

## ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE

Genesis 2:21-24; Ephesians 5:22-33

(This is for husbands and wives)

**Introduction:** "And they lived happily ever after..." Fairy tale marriages are like that. Every woman wants to have the ideal husband and every man wants to have the ideal wife. Does it happen? Many think when they get married that they have the ideal partner but as time goes on things go wrong. Is it really possible to have the ideal husband/wife? Some marriages seem to say so and God says that it can happen.

### I. MARRIAGE IS DIFFICULT

1. Centuries have proven this to be so true.
2. Individuals are different.
3. There was a time when the "Women's Liberation" movement was very strong and very opinionated about "marriage."
4. As there is a difference between night and day, Heaven and hell, so are there differences in marriages.
5. Why is marriage so difficult for so many? Men and women violate God's plan for marriage.
6. God's plan is that one mate in marriage is incomplete without the other.
7. What one mate lacks the other has.
8. That's the way God made man and woman, what one lacks, the other has, it's God's plan for marriage.
9. Marriage is not an INSTANT oneness, it takes time to mold two lives together into one.
10. Marriage is not about changing each other, but about adjusting to each other.

### II. GOD'S ROLE FOR THE WIFE

1. Discuss Sarah and Abraham's marriage, how they looked to God.
2. The wife puts her faith in and "submission" to God first.
3. If your marriage needs help, then do it God's way.
4. Spasmodic, occasional submission is not God's way nor faith.
5. God's way is not to try to change the husband, but to love, respect, admire and enjoy him.
6. The wife is to be willing to submit to God's plan for her part in the marriage to work.
7. It is wrong for the wife to assume "head" of the family, regardless of the situation.
8. "Wrong" leadership can be worse than NO leadership.
9. God's plan for a marriage cannot work if the wrong person is "head" of the family.
20. Sarah trusted God, not Abraham.
21. FOOTNOTE:
  - God's plan changes for no one.
  - Wife, examine your submission - why, if any.
  - Trust God and submit to your husband.
  - Don't try to manipulate but enjoy your husband.

### III. GOD'S ROLE FOR THE HUSBAND

1. The husband is instantly the head of the family by God's command.
2. Sadly, some husbands don't act like it - (describe)
3. The first command to the husband is to LOVE as Christ loves, at all times, all conditions, etc.

4. It is an awesome responsibility for the husband - as Christ is head of the Church, the husband is to be head of his wife.
5. Christ NEVER forces obedience, so it is with the husband - wife - NO FORCE.
6. No husband can be head of his wife by God's plan without yielding to Christ first.
7. It is one thing to love friends, etc., but it is another to love one's wife, her mistakes, etc. hard to do.
8. The husband is to initiate "love" and the wife is to be the one to submit. Husbands are to love FIRST.
9. It is a common fault among husbands to not know their wives needs for they see only a small percent of the wives' capability of love.
10. Most of the needs a wife has is not some major thing but they are "little" things.
11. Husbands, what you sow, you reap!

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Now then MEN, look at your wives! God has given her all the things you need. God says to love her and you are responsible for her. She is one half of you.
2. Now Ladies, look at your husbands! God says "submit" to him, respect, love, enjoy him, and in faith look to God for help. Is God asking too much of you to do this?
3. Husbands, Wives, submit to God and your marriage can be out of this world.
4. Now Husbands, give your other half, your wife a kiss!