

## MARRIAGE: GROWING IN ONENESS

**Introduction:** There are all kinds of wedding ceremonies but the end result is that two people, a man and a woman pledge their lives to each other and promise to live together till death parts them. Looking at couples at a shopping mall one sees many phases of marriage. Some newly weds, some with children, some with grown children, some whose children have children of their own and so now they are grandparents. What makes it possible for couples to make it together for all those years when some don't even last two years?

### I. "TO HAVE AND TO HOLD TILL DEATH DO US PART..."

Ceremonies vary, but all have the usual vows including those words "to have and to hold till death do us part." These are words of commitment for life but sadly more than 50% of those repeating those promises to each other break that promise and divorce.

#### 1. What is the Role Model for the Husband? (*Ephesians 5:25*)

- Jesus did not insist on keeping things as they were back home.
- Jesus did everything necessary to keep the Church pure and beautiful. (*Ephesians 5:27*)
- Jesus helped the Church feel secure and needed. (*Matthew 16:18-19*)
- Men are to:
  - Be willing to change to the needs of their own home.
  - Be willing to put the wife's needs as a major priority.
  - Be willing to do everything to make the wife feel secure and needed.

#### 2. What is the Role Model for the Wife? (*Ephesians 5:22*)

- What woman would not hesitate to submit to a husband who treated her like Jesus treated His Church?
- *Ephesians 5:33* - Does not respect have to be earned?
  - It does not mean to point out all the faults of the husband.
- A helper for her husband! A companion, a partner.

#### 3. What is the Common Ground that Makes for Oneness?

- Is it a 50-50 agreement/proposition?
  - No! *Ephesians 5:21* - be subject to each other.
  - *Ephesians 5:31* - "Leave and Cleave!"

## II. "FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE"

- "Birds of feather flock together, opposites attract...."
  - Are marriages like this?
- "Pastor, we just can't get along, we're so different, or we're too much alike..."
- The basic problem in marriage is dealing with each other's differences.

### 1. Why Must it Always be Worse?

- There is an overemphasis on the "worse."
- Reactions to one another (burnt toast or late for dinner, etc.)
- The difference between war and peace is what is being emphasized the most - the good or the bad.

### 2. How Can it be Better?

- Emphasize the good, not the bad.
- Communicate - talk, be interested in what each other does during the day
- Bragg on one another, touch one another, give a wink, a smile, a hug, a pat.
- Ask yourself, "what can I do today to make him/her happy?"

## III. "FOR RICHER OR FOR POORER"

- Money has an effect on our lives from birth to death.
- Next to sex, money affects our marriages more than anything.

### 1. It Isn't the Amount so Much, It's How You Spend it.

- What is important differs with each person.
  - Being tight can be a desire for security.
  - Being a spendthrift can be a desire to have.
- Marriage problems occur over HOW money is to be spent.
  - For clothes or for a car, etc.

### 2. When Making Money Isn't Really Worth It.

- Just can't live on one income, need 2 jobs and the wife one job.
- A pressure to HAVE. A shorter workweek hasn't brought the family together but it has given time for a second job.
- Is it worth it? Taxes, added bills, baby setter, etc.
- Remember the old song: "We ain't got a barrel of money, maybe we're ragged and funny, but we travel along, singing our song, SIDE BY SIDE..."

### 3. When Unexpected Things Change the Finances.

- The most unsure part of the vow is "in sickness and in health."
- Sickness can drive couples apart or bring them closer together.

- It can be the blame or be the strength.
- Gripe at the bills or see the money going for the one you love.

#### **4. Money Can be a Positive Factor in Oneness.**

- When it's US and not ME!

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Marriage is God's plan for people.
2. Marriage will work IF people will follow God's guidelines.
3. The husband and the wife each have their own God designed duties, purposes in a marriage.
4. Marriage is NOT what most young couples think it is going to be like.
5. Give serious thought young people for marriage is a life time commitment according to God's rules.
6. Those who have been married for many years, look back through those years and see how you adjusted to each other and to the events that have happened.
7. Someone once said of a couple who had been married for many years, "they're even beginning to look like each other...."