCE IN THE HOLY STATE OF MATRIMONY? WILT THOU LOVE, HONOR, AND CHERISH HIM IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, BE TRUE AND LOYAL TO HIM, AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?

**MAY THE CIRCLE OF THIS RING TYPIFY YOUR UNENDING HAPPINESS, AND MAY THE TRIANGLE FORMED IN ITS PASSING, ONE TO ANOTHER, AND THEN TO YOU, SIGNIFY THAT TRIUNE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM WHO REIGNS ABOVE WHERE ALL TRUE MARRIAGES ARE MADE.

**YOU WILL JOIN YOUR RIGHT HANDS. FOR AS MUCH THEN, AS YOU ____ AND YOU, ____, HAVE CONSENTED TOGETHER IN HOLY WEDLOCK, AND HAVE PLEDGED YOUR UNDYING DEVOTION TO EACH OTHER, I THEREFORE, MINISTERING IN GOD'S NAME, AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE, PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE. WHAT, THEREFORE, GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER.