



MARRIAGE IN GOD'S WAY (Gen. 2:21-25)

21) *And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he sleep: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof:*

22) *And the rib which the Lord had taken from Adam, made He a woman, and brought her unto him.*

23) *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*

24) *Therefore, shall a man leave his father and mother: and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

25) *and they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*



2 becoming 1 (Marriage union)

$$1+1=1$$

$$1/2 + 1/2 = 1$$

It is the coming together of 2 people of opposite sex, with a view of building a God - Centered home.

HIGH LEVEL RELATIONSHIP

One man, one woman: it involves a high level of relationship with each other, than with any other person on earth.

LEAVE, CLEAVE & WEAVE

(Gen. 2:24) Therefore shall A man leave is father and his mother and cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh.

It is a union of Spirit, Soul and Body.

(FELLOWSHIP, INTIMACY & UNION)

BETTER WAY OF LIVING

When a man and a woman come together as husband and wife, they are expected to have entered a better way of living.

(Eccl. 4:9) 2 are better than 1; because they have a good reward for their labor.

GOD CAREFULLY PUT MARRIAGE TOGETHER

God carefully put marriage together step by step. He did not speak it into being as he did the beast of the field and the fowls of the air.

GOD PLACED VALUE ON MARRIAGE INSTITUTION

Right from creation, God demonstrated His interest in the value placed on the marriage institution.

LET GOD TRUST YOU

(Genesis 18:19) For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS ITS ROOT IN DIVINITY

God put man to sleep and from his side took a rib and formed the woman. Not stopping there, God took the woman by the hand and led her to Adam. Therefore,

marriage is a unique relationship, having its root in divinity.

(Gen. 2:22) *And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*



PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

God has a purpose for marriage, and until that purpose is discovered and applied, it does not produce fulfillment.

Marriage should be treated reverently, honorably and respectfully.

God designed it to bring honor, pleasure and satisfaction.

EXAMPLE: SOUP, the excellent taste of every soup is determined by how it is prepared.

It is not enough to have all the required ingredients; you must know how to correctly put them together before you can get the desired taste.

The same is true for marriage. What your marriage turns out to be depends on how you make it. It is therefore your responsibility to make it work.



FOUNDED ON GOD

(Eccl.4:12b) ... *and a threefold cord is not quickly or easily broken.*

When a home is not founded upon God, the joy, excitement and satisfaction the couple had at the outset is short-lived, and it soon wears off. When the home is built upon God, your excitement and satisfaction increase as the years go by, making the relationship go from good to better and from better to best.

RESPONSIBILITY

The woman becomes the responsibility of the man. She is created for, cherished and nourished by him. The husband brings in the material things, while she puts them together, making their home a place of glory. Both put in their TIME, STRENGTH, MONEY etc. to ensure that their home is built.

BENEFITS OF MARRIAGE

God designed marriage to involve the Spirit, Soul and Body, so that the blessings marriage carries is expected to affect your spirit soul and body.

A) SPIRITUAL STRENGTH: Two of them brought together in warfare against the devil, will cause ten thousand devils to flee. (Deut. 32:30) *how should one chase 1000 and two put*

10,000 to flight. (Eph 5: 15-16) ..., do not walk as fools but as wise.

Redeeming the time for the days are evil.

B) PRAYER POWER: marriage offers the couple unity. When they offer prayers to God on any issue at all, he honors their request. Why?

(Matt 18:19) if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my father which is in heaven.

If they agree, there is tremendous power released, but if they disagree, their prayers are hindered.

(1Peter 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.

C) DIVINE FAVOR (Prov. 18:22): *Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing and obtaineth favor of the LORD.*

The favor of God elevates you to such great heights that man began to envy you. You become a reference point of a good marriage.

Favor terminates struggle. favor will take you where labor cannot take you. You achieve almost effortlessly.

D) COMPANIONSHIP: (Prov 27:17) *Iron sharpeneth iron; so, a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*

Husband and wife will enjoy greeter light when they put heads together to make decision affecting their family.

One iron coming together can sharpen each other. This provision works when you are united as a couple. (1peter 3:8) *Finally be ye all of one mind.*

Example of the Tower of Babel.

E) DIVINE SECURITY: (Eccl 4:12). *If one prevail against him, two shall withstand him, and a threefold circle is not quickly broken.*

F) FRUIT OF THE WOMB: They have a good reward for their labor (Eccl. 4:9) *One of such reward is the fruit of the womb.*

(Ps. 127:3) *Lo children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

(Gen. 1:26-28) *The marriage union is expected to produce children, that was God's plan from the beginning.*

G) DIVINE PRESENCE: (Eccl. 4:11) *if two lie together, then they have heat.*

The devil is looking for ' cold homes'. When there is fighting, discord, selfishness, quarreling and unforgiveness, the home can be said to be cold.

When there is love, understanding and harmony in a home, God reward it with the warmth of His presence and peace, that burns off the attacks of the devil which could cause tension.

(Ps. 16:11) *For in His presence is fullness of Joy and at his right hand there is pleasure for ever more.*

(Prov. 26:20) *The man and his wife must keep adding wood to their home, to ensure that the fire there never goes out .*

H) LIFTING BY MEN: It is an established fact that even the society honor the married. For instance, once you are married, you are entitled to certain jobs and key positions because you are regarded as being responsible. Even if the woman is young of about 20, the mere fact that she is married earns her respect and certain benefits.

I) YOU NEVER FALL: (Eccl. 4:10). For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow.

J) PROTECTION FROM ENEMIES: (Gen. 33:4-5) Esau ran to meet him and braced him. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children. Abimelech, honored Abraham when he discovered that Sarah was his wife. As compensation, he offered Abraham his land to dwell in as he pleased. He gave him a thousand pieces of silver (Gen. 20: 15-16).

LIMITS DEATH WISH

When you begin to give birth, your insurance goes down. They believe you are more responsible, and you will hardly operate on death wish.

HOW DO YOU SEE MARRIAGE?

God designed marriage to work, but how you see it will determine whether it works for you or not.

You must agree with God that, when you enter holy matrimony, you are stepping into a better way of life.

Through God you'll get the understanding needed to make your marriage work. You must not exclude God in your marriage.

(Ps. 49:20) Man that is in honor, and understandeth not, is like the beast that perish.

LOVE

(1John 4:8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

One major requirement for making your marriage work is love. Love here is not optional, but mandatory.

This love does not have its origin in the world, but in GOD, for as God's word declares, **GOD IS LOVE**

HUSBAND LOVE YOUR WIFE

(EPH. 5:25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.

This is a commandment issued by God through Paul the Apostle. It is not an admonition or suggestion, but an instruction that must be obeyed. God makes it

mandatory for husbands to love their wives, sacrificially and unconditionally. Christ's love for the church is not only when she obeys Him, but even when she offends also.

(Rm.5:8) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

You must ask God to rekindle the love for your wife in your heart, particularly according to God's word, the love for one's wife must come after the love of God.

(Eph. 5:28-29) In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church.

Your love for your wife must be expressed because love is not love until it is expressed.



LOVING IN THOUGHTS

Love is essentially a matter of the heart that eventually finds expression through the mouth and by actions.

(Matt. 12:34) *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

Man initiate things and woman respond to them.

Husband, initiate the love relationship between you and your wife and she will respond to you. No woman hates to be loved. When you love your wife, you easily win her submission.



LOVING IN WORDS

I love you. Three short words, yet by them men and women come together to establish God's counsel on the earth. Often, however, these words are forgotten after the euphoria of the wedding ceremony is over.

Words are powerful, and saying " I love you " over and over again spices up the marriage. Just like it is necessary for rain to fall again and again for farmer to reap a bountiful harvest, so also is it necessary to say " I love you " over and over again.

The Bible points out voicing what you believe in your

heart in Rm. 10:10 (*For it is with your heart that you believe and are*

justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved)

Giving compliments, showing her love in your actions, touching her, giving her gifts are more ways you can show love to your wife.

HOW DID CHRIST LOVE (1 Corinth. 13:4-5)

Never jealous or envious

Never boast or proud

Not selfish, haughty or rude

Does not demand its own way

Not irritable or touchy

Does not hold grudges or notice when it's wronged

LEARNING SUBMISSION

(Eph 5:22) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husband as unto the LORD.

(Gen. 3:16) To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

(Eph. 5: 21-24) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Submission means willingly putting oneself under the authority of another.

When a woman purpose to willingly put herself under the control or authority of her husband, she is obeying God's command and she cannot miss her reward (prov. 13:13).



SUBMISSION IS OF THE HEART

The state of your heart determines the words of your mouth. Rebellious thoughts lead to rebellious acts. Therefore, submission must be in thought, word and action.



SUBMISSION BY YOUR WORDS

Right words spoken at the right time are of great value
(Prov. 25:11)



SUBMISSION IN YOUR ACTION

1Peter 3:4-6 (*Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

⁵*For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her LORD. You are her daughter if you do what is right and do not give way to fear)*

Is. 5:2 (*He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.)*

Heb. 11:11 (*And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.)*



BENEFITS OF SUBMISSION

- A) It wins a man's heart
- B) She will have a covering spiritually, financially and physically
- C) Submission always enthroned and promotes.
- D) Submission also triggers genuine care.
- E) It is also an avenue for fostering unity.



SUBMISSION IS A SEED

When a woman sows the seed of submission, she stands to reap a bountiful harvest of lifting and honor.

Before honor is humility (Prov. 25:33)



COMMUNICATION.

Communication has been defined as the art of passing across news, information, feeling or whatever to somebody etc.

There are different types of communication

- Vertical communication
- Horizontal communication
- Verbal communication

- Nonverbal communication - facial expression.

In marriage, just as in anything while we are here on this earth, **communication is very vital.**



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

You may not enjoy your marriage if you and your spouse don't know how to communicate effectively. It is like having gold in the garden and not knowing how to dig it out. The gold is there, but as long as it is not dug out, you cannot be enriched by it. The basis of any fruitful and lasting relationship is **effective communication.**

Example: God communicates with His servants that he could trust. God made marriage as an avenue for both husband and wife to find fulfillment and fulfillment comes when there is effective communication.



COMPONENTS OF COMMUNICATION

A. Trust: Openness and nothing to hide (Gen. 2:25) *and*

they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

B. Understanding: (Prov. 24:3) *Through wisdom is a house*

builder, and by understanding it is established.

Example: Abigail pacified David's anger against Nabal(the fool) Many homes have been destroyed because of misunderstanding.

(Prov. 13:15) *Good judgment wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful leads to their destruction.*

(Eph. 5:28) *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.*

He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

C. OPENNESS (Is. 58:7): Hide not thyself from thine own flesh



BENEFITS OF COMMUNICATION

- Intimacy
- Self-awareness and acceptance



ENHANCING COMMUNICATION

- Learning to listen
- Truthfulness

- **Correct Timing:** a word spoken in due season, how good is it. (Proverbs 15:23) *A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!*
- **Pleasing each other sacrificially.**
- **Do not forget the 1st person of the marriage (God)**



FASTING AND PRAYER

(1 Corinthians 7:3-5) *Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence and likewise, also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband and likewise, also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.*



FAMILY FINANCE

It is important to understand the place of money in marriage to avoid tension. (Eccl. 7:12) *For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense.*



GIVING

- Giving to God
- Giving to the Poor
- Giving to Men of God
- Giving to Parents



WORKS OF THE FLESH IN MARRIAGE

A) Slothfulness

B) Idolatry (1Sam. 15:23)- *stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry*

C) Anger (Eph. 4:26 KJV) - *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the Sun go down upon your wrath Example: boiling pot or hot bottle of coke.*

(Eph. 4:26 NLT) - *If you are angry, don't sin by nursing your grudge.*

Don't let the sun go down with you still angry, get over it quickly.

(Eph. 4:26-27) *For when you are angry, you give a mighty foothold to the devil.*

D) Complaints and criticism



KEYS TO TRIUMPH OVER THE FLESH

A) Prayer and fasting (Jude 20)- Building up yourself and Praying in Holy Ghost.

B) The word of God -(Ps. 119:11) *Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

C) Confessing the word of God

D) Word application (James 1: 22) - *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearer only.*



ANGER IS A KILLER

Example: Simeon and Levi who slew the men of Shechem because of their uncontrollable anger got a horrible sentence.

(Gen. 49: 5, 7) *Simeon and Levi are brethren curse be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.*

Anger must be dealt with squarely.

Anger puts asunder faster than fornication.

One may not kill physically, yet by angry words or even silence, you kill a person's spirit.

(Matt. 5:22) I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.



LET YOUR MIND STAY ON GOD

(Isaiah 26:3-4) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.



MAKE YOUR REQUEST KNOWN TO GOD IN PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION.

(Philippians 4:6-7) Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



BIBLE READINGS

- **(Genesis 1:26-28)** *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

- **(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)** *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth. Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they*

shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

- **(Matthew 19:3-6)** *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 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 one flesh? 6*
Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.
- **(Ephesians 5:20-33)** *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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*

savior 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; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 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: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.



LAWS OF MARRIAGE

1) Must be bible based.

2) Law of acceptance.

3) Law of conflict

a) Money

b) Sex

c) Parents