

Pursuing God's Design for Marriage, Pt 1

The _____ of marriage

1. Unbiblical purposes
2. Biblical purposes
 - Purpose 1 – _____ (Gen 2:18a; Prov 2:17; 1 Pet 3:7)
 - Purpose 2 – _____ (Gen 2:15, 18)
 - Purpose 3 – Characterization of God's _____ to His _____ and Christ's _____ to His _____ (Eph 5:22–32)
 - Purpose 4 – _____ Union (Gen 1:27-28a; 2:24c; 1 Cor 7:3-5; Heb 13:4)
 - Purpose 5 – _____ / _____ (Eph 4:12; 2 Pet 1:8 – same as one who is single)

The _____ of marriage

1. What this doesn't mean:
 - _____ - Loss of identity or individuality.
 - _____ - No differences (Rom 12—Church is one, yet many parts)
2. What this does mean:
 - _____ - Comprehensive, yet without constriction
 - _____ - Complete in every area of life
 - _____ - Commitment to sharing all of life together
3. What do you share together?
 - Thoughts and ideas
 - Desires/Feelings (Rom 12:15; 1 Cor 12:25)
 - Social Relationships
 - Work
 - Spiritual Life (1 Pet 3:7)
 - Physical and Sexual (Prov 5; 1 Cor 7)
 - Concern for well being
 - Goals and purpose
 - Difficulties and Trials

The _____ of marriage

1. _____ steps to making the marriage relationship the priority

- STEP 1 – God says children must _____ their _____ (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5; Eph 5:31)
 - STEP 2 – God says the man must _____ to his _____ (not "wife and parents")
2. _____ and _____ does not mean:
- Break off all relations
 - Abandon family
 - Bear no responsibility (1 Tim. 5:8)
 - Geographic distancing
3. _____ and _____ does mean:
- Leave behind a dependency relationship (emotional, financial)
 - Leave behind family's ideas about family structure and functioning
 - Leave behind your parents' temporary God-given authority over you
 - Cleave to peer-relationship with parents
 - Leave behind parent-centered and parent-controlled manner of living
 - Cleave to full responsibility for life and decisions
 - Leave behind the dependence upon parents' approval
 - Cleave to viewing parents as advisors
 - Leave behind parents as chief confidantes
 - Cleave to biblical standards for life and family living
 - Cleave to your mate's opinions, insights and concerns as most important
4. Practical guidelines for adult children about implementing the "leaving" concept after marriage:
- Don't allow your parents to demean your mate. approval.
 - Don't complain to your parents about your mate.
 - In dealing with both sets of parents function as a team.
 - Consult with your mate and make mutual decisions about relationships with parents.
 - Look for every opportunity to commend your mate to your parents and to extol the virtues of your mate.
 - When involved in conversations or activities with parents make sure to include your mate.
 - Look for every opportunity to commend your mate to his or her parents and to extol the virtues of your mate.
 - Don't try to change your mate in an attempt to meet your parent's
 - Avoid making your mate the bad guy if disagreements with parents arise or if you can't fulfill your parents' desires.
5. Practical guidelines for parents about implementing the "leaving" concept after their children marry:
- Make your relationship with your mate the primary human relationship. leave; be preparing yourself and them for this eventuality.
 - When rearing your children, be focusing on getting them ready to
 - As they grow older, train them to accept more and more responsibility for their own

- decisions and lives; give them more and more independence.
- Always keep in mind that your children are loaned to you by God.
- As they grow older and certainly when your children are married or of marriageable age, work on developing an adult relationship.
- Give your children the right to disagree without being hurt, pushy or punishing them.
- Be willing to listen to them and learn from them.
- Recognize that they may have greater insights and understanding in some areas than you do.
- Accept your child's mate as an equal to your own child.
- Seek to influence by your example and relationship rather than by force or manipulation.
- Give without expecting anything in return.
- Recognize you are not the primary human being in your child's life.
- Do everything you can to strengthen the marriage relationship.
- Pray regularly for them.
- Praise the in-law to your child.
- Treat the in-law as your own child.

The _____ of marriage

1. Biblical commands (Heb 13:4; Ex 20:14; 1 Pet 3:1-2; Prov 5:15-20)
2. Involves _____ in several areas:
 - Purity in _____
 - Purity in _____
 - Purity in _____
3. Involves commitment to remove behavior, thought and desire patterns that lead to impurity

The _____ of marriage

1. Marriage is based on _____ not feelings or attraction.
2. Marriage is an _____ or contract to which you are bound (Mal 2:13-16, Prov 2:17; 5:19; Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5-6)
3. Marriage is about a man and a woman _____ that they will be faithful to each other _____ of what happens.
4. Marriage means that a husband and wife enter into a relationship for which they accept _____ responsibility and in which they commit themselves to each other _____ of what problems arise.

The _____ in marriage

1. Constant _____ with biblical principles/priorities
2. Constant work/effort to change and grow = _____

The _____ of God in marriage

1. Biblical commands (Col 1:18; Matt 6:33)
2. Ways to make God preeminent
 - Look to God for direction in all of life (Ps 119:160).
 - Follow God's will (James 1:22-25) – be doers of God's Word.
 - Desire to please God in all (2 Cor 5:9).
 - Love God's Word and desire to read, understand and obey it.
 - Pray together.
 - Love Christ's church.
 - Eliminate things that dishonor God (Col 3:5-9).
 - Make personal holiness, not happiness and pleasure, the central theme in how you make decisions.
 - Possibly meet together with a few other godly couples who are pursuing the same goal.

The practice of marriage and family counseling

1. Responsibility of ongoing counseling
 - Parents (Eph 6:4)
 - Husbands and wives (Eph 5:25-27; Prov 31:10-31; Gen 2:18)
 - Elders (Eph 4:11-12; 1 Pet 5:1-4)
 - **All Christians (Gal 6:1-2; Rom 15:14)**
2. Special care through structured counseling
 - Preventive or preparatory (Acts 20:28-31; Matt 20; 2 Pet 2)
 - Remedial or corrective (Gal 6:1-2; 1 Thess 5:14; James 5:20; Luke 17:1-10)