

ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS ONE

Genesis 2:21-24 Ephesians 5:22-23

Introduction: We have all heard of "fairy tale" marriages where two wonderful people have a beautiful wedding, ride off and live happily ever after. The term "fairy tale" has been used to describe an impossible marriage. According to marriage statistics of today the rate of successful marriages, couples that do not separate or divorce is not all that good. So, is it really possible to have a "fairy tale" marriage? GOD SAYS WE CAN.

I. MARRIAGE IS DIFFICULT

1. There has been marriage problems ever since there has been marriage.
2. The natural addition in marriage is 1 plus 1 equals 2. Two separate people coming together in marriage BUT remaining "separate" during marriage.
3. God's addition in marriage is 1 plus 1 equals 1.
4. Some marriages are like Heaven on earth while some marriages are Hell on earth. What is the difference?
5. Almost all weddings take place in a church sanctuary, a chapel or some place that has an atmosphere of "holiness." That is about as far as many get in involving "holiness" in their marriage. God is never consulted before, afterwards, or during marriage.
6. God made man for a reason. God gave us marriage for a reason. God gave us marriage instructions for a reason.
7. ADJUSTMENTS, not changes are what God's guidelines are all about in a marriage and make it work.

II. GOD HAS A GUIDELINE FOR THE WIFE

1. Abraham and Sara both looked to God FIRST.
2. ***Ephesians 5:22-24***. Faith in God first will bring a wife to see God's viewpoint for her and help her to ALLOW her husband to be what God wants him to be in their marriage.
3. It is NOT God's desire that the wife assume the leadership role in the marriage, no matter what. "Wrong" in God's eyes is worse than "Not at all."
4. God does not work through the WRONG person in a marriage, not the wife, sorry.

5. Sara trusted God, not so much her husband, but allowed Abraham to account to God for his actions as a husband and head of the family.
6. WIFE - God has not changed His guidelines. Examine your attitude toward your husband. Is it what God wants? Don't "manipulate" your husband. OBEY the Lord's guidelines and enjoy your husband, let him be accountable to God for your marriage.

III. GOD'S GUIDELINE FOR THE HUSBAND

1. The husband is the IMMEDIATE head of the family in God's eyes.
2. Some husbands don't want to be the head of the family and some wives don't want the husband to be the head of the family either. Both are contrary to God's will.
3. It is an AWESOME responsibility to be the head of a family.
4. *Ephesians 5:26-33*. Jesus Christ is head of the Church but there are responsibilities spread throughout the Church (also the Family) with each person doing his/her God designated part and all done in Love.
5. The HUSBAND must be obedient to Christ FIRST and out of love then acts on behalf of his wife, just as Christ does His Church.
 - The husband is to LOVE first and then the wife receives his love. The husband gives out of love. The husband provides what his wife needs.
6. God's math, one plus one equals one leaves no room in a marriage for two separate leaders.

CONCLUSION:

1. HUSBANDS, look at your wives. God has given to her all the things YOU need. God says to love her. In God's eyes you are responsible for her total welfare. She is 1/2 of God's "1" in your marriage.
2. WIVES, look at your husbands. God says to allow him to be the head of the family and to respect him, love him, enjoy him and he has all the things YOU need. He is 1/2 of the "1" in your marriage.
3. BOTH of you submit yourselves to God and His guidelines and your marriage can be a "fairy tale" marriage, Heaven on Earth.