

Study 0078

In our last study, we began to look at God's intention for marriage, which is accomplished when we yield to the Holy Spirit and submit to God's word on how we ought to live as man and wife. Only those whose lives have been transformed in Christ can truly accomplish God's intention for marriage, as follows:

1. ***Marriage is to be between one man and one woman.*** God is truly honoured, and glorified, when a man remains true to his wife and keeps the bond of marriage as he ought to. One man, one wife can be achieved with a commitment on the part of the man and his wife, to the study and doing of God's word, fleeing youthful lusts, and, eliminating the hardness of heart. Both the man and his wife must of necessity walk in the Spirit, and, crucify the flesh with its passions and desires, otherwise, they would soon yield to the desires of the old sinful nature, and seek other partners.
2. ***Marriage is for companionship.*** As companions, the man and his wife are not for comparison. They are friends and partners with each other. The man and his wife should therefore, be in agreement with each other and, with God on all issues (not some issues). They should continuously walk with God (as individuals, and as a couple), and, be able to communicate with each other on every matter, being willing to submit to God's word as it affects a matter. A husband and wife who are companions, will be in constant fellowship and communion with each other; and, will seek harmony in the home, by finding common ground based on the word of God.
3. ***In marriage, the wife complements her husband.*** Please note that the word 'complement' applies to someone who brings balance to another, a fitting companion, or someone who works well together with another; while 'compliment' simply means to greet or commend for a job well done, and may sometimes be deceptive. In complementing her husband, a wife fills the void in her husband's life; covers his faults, rather than enumerate and expose them; lifts him up when he is downcast or feeling low; she is succour to her husband; and, provides him with unsolicited support. A wife who truly complements her husband is not in competition with him, and, does not compare him to other men, like her father, her brother, her past lovers, her pastor, her boss in the office, and so on.
4. ***Marriage is for completeness.*** Every unmarried man is incomplete, so is every man who is not married to God's choice for his life. Indeed, it is when a man or woman gets married to the wife or husband God has for him or her, that completeness in marriage is attained. Completeness is clearly seen when a woman brings out the best in her husband, and he is able to stand with the 'elders in the gates'. A wife reinforces her husband in completeness by implementing things initiated by him in the course of daily living, and in times of trouble, challenges, temptation, etc., rather than being the stumbling block in his life.
5. ***Marriage is for Oneness.*** Oneness is what happens when two separate and distinct individuals come together as man and wife, and arrive at the place where they now have the same vision, purpose, direction, focus, and so on. This of necessity requires the subordination of their individual desires to God's desires, and that the husband loves his wife after a godly sort. Both the man and his wife also, must be determined to put away all external influences, and cling to each other, in an inseparable bond, holding fast to God's standard for them. Oneness is manifested when we see either the husband or the wife doing things which do not take the other unawares (save the occasional surprise gifts and actions). Oneness is a process that reaches fruition when both the husband and the wife cannot do without each other in a faithful relationship where the marriage bed is undefiled (**Hebrews 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7**).

We now continue in this study, with the rest of God’s intention for marriage.

6. ***Trust is a vital key in marriage.*** In **Genesis 2:25**, the bible tells us that, “... *they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed*”. This verse suggests a bond like no other: one in which the wife is not only a companion, a complement, and a completion to her husband, but also his closest confidant. God’s intention is that a man would confide in his wife, in every area of life; not in his siblings or parents—this goes for the wife as well! This is where trust comes in; and why you had better be married to God’s choice for you.
7. ***Marriage is for sexual purity.*** To avoid sexual immorality, the bible advocates marriage (**1 Corinthians 7:1-2**). The bible also speaks against divorce for the same reason (**Matthew 5:31-32 BBE**).
8. ***Marriage is for bringing forth godly seed.*** One of the important things God said when He made man was, “*Be fruitful and multiply ...*” (**Genesis 1:28**). It is in the context of marriage that God expects the multiplication of the human race. In **Jeremiah 29:4-6**, God’s instruction to the nation of Judah in exile, included, that they get married and multiply, and not diminish; and that is the proper order—not multiply whether or not you are married! Not only is God interested in multiplying the human race, but He is also interested in multiplying godly seed who will be able to live godly lives on earth and influence society at large (**Malachi 2:15; Genesis 6:1-7**).
9. ***Marriage is a life-long union.*** It is God’s intention that a marriage will remain until either the husband or wife departs this world (**Romans 7:1-4**). Marriage is thus intended to be a permanent union, until either spouse dies! (**Malachi 2:16**)

ASSIGNMENT

As with the assignment in the last study, we shall in this study again discuss the possible ways in which God’s intention for marriage can be translated into action/reality in our marriages. Additional scriptures may be used.

1. How do we maintain trust in marriage? (**Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 17:5-8; 2 Corinthians 3:14-18; Malachi 2:14-15; Proverbs 28:13**)

2. How do we bring forth godly seed? (**Proverbs 5:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:12-14; Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 13:24; 19:18; 29:15, 17; 1 Kings 1:3-7**)

3. How do we maintain sexual purity in our marriages? (**1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 5:9-13; 15:33; 1 Corinthians 6:15-18; Matthew 5:27-30, 31-32; Proverbs 5:15-20; 2 Timothy 2:22a; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Hebrews 13:4**)

4. How do we ensure a life-long marriage? (**1 Corinthians 7:3-6, 10-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Matthew 19:3-9**)

CONCLUSION

The most important input for any marriage to function as God intended, is for the Parties concerned, the man and his wife, to live, first and foremost, as Christians individually, then, as a couple who are Christians! They must recognize that there is bound to be friction, but that is taken care of by both of them submitting themselves to live by the word of God!