

Who Guides Your Marriage?

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1 Peter 3:1-7

Is God Sovereign?

- Heb. 13:4 – Marriage is honorable, yet often dishonored.
- Gen. 2:22 – It is a covenant solemnized by God – also Mal. 2:14; Pro. 2:17.
- Ecc. 5:4-5; Mat. 5:37; Jas. 5:12 – God holds us accountable and responsible for our vows.
- Marriages that endure and serve as role models are wonderful to see.
- There is no secret – successful marriage is hard work.

God Must Come First

- Mat. 22:36-40 – The first and great commandment!
- When Christ is Lord of your heart, He will be Lord of your marriage – Col. 3:23-24.
- Col. 3:12-25 is a good primer for successful marriage.
- 1 Cor. 13:1-8 will solve many problems and heal many wounds.
- Pro. 13:15 – Rejecting or neglecting God's guidance will make success much more difficult!

Your Spouse Must Come Next

- Mat. 22:39 – Love neighbor as self – Who is your closest neighbor if not your spouse?
- Eph. 5:22-29, 33 – Christ's love for His church sets a high standard of love in marriage.
- Eph. 5:24-25; Phil. 2:3 – Work to eliminate selfishness.
- Gal. 5:12-13 – Emphasize service, value your spouse greater than yourself, and serve one another in love.

Faithfulness Is Priority One!

- Heb. 13:4 – Protect the purity of your marriage!
- 1 Cor. 6:18 – Purity strengthens marriage bonds, while infidelity wears and weakens.
- Marriage must be kept a “lust-free” zone – Mat. 5:27-28; 1 Pet. 2:11 “Abstain from fleshly lusts...”
- Rom 13:14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

Forgiveness Is Priority Two!

- Col. 3:12-13 – Marriages are blessed where forgiveness exists.
- Mat. 6:14-15 – Our forgiveness depends on forgiveness of others. Also Lk. 17:3-4; Mat. 18:21-22, 35.
- Gal. 5:14-15 – Grudges will eat you up!
- 1 Cor. 13:5 – Love keeps no record of wrongs!

Decision...

- Respecting the sovereignty of God in marriage does not eliminate challenges, but it assures success!
- We should honor marriage as a God given blessing – Pro. 18:22; Heb. 13:4.
- Do each other good and not evil all the days of your life – Rom. 12:17-18.

Maybe ~Author Unknown

Maybe...We are supposed to meet the wrong people before meeting the right one so that, when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift

Maybe...it is true that we don't know what we have got until we lose it, but it is also true that we don't know what we have been missing until it arrives

Maybe...the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way

Maybe...the best kind of love is the kind you can sit on a sofa together and never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had

Maybe...you shouldn't go for looks; they can deceive. Don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile, because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright.

Maybe...you should hope for enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, and enough hope to make you happy

Maybe... Love is not about finding the perfect person, it's about learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.'

Gen 2:22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Mal 2:14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

Pro 2:17 Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.

Ecc 5:4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For *He has* no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—

Ecc 5:5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

Mat 5:37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Mat 22:37 Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

Mat 22:38 This is *the* first and great commandment.

Col 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Pro 13:15 Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful *is* hard.

Eph 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her

Php 2:3 *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

1Co 6:18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Mat 5:27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.'

Mat 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

1Pe 2:11 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

Col 3:12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

Luk 17:3 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Luk 17:4 And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

Gal 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

1Co 13:5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, **thinks no evil**; (ASV **taketh not account of evil**)

Pro 18:22 *He who* finds a wife finds a good *thing*, And obtains favor from the LORD.

Rom 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

The One

When the one whose hand you're holding
Is the one one who holds your heart
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
Gives your hopes and dreams their start,
When the one you think of first and last
Is the one who holds you tight,
And the things you plan together
Make the whole world seem just right,
When the one whom you believe in
puts their faith and trust in you,
You've found the one and only love
You'll share your whole life through.

~Author Unknown

These I Can Promise

I cannot promise you a life of sunshine;
I cannot promise riches, wealth, or gold;
I cannot promise you an easy pathway
That leads away from change or growing old.
But I can promise all my heart's devotion;
A smile to chase away your tears of sorrow;
A love that's ever true and ever growing;
A hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow.

~Mark Twain