



The Husband & Wife: A Marriage Built by God

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Introduction



Marriage is a beautiful,
God-given gift.

Genesis 2:18, 20-25 (ESV)

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." . . .

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)

⁴ He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Sadly, we live in a time
in which the marriage relationship
is often viewed
as a temporary arrangement
with no real honor.

Stats on Marriage

- Approx. 20 million Americans are currently divorced.
- 41% of first marriages, 60% of second, and 73% of third marriages end in divorce. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006)
- About 75% of those who divorce will eventually remarry.

There are three keys
to a successful marriage.



The marriage relationship
is equivalent to Christ's
relationship with His bride,
the church.

Ephesians 5:22-27 (ESV)

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. . . .

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Marriage Principles

- ◆ Submission
- ◆ Selflessness
- ◆ Sacrifice
- ◆ Sanctification

A meaningful prayer-life
is essential in maintaining
a Christ-centered home.

Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The family
that prays together,
stays together!

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



Marriages must have
a committed love.

John 16:33 (ESV)

³³ "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Eph. 5:25, 28-29, 33 (ESV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ... ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ... ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Hardships and
heart-wrenching times
will come in your marriage.



Marriages that lack
an iron-willed determination
to stick it out at all costs are like
the fragile Roman bridges.

Love is an action,
not a gooshy,
erratic feeling!



Marriages must have
clear communication.

The inability or unwillingness of husbands to reveal their feelings to their wives is one of the common complaints of women.

The solution to such communicative problems at home is compromise.

Time must be reserved
for meaningful
conversations.



Three-step Couple's Dialogue

◆ **Paraphrasing**

“What I hear you saying is ... Is that right?”

“Is there anything else?”

◆ **Validating**

“What you’re saying makes sense because...”

◆ **Empathizing**

“I imagine that makes you feel...”



Conclusion

Three keys to a successful marriage are...

- ◆ Christ-Centeredness
- ◆ Committed Love
- ◆ Clear Communication



Sticking to the three keys
requires sacrifice, sweat and
tears.



