

From a Wedding to a Marriage

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Introduction: It is easy to plan and execute a wedding but difficult to have a happy marriage.

- A. Our society or "culture" has contributed to the "quick fix" mentality.
 - 1. The marriage ceremony is presented as a way to live "happily ever after" following a whirlwind romance.
 - 2. Happiness is pictured as "getting" things, receiving praise and accomplishing goals. Problems can be shrugged off.
 - 3. Finally marriages can be abruptly ended in divorce because "things just will not work out." Sacrifice and working out hard problems are considered unreasonable.
- B. These approaches are widespread because it comes from the ruler of this world.
(1 Jn 2:15-17; Jn 14:30)
 - 1. The worldly way is widespread because it has selfishness at its root.
 - 2. Worldliness always takes the short view, the easy way out and runs from problems. (How many have later been involved in other "relationships?")
 - 3. In the pursuit of self, those held captive to the world will find bitterness in this life and torment in the next. (Ex. Divorces within church.)
 - 4. A worldly man will take those who are most precious to them and ignore or discard them. There is a better way to live! **(Jn 10:10)**
- C. The transition from wedding to marriage is a transition from emotion to reality.
 - 1. In marriage you are seen for your real character. (Ex. Phone call at 3 AM)
 - 2. If the love of God is there then a patient change will occur year by year.
 - 3. If selfish worldliness is there then conflict and stubborn pride will bear ugly fruits. Note the difference in these two approaches. **(Jas 3:13-18)**

I. You should not rush marriage

- A. One should have confidence in their relationship!
 - 1. Consider what Paul said about Timothy. **(Phil 2:20-23)**
 - 2. Some are afraid to lose the one they "love" so they rush into marriage!
 - 3. What is true love? It is a commitment of the will based upon the example of Christ. **(1 John 3:16; 4:7-11)**
 - 4. What should you do if you have doubts about the one you are dating having this kind of love? True love will grow stronger over time not weaker! (Ex. JAMOT)
- B. You should be ready to assume the responsibilities of marriage. **(Gen 2:23-24)**
 - 1. As the husband I must be ready to provide for my home. **(Eph 4:28)**
 - 2. Many are unprepared to live as one. They want to be single with their decisions, time, spending and interests.
- C. Some are encouraged to marry too early from misapplying bible passages.
 - 1. Some say that if you are so strongly attracted to another that you should marry. **(1 Cor 7:8-9)**
 - 2. This passage is dealing with the decision to remain single or to pursue marriage. If you do pursue marriage this is not the only consideration!
 - 3. Some try to use this verse to justify all marriages.

II. The Unselfish Service of the Husband (Eph 5:25-29)

A. To always seek to understand the wife. (1 Pt 3:7)

1. The very act of seeking understanding shows humility and care.
2. How would you like a boss who cared nothing about your feelings and thoughts? Suppose you had to work and live with him 24 hours a day?
3. Do you understand the great risk your wife has taken in submitting to your headship? Consider the areas where she is vulnerable.
 - a. She depends on you as the breadwinner. (**Gen 3:19; Eph 4:28**)
 - b. She depends upon you for her emotional needs.
 - c. She depends upon you for your spiritual leadership. (**1 Cor 11:3**)
 - d. In dating she would not have imagined you ever forsaking these duties.
Some men are satisfied with just bringing the money home!
 - e. In divorce these vulnerabilities are clearly seen.
4. Please notice that he should **always** seek to understand!

B. To be a spiritual leader. (Eph 5:27)

1. This is the greatest duty of the man. (**Mt 6:33**)
2. When a man surrenders the spiritual leadership to the woman he is making a clear statement as to what is important to him.
3. Are you making decisions that will best cause spiritual growth?
 - a. In decisions concerning the children about modesty, dating, and events.
 - b. In decisions concerning time, money, vacations and associates.

C. To be willing to listen and yield in decision making. (Phil 2:3-4)

1. Headship means you can overrule when there is a disagreement, but when?
2. Consider some attitudes towards money and spending.

III. The Unselfish Service of the Wife (Eph 5:22)

A. To seek to respect and praise the husband. (Eph 5:33)

1. There are fewer things more difficult for a man to deal with than disrespect.
2. A disrespectful wife has a corrupted heart. Here is where you must learn what it means to be a Christian. (**1 Pt 3:1-4**)

B. To patiently yield to his judgment. (Col 3:18)

1. There is a limit to this submission. (**Acts 5:29**)
2. There are ways a woman can "force the issue" to get what she wants or tear down his judgments when she does not get her way. (Ex. Modesty in a daughter)
3. What should a woman do when she disagrees or wishes to be heard?
4. Again when an impatient wife badgers to get her way she will often find a distant man who pulls back into his work.

C. To set an example of humble service to God. (1 Pet 3:5-6)

1. The woman has a great influence on the atmosphere of the home. It is in the home where we are made strong or weak in our service to God.
2. How many wives are really interested in Bible study? Why do you attend services?
3. A husband could have no greater blessing than a wife who loved God!

Conclusion: What kind of home do you have? (**Lk 1:6**)