

THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 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. Ephesians 5:18-33 (NIV)

❖ The Different Views Marriage

1. If I could just find my SOUL MATE my life would be COMPLETE.

“I won’t marry until I find my soul mate... someone who is compatible with me and meets my needs by being physically attractive and I have sexual chemistry with. This means someone that accepts me just as I am and doesn’t try to change me into someone who will fit into my life.”

-From National Marriage Project – David Popenoe

2. Marriage is an OLD-FASHIONED institution that limits individual FREEDOM.

“Marriage crushes individual identity and has been oppressive for women.” “Marriage stifles passion and is ill-fitted to psychological reality.” “Marriage is just a piece of paper that only serves to complicate love.”

-Quotes from numerous authors

3. Marriage was INITIATED by God and reflects His LOVE for us in Jesus Christ.

“Marriage is a lifelong, monogamous relationship between a man and a woman as created by God. He devised marriage to reflect His saving love for us in Christ, to refine our character, to create stable human community for the birth and nurture of children, and to accomplish all this by bringing the complementary sexes into an enduring whole-life union.”

-Dr. Timothy Keller

❖ The Value of Marriage

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him...” 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. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:18, 21-25 (NIV)

1. 45% of marriages END in divorce – but statistics need to be EVALUATED.
2. Marriage is a FINANCIAL strain – just the OPPOSITE has proven true.
3. Most people are UNHAPPY in their marriage – 60%+ say otherwise.

❖ The Voice for Marriage

1. The PURPOSE of marriage is to bring GLORY to God.
So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)
2. Marriage is a MYSTERY to us – but not to God.
A man shall 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.
Ephesians 5:31-32 (NIV)
3. Marriage is SACRIFICIAL in nature – that goes against what is natural.
Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it... Wives, respect your husband...
Ephesians 5:25, 33 (NIV)
4. Marriage is an illustration of God's LOVE – it points us to JESUS.
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...
Ephesians 5:28-29 (NIV)