

## **BUILDING STRONG MARRIAGES (1) – GENESIS 2:18-24**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. God has blessed humanity with many wonderful blessings in this life.
2. After fellowship with Him, His Son, and His Spirit no other relationship is as special as that in marriage; the relationship between husband and wife.
3. The home has been called God's first institution and it has been under assault since the beginning.
4. What can we do as Christians to ensure that our marriage is one that is the way God intended?

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. FOUNDED UPON GOD**

- A. The psalmist said, *"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."* (**Ps.127:1**).
- B. Labor that is done according to God's will is never in vain (**1 Cor. 15:58**).
- C. Nowhere is this truer than in the relationship of a husband and wife.
- D. Marriage was the first relationship that God provided humanity (**Gen. 2:24**).
  - i. It was a relationship involving one man and one woman.
  - ii. It was a relationship designed to last for the duration of this life.
  - iii. It was a relationship planned and purposed by the Creator.
- E. It should not be surprising that God alone can provide the training and the instruction to build a lasting and happy marriage.
- F. One of the most important things a man and woman can do is seek God's counsel in their lives together.
  - i. By spending time together considering what His word says about their relationship and how it applies to it (**Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Cor. 13:4-7**).
  - ii. By spending time together in prayer for one another and talking to God about their marriage and seeking His grace and guidance in it (**1 Pet. 3:7; 1 Thess. 5:17**).
  - iii. By spending time together worshipping God together and with their family and the local church (**Heb. 10:23-25**).
  - iv. By spending time together in serving God, one another, and their fellowman (**Rom. 12:1-2**).
- G. The marriage that is filled with the joy, love and intimacy God intended will only be one that is founded upon a trust in God and His word.

**II. BUTTRESSED WITH TRUST**

- A. Concerning the worthy woman, the Bible says, *“The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.” (Prov. 31:11).*
- B. And concerning godly love, the Bible says, *“It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1 Cor. 13:7, NIV).*
- C. Trust is foundational in any relationship and certainly with a husband and wife.
- D. In fact, God’s faithfulness should be reflected in our relationship with our spouses.
- E. Without trust, how can two people depend on one another **(1 Pet. 3:1-7)?**
- F. Without trust, how can two people share themselves physically, mentally, and emotionally with one another **(1 Cor. 7:1-5)?**
- G. Our spouses should have complete confidence in us every hour of every day.
- H. Such trust is developed and built over time.
- I. It is rooted in a love for God and His will **(Matt. 22:37-39).**
  - i. When we know that our spouse’s aim is heaven and their goal is to please God that gives us confidence in them.
  - ii. It makes it easier to entrust them with our love, hope, and happiness.
- J. It is built by being true in our thoughts, words, and deeds toward one another.
- K. Not tearing one another down with our words, but building up **(Eph. 4:29).**
  - i. Do you ever talk down to your spouse?
  - ii. Do you ever embarrass them by “teasing” and “poking fun” at them when what you’re actually doing is embarrassing them?
  - iii. Character assassination, verbal abuse, or harsh words are a sure-fire way to destroy a marriage be it publicly or privately.
- L. Not behaving unwisely or harshly towards one another, but selflessly loving one another more than ourselves **(Eph. 5:15; Phil. 2:3-4).**
  - i. Do you have safeguards to protect one another from inappropriate relationships with the opposite sex **(Job 31:1)?**
  - ii. Have you cultivated a track record of behavior where your spouse can safely trust you no matter where you are?
- M. The marriage that is filled with the joy, love and intimacy God intended will only be one that is supported by mutual trust in one another.

**CONCLUSION**

- 1. Marriage is a privilege designed by God for the joy of humanity **(Gen. 2:18-24).**
- 2. Two ways you can make your marriage strong are to build your marriage on God and cultivate a life worthy of trust for your spouse.
- 3. Let us strive to have the kind of marriage that God planned for every man and woman.