
You Are Married

Radio Message by Dwight Porter

Everybody is doing it! Yes, we have taken the fatal plunge! So you are getting married! Chances are that most of you reading this message have been married more than once. Some of you are going to try it again. Others of you are looking forward to marriage for the first time and with God's help you intend to have a happy home. It will not be automatic for both partners will have to work at it daily.

The most precious relationship we have this side of Heaven is in our homes. There is not a more intimate relationship in this world than between husband and wife. Some may say, "I have not found it to be so." If this is your experience, I am indeed sorry to hear about your problem. Your marriage need not remain a disappointment.

If an infinite God is to communicate infinite Truth to fallen, finite creatures, how is He going to do it? He must use finite terms that we can comprehend. How can He convey to us a description of His love and longing to have fellowship with us as finite creatures? He chooses the closest and most precious union this side of Heaven, that of a husband and wife in the marriage relationship.

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:21-25).

NOT MAN'S IDEA

God Almighty originated marriage. To ignore this fact is to forfeit the greatest pleasure upon the face of the earth. There is no substitute for this satisfaction. If your marriage ends in frustration, you can be absolutely sure that everything else will conclude in the same fashion. This is the reason good business executives check into the homes of their future employees. If a husband or wife will cheat on one another, they have no moral principles whatsoever. The home is a Divine institution. It is God's plan, not man's idea. 'God hath setteth the solitary in families' (Psalms. 68:6).

He created a man who needed a help meet and God supplied the same. 'And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.' (Genesis 2:18). Not a help eat; but a help meet. God knew the social and physical needs of a man; so He declared that it is not good for a man to live without a wife. God also knew the needs of the women He created to assist man. The wife is to complete the husband, which is her one God given task. Wife, be sure you are helping your husband by direct acts, motivated by love. Husband, be sure you indicate needs to your wife and also your appreciation for her assistance. This is the reason you are together. It is God's plan. 'And Adam said, 'This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:23, 24).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, endorsed God's principle of marriage. "And he answered and said unto them, 'Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be of one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6).

How dare we look on marriage as something expedient? It is a Holy and Divine institution. How can we possibly enter into it by a trial and error method? It is a marriage that motivates the young man or woman to leave their parents and cleave to one another. Many couples do not practice this. They cling to mother and father and not in wild abandonment give themselves to each other. To disobey God's plain instruction leads only to chaos and frustration.

Have you stopped to realize that marriage is the oldest human institution? Marriage, God's plan for the man and woman, was begun by God Himself in the Garden of Eden. God instituted human government after the flood; so it is not as old as marriage.

DO AND DON'T

Do recognize basic differences. The husband usually approaches life from the level of cold reason. The wife lives more in her affections and emotions. Failure to understand this basic difference is responsible for much tension and friction in households. Thus the reason for Colossians 3:19 that states, 'Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.' Listen to I Peter 3:7, 'Likewise, ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel. And as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.'

The best advice that I can give a husband and wife is this: Do not try to make your partner over. You will never make it. The Lord does not expect you to be alike nor did He make you that way. (How boring this would be.)

Do be open and honest with one another. All annoyances should be made known and dealt with. Do not keep any attitude of resentment to yourself. Most personal frustrations stems from wounded pride, a sense of inadequacy, inferiority, a sense of fear, physical fatigue and run down condition, a deep sorrow that has caused bitterness through the years, and loneliness. Genuine love communicates for the benefit of the other partner. Such is received and considered with a desire to please your lover. Be sure your husband knows the thought of your heart toward him. Do not allow your wife to have anxious moments concerning your attitude toward her. Be wide open about everything in your relationship. To the wife, the most important person in the home, is her husband. The husband has one supreme task, to love and provide for his wife. How sad is the home where the wife or the husband demands the home to center around themselves.

Do forget past faults. Do not go over them. Forgive and forget! Spend your time and energy on the present and future. For a return to anything in the past is wasted time and effort. Your future is as bright as the promises of God. Don't tell family secrets. Have a personal intimacy between you that no one else ever invades. If your burden must be shared with someone, go to a dependable Pastor or his wife or someone who will keep your confidence and give you wise counsel. Be sure your counselor is successful in the area of your need.

An unknown author has given us eleven rules for a happy marriage. Notice them carefully:

1. Don't ever both be angry at the same time.
2. Never talk at one another, either alone or in company.
3. Never speak loudly to one another, unless the house is on fire.
4. Never find fault unless it is perfectly certain that a fault has been committed, and always speak lovingly.
5. Never taunt a mistake.
6. Never make a remark at the expense of each other,
7. Never part for a day without loving words to think of during the absence.
8. Never meet without a loving welcome.
9. Never let any fault that you have committed go by, until you have frankly confessed it and asked forgiveness.
10. Never forget those happy hours of early love.
11. Never sigh over what might have been, but make the best of what is. Marriage brings together two people with completely different backgrounds. All at once they are together for 24 hours of each day (except for work). The adjustment to each other calls for much

understanding and patience. Conflicts will come. When they do, get them in the open and deal with the issues. Serious trouble is coming for certain, if issues are not openly dealt with.

Here are some don'ts:

1. Don't become discouraged over conflict. Your love is not changed by it. You will both be wiser for the exchange. It will bring you to greater dependence upon the Lord to assist you.
2. Don't become moody, bad-tempered, irritable or have an anger tantrum. This simply reveals a selfish spirit, a closed and immature mind.
3. Don't sulk or pout.
4. Don't evade conflict. Face it squarely, frankly and fearlessly. It will become a means of growth in your marriage.
5. Don't keep talking if you are angry.
6. Don't scold, nag, or carry grudges nor compete with your loved one in irritability.

BIBLE DIRECTIVES

You will be no exception. You do not stand a chance of a successful and mutually satisfying relationship unless you practice the directives of the Bible. Remember the final authority in your home. It is the husband! "Unto the woman, he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow that shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (Genesis 3:16). This was spoken to the wife after her sin in the Garden of Eden. Wives, you are to be consulted with, but the final decision and responsibility is left with the husband. Let him have it. If he make a mistake, he is the one who will have to admit it to you. Let him rule your home. This is the Bible way. You are to be in subjection to him. Read Ephesians 5:21-25, already written out in this message.

Husbands, God has plainly declared your responsibility. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord, the church. Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband" (Ephesians 5:25, 28, 29, 33).

Parents, you are to maintain absolute control over your children. It is your responsibility that the children of your union obey completely. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honour thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise. That is may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4).

It is true that you do not have to attend church. It is also true that your children can survive without spiritual training in a Bible preaching church. You can laugh at the statement, "The family that prays together, stays together." The God, who maintains absolute control over all things, will not force his blessings and provisions upon you. If you want to go it alone, this is your privilege. Call on me when things begin to come apart at the seams and I will go over these same Bible principles. You will be no exception! They will work for you! The neglect of Bible directions will place you beyond its promises and blessing of a God who has declared, "If you will draw nigh to Him, He will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8).

SECRET OF SUCCESS

In order for Christ to dwell in your home, He must be in your heart and life. First He must be your Saviour. We all need to be rescued from our personal sin. This is the reason for Christ leaving the glories of Heaven and coming down to the sorrow of the earth. "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). It makes no difference how bad a sinner you might be. All of us need a Saviour. If you are honest in your repentance, if you really want to turn your heart away

from sin and desire Christ to forgive your sins and save you, He will do it. You must trust Him to do according to His promise.

Genuine happiness in the home depends largely upon the relationship between husband and wife. I have a verse for every couple. Listen to it carefully. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31,32).

Remember, Jesus Christ can never live in your home if He does not live within your heart. Mothers and fathers, put Christ first in your lives. Get that Bible out and read it together. Set aside time every day when your entire family can get down on their knees for a time of prayer. Ask God to make you the father and the mother He intends you to be. If your desire is bent in this direction and you pray and study the Bible for Divine leadership, and depend upon God's power to make you what you ought to be, what a change in your life and home God can bring to pass. He is looking for just one member of your family He can control. Will you be that person so surrendered to His will?

Yes, you can go it alone and forget God and His Word and the accomplishment of His Plan in your home. Before the Lord can change your home and marriage, He must change you! Acknowledge your personal failures and turn to God in Repentance and trust the Blood of Christ to cleanse your heart and make you a new person. Believe God to give you power to obey His Word and make you the person that He intends you to be in your home. Don't wait for a change in your partner. Let God start the change within your life. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-16).

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). Find a place of prayer and be honest before the Lord. Pour out your heart to Him. Believe Him for Divine intervention in your home. Don't wait for trouble to come. Trust Him to give you the happy marriage He has promised. God does it through the husband and wife! These are the two making up your marriage.

If I can be of further assistance to you in any way, feel free to contact me.

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PO Box 5900
Titusville, FL 32783-5900
www.thehourofgraceandpower.org