

A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN

Introduction

- A. “Holy **Head**-lock” or “Holy **Wed**-lock”? (Is love the **wine of life** and marriage the **hangover**?)
- B. A “marriage made in heaven” (not perfect, but highly satisfactory) **IS** possible!
 - 1. “It takes two to tango---three to marry”
 - 2. “What GOD joins together...” Matt 19:6
 - 3. GOD invented marriage. It’s the only part of **Paradise** left!
- C. KEY: Return to the **beginning** (source, blueprint)
- D. The Garden of Eden provides **4 MUSTS** (pillars) for a **successful marriage**
 - 1. When building, concentrate on **YOURSELF**, not your spouse!
 - 2. “*Marriage is not so much **finding** the right person as **being** the right person.*”

The 4 PILLARS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE ---

#1 SEVERANCE

- a. “Leave & cleave” --- breaking the parent/child bond is **ESSENTIAL!**
- b. Weddings are simultaneously sad and beautiful --- there is a loss!
- c. When there is no severance, there is trouble.
 - 1. Adam & Eve represent the perfect family (no problems)
 - 2. Adam had no mother-in-law! (no parent/child conflicts)
- d. If one can’t leave, one shouldn’t marry!
Illus.: The song “Billy Boy” shows that if the girl is “a young thing and cannot leave her mother,”...it’s a good reason to not take her for a wife.
- e. “A man **SHALL** leave...” is strongly stated. It’s not might or may.

#2 PERMANENCE

- a. Cleave means “to cling to, to grab or hold with firmness”
- b. It’s not drifting from the dock and tying up somewhere else!
- c. **IT IS FOR LIFE!** (Not masking tape, but super glue!)
- d. KEY: Never consider divorce an option!
- e. “What GOD has joined together...” Matt 19:6
 - 1. Don’t prematurely sever marriage by divorce, but only by death.
 - 2. **Embalming & divorce**: 2 things not to be done before their time!

- f. We must learn to live with and just accept some things like our bodies, the day of our death, and the people we have chosen to marry.
- g. **Choose your love and love your choice!**

#3 UNITY

- a. "Shall **become** one..." It's a PROCESS designed perfectly by GOD for us.
- b. "*Marriage is two becoming one and the whole time you are trying to figure out which one you are becoming!*"
- c. This is a growth process you work **toward**.
 - 1. It's not just liking the same things (though that helps)!
 - 2. It's more than just **uniformity**.
- d. There must be **surrender** or it becomes **uniformity, not unity!**
 Illus.—Picture two cats with tails tied together thrown over a fence... is this union or unity???
- e. Unity involves the willingness to blend wills, YOURS with your MATE's!
 - 1. KEY: Look for mutual goals.
 - 2. "*Love is not so much looking into each other's eyes, but looking in the same direction!*"
 - 3. Only then will you become one!

THE GOAL: To grow closer to each other by molding each one's will to GOD's!

#4 INTIMACY

- a. They were "*both naked and **not ashamed***."
 - 1. This is literal, but broader than physical.
 - 2. It means no emotional barriers --- no covering up.
 - 3. Be emotionally naked and open before each other...not afraid!
- b. It's tragic when one can't share his/her life with the other.
 - 1. KEY: **Meaningful self-disclosure!**
 - 2. This requires some T.V. --- Transparent Vulnerability!
- c. Being totally open with each other's faults, knowing you are still loved anyway, and trusting this information will not be misused, then you will truly discover a **MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN!**

CONCLUSION:

**THESE ARE GOD'S PRINCIPLES --- THEY WILL WORK TO BLESS US
IF WE WILL WORK TO USE THEM!!!**

“Unity”

**Man satisfies the woman;
Woman satisfies the man;
GOD blesses the union.**

**Man plants the seed;
Woman bears the child;
GOD gives the spirit.**

**Man sets the discipline standards;
Woman sets the love standards;
GOD balance discipline with love.**

**Man is the bread winner;
Woman is the bread warmer;
GOD is the bread provider.**

**Man is woman’s hero;
Woman is man’s cheerleader;
GOD is the coach.**

**Man leads as the woman’s head;
Woman follows as the man’s body;
GOD makes them become one flesh.**

**Man presents a picture of Christ;
Woman presents a picture of the church;
GOD makes them joint-heirs.**