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## God's Blueprint For Marriage

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Many times when looking at marriage, we fail to see what God has to say about marriage and look to the movies or what the world has to say in regards of how marriage should be. Without Jesus being involved in our marriages, statistics show that over 50% end in divorce and the percentage grows even higher as second and third marriages are involved. We get handbooks to learn how marriages should be established instead of getting God's handbook, the Bible and learning His way.

Sometimes, we don't follow the world's handbook and we find ourselves in trouble because of not following the guide lines set up, then we go for outside help such as counseling for answers. If we would only follow God's blueprint for marriage, our problems would be taken care of.

God set up the guidelines for marriage and the family unit in the beginning as we learn in Genesis. Verse 24 begins to establish the priority of the relationship as a couple, the spouse being placed first over everyone else. In taking the marriage vows we are saying that priority has been established but then it can become a challenge because the enemy is going to cause problems for everyone.

Gen 2:18 "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." KJV

Gen 2:22-24 "And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." KJV

Adam and Eve had the perfect relationship or marriage; they had everything provided for them, until the fall and sin entered into the garden. Their challenge had been met and they had failed because of the devil. Their fall came because of leaving God out of their relationship. God must remain the center of everything.

What do we consider the ideal mate? A husband looks for a wife that respects, honors and encourages him, she meets all his needs. A wife looks for a husband

that is sensitive, affectionate and romantic, he loves and honors her.

Communication becomes an important part of the relationship. Paul teaches in 1st Corinthians 7, how the husband and wife are to respond to each other regarding the sexual relationship in the marriage.

There are many different areas of a marriage that have to work out depending on the levels of each person, i.e. pastor, teacher, brother or sister in the Lord. The giftings that God has given us may be different.

2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." KJV

We cannot let the past be the prophetic voice for our futures. We are new creatures in Christ, all things are new.

Pro 24:3-4 "Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation], 4 And by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches." AMP

Every place has to be filled with the peace of God. God's will is that the house is a place of refuge.

In learning to meet each other's needs there are some practical things we must know and practice doing, there must be an acceptance of each other, accepting each regardless of the way they are and living in harmony.

Psychology tells us that there are five love languages which need to be determined in each of us. They are 1) quality time 2) words of affirmation 3) receiving of gifts 4) acts of service or giving of gifts 5) touch. Depending on what our spouses love language might be, we are able to give to them what they need.

We can say that we love but unless we show that love it is sometimes hard for our spouse to fully realize how we feel. We learn this through wisdom.

Eph 5:21-22 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." KJV

Eph 5:21-22 "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 22 Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord." AMP

The teaching in chapter 5 of Ephesians is the most extensive teaching there is regarding the home, but unless we understand the full relationship of Jesus to the church this teaching will not be beneficial to us. The submission mentioned here is referring to the headship of Jesus first in the home, and then to individuals.

Always submit yourself as "unto the Lord".

There are some teachings that the wife is inferior is not true, there were many women mentioned in the bible that were leaders.

Marriage relationships are built with 100% from each. There are roles and boundaries for each to function in. When looking for the ideal mate, don't look for gifts in that person, but look to the fruit in their lives. The marriage should really be entered into with the attitude of a servant, not selfishness.

Rom 14:19 "So let us then definitely aim for *and* eagerly pursue what makes for harmony and for mutual upbuilding (edification and development) of one another." AMP

Rom 15:5-7 "Now may the God Who gives the power of patient endurance (steadfastness) and Who supplies encouragement, grant you to live in such mutual harmony *and* such full sympathy with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 That together you may [unanimously] with united hearts *and* one voice, praise and glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). 7 Welcome *and* receive [to your hearts] one another, then, even as Christ has welcomed *and* received you, for the glory of God." AMP

Rom 12:16 "Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] *and* give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself *or* be wise in your own conceits." AMP

We are to look for ways to build up and not tear down. Welcome and receive one another. Living always in harmony with one another. Working out the domestic things. The only true gift is a portion of our self. We give gifts because we love. A successful marriage is built on things that are said during the day.