



Marriage: The Match Made in Heaven Ephesians 5, Genesis 2

Ephesians 5:25-33 (NIV)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.... In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

I. The Power of a Biblical Marriage

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- Our most complete understanding of genuine love comes from the Bible.
- Love is an art to be learned and a discipline to be maintained.
- Love is a power that I control by my own will.
- Love multiplies itself as I learn to give it, rather than work to attract it.

II. The Purposes of a Biblical Marriage

Genesis 2:18-24 (NIV)

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

- Companionship
- Cooperation
- Completion

III. The Partnership of a Biblical Marriage

Ephesians 5:31 (NIV)

“...the two will become one flesh.”

IV. The Proof of a Biblical Marriage

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

“...as Christ loved the church.”

“The highest happiness on earth is in marriage. Every man who is happily married is a successful man even if he has failed at everything else.” - William Lyon Phelps