

WISDOM FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

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Gen 2:18

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

NIV

Prov 18:22

22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

NIV

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

1. Marriage is oneness.
2. Marriage is the blending of two hearts in love.
3. Marriage is the blending of two souls.

1 Cor 6:15-17

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

NIV

- Sex bonds two souls together.
- Sex was created by God to be experienced and enjoyed within marriage.
- Sex in marriage brings about a blending of the souls of the couple.

It is even more difficult to break the tie that exists between two virgins that married themselves. The bond of love is always two strong. No matter what they go through in marriage, they remain together. This is the reason God wants men and women to marry as virgins.

4. Marriage is the blending of two lives who grew up at different locations, environment, schools, had different acquaintances, relationships and parents with their different principles and values.

- A man's experiences and learning form his personality.

10 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT MARRIAGE

1. Your marriage is your life.
2. Marriage will either increase you or reduce you.

3. Your marriage will either make you a happy person or a sad person.
4. Your marriage can complete your life or complicate it.
5. Your marriage can fill the void in you and be an answer to the missing link or be the greatest mistake of your life.
6. Your marriage will either elevate you or pin you down.
7. Marriage is not as easy as it appears from the outside. It takes hard work and determination to make it sweet and enjoyable.
8. Marriage will either give you rest or restlessness. The choice is yours. It all depends on what you want, the thoughts you think, who you listen to, your associates, your mentor, principles you live by, above all, the daily decisions you make.
9. Marriage is to be enjoyed and not endured.
10. You can never know more about marriage more than the one who created marriage – God.
 - His relationship with Israel is likened to that of a husband and a wife. Israel is referred to as the wife.

Ezek 16:23-34

23 "Then it was so, after all your wickedness--'Woe, woe to you!' says the Lord GOD-- 24 that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street. 25 You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry. 26 You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger. 27 Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, diminished your allotment, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior. 28 You also played the harlot with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; indeed you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied. 29 Moreover you multiplied your acts of harlotry as far as the land of the trader, Chaldea; and even then you were not satisfied. 30 How degenerate is your heart!" says the Lord GOD, "seeing you do all these things, the deeds of a brazen harlot.

31 "You erected your shrine at the head of every road, and built your high place in every street. Yet you were not like a harlot, because you scorned payment. 32 You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband. 33 Men make payment to all harlots, but you made your payments to all your lovers, and hired them to come to you from all around for your harlotry. 34 You are the opposite of other women in your harlotry, because no one solicited you to be a harlot. In that you gave payment but no payment was given you, therefore you are the opposite."

NKJV

- His relationship with the Christian, He likened to a marriage – Jesus is the groom and Church is the bride

Eph 5:22-33

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 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. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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Rev 19:7-9

7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

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- God has experience in marriage.
- All of us need to submit to him to teach us on marriage.

WHAT MARRIAGE INVOLVES

1. Marriage is rooted in love.
 - Love brought you together. Love will keep you together.
2. Marriage is to spend and be spent.
 - It requires your best and your all. No reservations.
3. Marriage can be a bed of roses. But remember, that there is no rose that is not accompanied by thorns.
 - There might be rough times, clash of interest and opinions, interference from family, internal and external forces, spiritual and natural forces, unfulfilled dreams and visions disappointment and failures.
 - Understanding, patience, maturity and discretion with prayers will make it a bed of roses despite all adversity.
4. Love is the foundation, the wall and roof of marriage.
The question is, "what is love?"

1 Cor 13:4-8

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

NIV

5. Your decisions in marriage determine your experience per time.
 - Every other person is an adviser.
 - Your parent, in-laws, friends, colleagues, pastors and brethren are all advisers.
 - You make all the decisions. And your decisions determine your experiences.
 - No one will take responsibility or held accountable for your decisions and consequences, but you. It is always you, and you alone.
 - You can't blame anyone for your thoughts, words actions and reactions. Only yourself.
 - Be wise always - apply wisdom. Live by the word of God.
6. It takes love understanding, patience, courage, faith, hope, prayers and positive thinking, positive words and actions to blend two different people from two different backgrounds into one.
7. Marriage requires focus.
 - The purpose of coming together in marriage must be pursued without distraction.

VERY IMPORTANT FACTS

1. A man or woman that is not broken will have a crisis-full marriage.
 - To be broken is to allow the Holy Spirit to be absolutely in control of one's life and manifest a lowly and meek character.
2. Your friend can be a plus to your marriage or minus.
 - Be careful about those who speak into your marriage.
3. The gateway to your future is your mind.
 - What you see is what you get.
 - What you imagine is what you create.
 - What you think is what you are and what you will become.

Prov 23:7

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

KJV

Prov 27 19

19 As in water face answers to face, so the mind of man to man.

RSV

4. Success and failure in your marriage depend on what you think about your partner as events unfold. Watch your thoughts always.
5. Anger is an enemy of progress. Kill it before it kills your marriage.
6. If you change the picture in your mind, you can change your experience.
 - What is the picture in your mind right now about your spouse, your children and about everything that is happening in your home that you don't like.
 - Change those pictures deliberately, and with time your experience will change.
7. What you do with this message will prove how serious you are about making your marriage work.

God bless your marriage.

WORDS OF WISDOM

1. **Every relationship is like a building. The beauty, strength, size and durability of that relationship are determined by the foundation upon which the relationship is built. Build on the word of God.**
2. **Forgiveness strengthens and builds relationship.**
3. **Forgiveness nourishes love.**
4. **Forgiveness helps to heal broken hearts – internal hurts and wounds.**
5. **You can't be one with God and not love.**
6. **Any man or woman who claims to be born again, but wants to caress and even have sex with you before marriage is not a converted Christian. You will have problem with that person if you marry him or her.**
7. **Anyone you are in relationship with or drawing close to you, and is always showing signs of boredom with spiritual things like studying the word of God, Praying, fasting and evangelism either by words or action is not totally converted. You will have problem with such.**
8. **Anyone who is comfortable and more comfortable in the presence of sinners, those who speak against Ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the work of God, (the rebellious) is not fit for you to marry.**
9. **Marriage is commitment to a person you dearly love to share your lives together till death do you part.**

- 10. It takes your all to make marriage succeed. Your whole heart, love, money, energy, creativity and entire personality are required.**