

## THE MISSION 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)

❖ Marriage is to be a unique FRIENDSHIP.

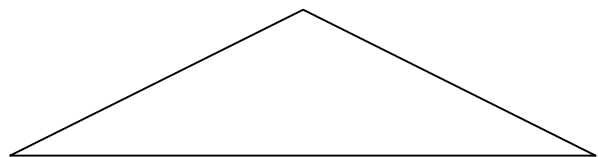
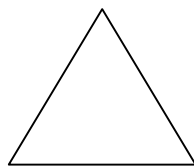
*Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words,<sup>17</sup> who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.<sup>18</sup> Surely her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.*

Proverbs 2:16-18 (NIV)

1. There is a TRINITY in marriage.

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground” ... The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

Genesis 1:26; 2:18 (NIV)



2. There is a LOVING relationship in marriage.

*“His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”*

Song of Solomon 5:16 (NIV)

3. There is to be **FUN** in marriage.

*Bless your fresh-flowing fountain! Enjoy the wife you married as a young man!*

Proverbs 5:18 (MSG)

*There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand: <sup>19</sup> the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a young woman. Proverbs 30:18-19 (NIV)*

❖ Marriage is to be a **PARTNERSHIP**.

*Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.* Philippians 2:2 (NIV)

1. To have a great marriage partnership, you must learn **TRANSPARENCY**.

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense... As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend.* Proverbs 27:9, 17 (NLT)

2. To have a great marriage partnership, you must practice **CONSISTENCY**.

*A friend loves at all times...*

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.* Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV)

❖ Marriage is to be a **REFLECTION** of God's love.

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. <sup>14</sup> Do everything in love.* 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NIV)

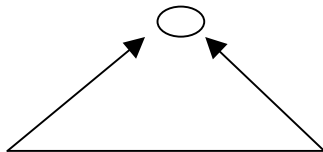
1. Your spouse is your most **IMPORTANT** relationship.

*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife...*

Ephesians 5:31 (NIV)

2. The ultimate goal of marriage is **HOLINESS**.

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* Ephesians 5:28 (NIV)



❖ Closing Question: How are you leading others toward **HOLINESS**?

*That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful*

*desires;* <sup>23</sup> *to be made new in the attitude of your minds;* <sup>24</sup> *and to put on the new self,  
created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.* Ephesians 4:20-24 (NIV)