

# Marriage

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Northwest Baptist Church style

# Genesis 2:18, 24

- And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone.
- I will make him an help meet for him.
- Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.

# Proverbs 18:22

- *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.
- It doesn't say anything about finding a husband.
- Notice the two benefits of finding a wife:
  - 1. Findeth a good thing.
  - 2. Obtaineth favour of the Lord.

# A Falling Away

- As we have taken God out of our schools and attacked the Bible, our nation is falling away from God.
- One of the leading indicators of our relationship to God is marriage and family trends.

# Still Not Finding A Good Thing

	AGE	1970	2010	
Males	20-24	36%	88%	
	25-29	11%	62%	
	30-34	6%	36%	
	35-39	5%	24%	

# Marrying Later

- The median age at first marriage increased:

<u>1970</u>	<u>2009</u>
21	27

# Children Born Out Of Wedlock

- 1970 – 200,000
- 2002- 1,700,000

# Benefits of Marriage

- God knows man. God created man and knows his heart.
- God said it is not good for man to live alone.
- Who's right? God or recent trends of man?
  
- Reference: 32 year study by The Journal of Health and Social Behavior, involving over 1 million people.
- Summary of findings:
- “In general, marriage tends to make people healthier, happier and better off financially.

# Married People Much Healthier

- Overall, married people are much healthier.
- Single people are 5x more likely to die of an infectious disease.
- Single people are 2x more likely to die of an accident, homicide or suicide.
- Single people are 38% more likely to die of a heart attack.

# Married People Live Longer

- 9 of 10 married men and women are alive at age 65.
- 8 of 10 single women are alive at age 65.
- 6 of 10 single men are alive at age 65.
  
- *Some people have the kind of marriage that makes it seem like they have lived much longer.*

# Marriage is Healthier

- Married people do less smoking and drinking
- Insurance companies have special lower rates for people who do not smoke or drink.

# Married People Are Healthier

- Studies show that married people in general have less backaches and less headaches.
- This statistic can be skewed, if your wife has a rolling pin.

# Marriage Is Healthy

- *For adults, a stable, happy marriage is the best protector against illness and premature death, and for children, such a marriage is the best source of emotional stability and good physical health.* Decades of research have clearly established these links.
- Referenced studies: Burman & Margolin, 1992; Dawson, 1991; Verbrugge, 1979

# Marriage and Finance

- You need only do three things in this country to avoid poverty - finish high school, marry before having a child, and marry after the age of 20.
- Only 8 percent of the families who do this are poor;
- 79 percent of those who fail to do this are poor.

# Forgiveness A Key to Happiness

- A happy marriage is a union of two forgivers.

# Relatives

- In some marriages the troubles are relative.
- The Bible says to leave the father and mother and to cleave to one another.
- The rule God gives to the married couples regarding parents is “leave and cleave”
- Leave the parents authority and cleave together to form a new authority.
- You still love, honor and are thankful forever, but
- “leave and cleave” or you both will grieve

# Husbands Love Your Wives

- ***"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." Ephesians 5:25-27***

# Work to Get It; Work to Keep It

- Marriages can be made in heaven, but the maintenance is done on earth.

# Courtship After Marriage

- Work as hard to maintain a happy marriage as you worked to get the marriage.
- Open the car door for your wife.
- Carry the heavy loads.
- Do the dirty jobs.
- Take care of unpleasant business.

# Open Your Wife's Car Door

- Today it is rare for a man to open the car door for his wife.
- In most cases when you do find a guy opening the girl's door, either the wife or the car is new.
- The real joy is when the senior citizens are still opening the car door, helping the spouse out and holding hands as they walk away from the car.
- As you get more senior, there will be times when you wonder where your wife is, then look in the garage and see her sitting there wondering when you are going to open her door.

# 3 Kinds of Love For a Good Marriage

- God is a trinity
- Man is a trinity
- Throughout the creation are trinities
- The Best marriage requires a trinity of love:
- Eros – Romantic, physical
- Philos – Brotherly Love
- Agape – Love that gives

# Philos Love, Best of Friends

- Marriage, ultimately, is the practice of becoming passionate friends

# Agape Love Gives

- Acts 20:35
- ...remember the words of the Lord Jesus: how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

# Priorities

- Instruction on airplanes:
- If there is a loss of cabin pressure make sure the parents have air masks on first, then take care of the masks for the children.
- Why, because if the parents go, the children will have less chance for survival.
- In a marriage it should be the needs of the parents first – then the children.

# Priority

- God first
- Spouse second
- Children third
- Church
- Job
- Hobbies, recreation, amusements

# Give Honor to the Weaker Vessel

- ***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.***  
*(1Peter 3:7)*

# Understanding Men and Women

- The man is like a buffalo
- Snorts and grunts, looks stern, thick skinned, stampedes around
- The wife is like a butterfly
- More delicate, easily disturbed, worried about her appearance, gracefully fluttering about, changing personalities, trying to keep the buffalo calmed down.

# Proverbs 15:1

- When you have a disagreement,
- If you were wrong – admit it.
- If you were right – don't say it.
  
- In a challenging discussion do not raise your voice or try to win by getting louder. It only escalates the conflict and creates wrath.
  
- “A soft answer turneth away wrath.

# Don't Try to Understand The Theory of Relativity or The Emotions of a Woman

- Just understand that women think in more complex combinations than men.
- A woman might chase her husband out of the house with a rolling pin, then sit on the porch and cry because he did not kiss her good bye.
- No matter what it sounds like she is saying or unsaying, just be sloppy with the agape.

# Practical Tips For a Happy Marriage

- Never yell at your spouse, except in rare emergencies.
- For example, Troy did the cooking and the house is on fire.

# Anger Takes Money Out of Your Love Bank

- *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly, And a man of wicked devices is hated. (Proverbs 14:17)*
- *Let every man be slow to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. (James 1:19)".*
- *Buffalos are quicker to show anger than butterflies, but when the butterfly does get ticked off she reincarnates as a hornet.*

# Treating the Mother Effects Children

- Children were asked what makes them happiest. The majority said: when my father loves my mother.
- Research has shown a child who sees his mother mistreated is more damaged than if the child himself is abused.

*Steven Stosny, compassionpower.com*

# Look for a Bride, Then No Looky

- Look before you leap
- Then quit looking.
- A hand-cuffed man usually keeps his eyes down.
- A wedding ring is the world's smallest handcuffs.

# Be Enthused With Your Spouse

- Let the wife make her husband glad to come home and let him make her sorry to see him leave.

# Bare Ye One Another's Burdens

- Galatians 6:1-2
- Restore people
- Bare one another's burdens

# Some Burdens Wives Carry

- Time pressures and fatigue
- Finances.
- Low self esteem.
- Problems with children
- In-law conflicts
- Lack of affection and romantic love
- Physical, hormone problems.
- Aging

# Pastor's Wives Conclusion

- A group of Pastor's wives met in Michigan to discuss problems that a women faces, who is the wife of a pastor.
- Please look at the four main things and see (1) are these similar for you as a pastor's wife, and (2) do these seem to apply also to any wife.

# Things I Wished My Husband Understood

- 1. I wish my husband recognised my physical limitations and emotional structure. I have neither the strength nor stamina he has, and yet there are more varied and constant demands upon me and my time than he realizes.

# I Wish My Husband Understood

- 2. I need my husband to listen to me – with his eyes, ears, and patience; most of the time I am not looking for answers, but just for interest.
- I want him to share with me the things closest to his heart. That shows trust and that we are really united in heart and mind.

# I Wish My Husband Understood

- 3. I need from him the time and attention of a true best friend.
- Private passion is not enough; I also need his public, affectionate “proud ownership”.

# I Wish My Husband Understood

- 4. I am insecure – about my looks, about my world. I need to feel appreciated and valued for the myriad of details which I take care, for my multiple roles, for my opinion and insights, and simply as a unique person.

# Some Burdens Men Carry

- How to support the family and the government on one income.
- How to see the children turn out right.
- Balancing between serving the Lord and taking care of the family needs.
- Staying healthy .
- Staying employed.
- Staying right with the Lord.

# Forget The Past Failures and Sins

- Forget past sins. Don't bring them up to taunt your spouse.
- Hebrews 10:17
- Christ buries our sins to be remembered no more.
- Christian means "Christ-like". Like Christ, we should forgive our spouses sins and remember them no more.

# Reason But Don't Make A Loser

- When disagreements come, don't make it a competition to arrive at a winner and a loser.
- When you marry, the two become one. You are either both losers or both winners.
- No one wants to lose, so don't try to divide your marriage into two combatants.
- One against one is not as much fun as two united together.
- Jesus said: blessed are the peace makers.

# Make Her a Joy not a Joke

- For many, the way to be bigger is to make others smaller.
- Philippians 2:3
- “...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
- Don’t make fun of your spouse.
- They may laugh and go along with it, but there is often a hurt that builds up.
- Is it appropriate to make jokes about Jesus.
- No, because we love him, respect him and are grateful for what he has done for us.
- Honor the weaker vessel, don’t bring her dishonor.

# Always Be Happy To See Your Spouse

- When you've been apart, show extra enthusiasm when your spouse returns home.
- Have you had a dog that was excited to see you. If ran to the door, wagged its tail, was glad that you were home.
- The spouse should hurry to the door, greet with enthusiasm, like the dog,
- but you don't have to shed your hair.

# Happy To See My Spouse

- *The godly George Mueller was deeply in love with his wife. Here is one of his quotes about his wife:*
- *“Were we happy? Verily we were. With every year our happiness increased more and more. I never saw my beloved wife at any time, when I met her unexpectedly anywhere in Bristol, without being delighted so to do. I never met her even in the Orphan Houses, without my heart being delighted so to do.*

# Happy To See My Spouse

- *Day by day, as we met in our dressing room, at the Orphan Houses, to wash our hands before dinner and tea, I was delighted to meet her, and she was equally pleased to see me. Thousands of times I told her—“**My darling, I never saw you at any time, since you became my wife, without my being delighted to see you.**”*

# How To Build And Maintain Trust

- Acts 24:16 Be right with God.
- I Timothy 6:9-11 Make good financial decisions.
- Ephesians 4:26 Keep short accounts
- James 5:16 Be willing to admit wrong
- Eph. 4:32 Seek and give forgiveness
- Proverbs 22:24-25 Chose and maintain godly friendships
- Matthew 24:45-46 I must be a dependable husband and father
- Proverbs 5:18 Keep yourself pure