

II. UNDERSTANDING THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

A. MARRIAGE IS SOMETHING WHICH GOD INSTITUTED FOR THE WELFARE OF MANKIND.

1. God's purpose was to provide man with a helpmeet (Gen. 2:18).
 - a. Man needed a helpmeet for companionship. This is what marriage involves. It gives a man and a woman someone with whom they can enjoy the blessings of life (I Cor. 11:8).
 - b. Man needed a helpmeet to complete him. Someone has said, "It is humbling to the woman to know that she was created for the man, but it is for her glory to know that she alone can complete him. Likewise, it is humbling to the man to know that he is incomplete without a woman, but it is to his glory that the woman was created for him." (Barachman)
2. God's purpose was to perpetuate the human race (Gen. 1:27,28).
 - a. Since marriage is the way God planned to populate the earth, sex should not be regarded as sinful in any respect.
 - b. Notice this doesn't mean sex is only for the purpose of having children.
3. God's purpose was to provide a relationship by which a man and his wife could enjoy mutual fulfillment. The Scriptures are filled with references which indicate that God intended marriage for sexual pleasure and enjoyment along with other things (Prov. 5:18,19; 19:14)

B. MARRIAGE IS SOMETHING WHICH REQUIRES A LOT OF ADJUSTMENTS.

1. It involves first of all a *leaving* of one's parents (Gen. 2:24).
 - a. This means your responsibility will be to your spouse and no longer to your parents.
 - b. This doesn't mean you shouldn't do things with your parents or for them but it does mean mutual agreement with your spouse.
2. Marriage involves a *cleaving* together (Gen. 2:24). Learning to live with someone can be challenging and requires making many changes and concessions because you love them and want to please them (I Cor. 7:33).
3. Marriage involves a *weaving* together of the likes and dislikes of two persons into one. Someone has said, "It's not the leaving or the cleaving which is so difficult in marriage, it's the weaving together." This is where genuine love is demonstrated (I Cor. 13:4-7).

C. MARRIAGE IS SOMETHING WHICH CAN RESULT IN MANIFOLD BLESSINGS OR MULTIPLIED MISERIES.

1. Manifold blessings can be enjoyed in the marriage which honors God and demonstrates genuine love for each other.
 - a. There's a great blessing in sharing the various things of life together.
 - b. There's a great blessing in serving the Lord together and experiencing His blessings upon your life.
 - c. There's a great blessing in having children, caring for them, and training them which involves many wonderful experiences.
 - d. There's a great blessing in having someone to love you and care for your needs.
2. The marriage that leaves out God and fails to demonstrate genuine love can and oftentimes does result in a miserable life.
 - a. Marriages that leave God out are based upon physical things and not spiritual things. Therefore it's only a matter of time or opportunity before many of these marriages will fall apart.
 - b. Marriages that leave God out are oftentimes characterized by arguing, fighting, and many times physical abuse.
 - c. Marriages that leave God out usually are anything but happy, joyful and peaceful.

From the foregoing points it should be understood that since God designed marriage for specific purposes, this relationship should not only include Him, but also follow the guidelines which He has given concerning it.