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MARRIAGE MYTHS

& FOOLISH REASONS
FOR GETTING MARRIED

A short study for young adults who want to
follow a Biblical perspective for marriage.



Preface

Young adults who are not yet married should make it a priority to read and study the Bible for themselves to truly understand what a Biblical marriage looks like. There are no shortcuts—since God is the one who established marriage, it's essential to turn to His Word for guidance. *Marriage Myths* offers a straightforward framework that can be customized to suit your needs, whether you want to expand on it or simplify it. Originally designed for a young adult Bible study group in a local church setting, ministers, youth pastors, and leaders can easily adapt it for their own groups. While not an exhaustive resource, this study is intended to spark meaningful discussions and provide a solid foundation

OBJECTIVE:

Debunk marriage myths. Understand God's purpose for marriage.

METHOD:

The method was in-person teaching. The group leader followed the outline presented here, along with personalized notes, examples, and additional resources (there is a 20+ page introduction to this study; feel free to contact us if interested). As far as the Bible texts throughout the study, we used a condensed version of the inductive method.

Start with prayer, asking God to guide you and speak to you. Observe the text. What does it say? Answer *who, what, when, where, why, & how*. Make note of keywords. Take (individual) notes. Next, interpretation. What does the text mean? Keep in mind the *context*; consider *cross references* and *related passages*. Use Scripture to interpret Scripture. Look for the *singular meaning*. Application - What does the text teach and what is God's instruction to me? Ultimately, the purpose of any study should be transformation!

STUDY TIPS:

- Begin by reading some of the main passages from the Bible on marriage
 - Gen. 2; Prov. 18:22; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:22-33, 1 Cor. 7:1-16, etc.
- Study along with a friend or mentor
- Use additional, trustworthy resources (books, concordances, articles, videos, etc.)
- Go deeper on your own; expand on topics & subtopics, get input from leaders at your church, cross reference additional Bible passages, and so on
- Test everything against the Bible
- Pace yourself. Better a little at a time than all at once.

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KICKSTART QUESTIONNAIRE

Before working your way through this study, it's important to understand what your view of marriage is. Use this questionnaire as a starting point to reflect on some of your thoughts/convictions. Think of more questions as you see fit. Feel free to discuss them with a friend or mentor.

Answer the questions below. Be open, don't overthink it. There are no right or wrong answers. If applicable, your honest responses will help your study leader be able to help you.

1. For me, God is:

2. What I like/love the most about God:

3. Do you want a marriage like that of your parents? Why or why not?

4. I see myself getting married in the next 5 years. - Yes or No

5. Think of some of the married couples you look up to & respect. Write a short list of some of the things (characteristics) you like about them:

- -
 -
- -
 -

6. What is the purpose of marriage?

7. Where do we learn/read about marriage in the Bible? (Key passages/books/chapters)

Marriage Myths

Marriage, established and defined by God, is a covenant relationship built on truth, not fairytales or myths. If couples are going to thrive, their marriages must be built on the Word of God, not folk theology.

What follows are ideas that have been frequently taught/spread and widely accepted as truth. If we get back to the basics of Scripture, we find that they are false.

Myth #1 - Marriage will complete me ("He/she will make me whole")

Common perception (in culture):

$\frac{1}{2}$ of me + $\frac{1}{2}$ of him/her = 1 happy, satisfied relationship

Instead of the addition of two incomplete people, however, marriage is more like the multiplication of two incomplete people:

$\frac{1}{2}$ of me x $\frac{1}{2}$ of him/her = $\frac{1}{4}$ bitter, frustrated relationship

If we're longing for another person to complete us, we will enter relationships looking for them to perfectly meet all our needs—a work that only God can do.

According to Scripture, God instituted marriage as the pinnacle of creation. On the sixth day, in the first creation story, the Book of Genesis tells us: "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created - We are complete only in and through HIM:

- **COL.1:22** - *But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.*
- **COL.2:10** - *"...and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority."*

*There isn't a human being on the planet who has the capacity to complete me and make me whole. **By putting all my hope for a "happily ever after" in a spouse, I made singleness my problem and marriage the solution. Yet this is not what God intended.** Sure enough, the more I searched for fulfillment in others, the more miserable I became. In my singleness, my heart was longing to be satisfied with something greater than a relationship. I just didn't know what that could be.*

- (Hafeez Baoku, founder of The Urban Gospel Mission)

Myth #2 - He/she is my soulmate

[How it sounds:] *"There is one perfect person out there for me." Compatibility is not something you find, discover, test for, or stumble into. Compatibility is something you create over a lifetime of marriage. The biblical term for compatibility is "oneness." Genesis 2:24 says, "they become one flesh." You don't find compatibility, you become compatible (Focus on the Family).*

The idea that God designed a specific spouse for each person as a soulmate or perfect fit and apart from you can never be happy is not Biblical. God does not have "the one" as your perfect spouse created from the beginning of time.

- **The problem with this kind of thinking is that it makes us think we won't be complete until we find our soulmate.** This makes us believe we are half persons who need to scour the earth in search of our perfect mate so we can become one.
- **God did not make us half of a person.** God created us whole. In **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**, God tells us specifically, we were made holy, whole, and put together.

"May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!"

What Is a Soulmate? Where Does This Idea Even Come From?

The concept of soulmates stems from Greek Mythology and the famous philosopher, Plato.

In his writing, the Symposium, he taught that men and women were made in one body and were separated by the gods. The Greek myth defined humans as having two faces, four arms, four legs and possessed incredible strength. But the Greek god Zeus feared humans had too much power and strength. He elected to slice every human being in half--thus sentencing us to roam the earth our entire lives in search of our missing half---our soulmate.

Paul warns us in **Colossians 2:8-10** about hollow and deceptive philosophy:

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Does God Give Us Soulmates?

Besides Adam & Eve, nowhere in the Bible is there a scripture that describes God creating someone with the sole intent of being a match for someone else. We were created for so much more than that!

God's not against you searching for a spouse, He's against you searching without Him!

This isn't to say that God is not particular about who He has us marry. We know that:

- 1) God cares about us deeply enough to know all the hairs on our head (Luke 12:7),
- 2) Carries out his will as he pleases (Psalm 135:6), and
- 3) Works for our good through all things (Romans 8:28).

So, God is intimately involved in our lives, including who we spend the rest of our life with. He cares.

All the intimacy, love, and commitment that people want out of a soulmate can be found within a godly marriage—but not because everything is perfect and easy, and you go riding off into the sunset. But because of an obedience to God's Word.

Ephesians 5:22-33, and Colossians 3:18-21 are great starting points to understanding what a godly marriage should look like. *It is possible to "find the one your soul loves" as Song of Solomon 3:4 reminds us—but not in an idolatrous-Jerry-McGuire kind of way. Instead, it's in a healthy, godly way. (Crosswalk.Com)*

Myth #3 - God will use my spouse to make me holy

"God gave you your spouse to make you holy, not happy." This myth is based on a false dichotomy. I for one am not choosing between holiness and happiness/joy/contentment. I am going for both and at the same time.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 says, *"Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun."*

God did not give you your spouse to beat you down (metaphorically speaking) and suck the life out of you so you can be more like Jesus. He gave you your spouse to go through the grind of life [together] (Focus on the Family).

Know this: Only God makes us holy!

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- **Hebrews 13:12** *So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.*

Common ideas/beliefs:

- *Marriage is hard, but it's ok, because it makes me holy.*
- *The purpose of marriage is to make us holy. So, it's ok if I'm unhappy, somber, and walk around looking all pious and religious.*

We sound spiritual when we say this and we think we're elevating the institution of marriage, when in fact, we're simplifying it and cheapening it. We're robbing it of the beauty God intended. And we're insulting people. Especially the ones not married. *Does that mean they have to be married in order to become holy?*

Can marriage help to make you more holy? God can use other people to 'sharpen' us or help us to 'stir' the gift that is in us. God uses people to teach us and mentor us. But when I say that my spouse's role is to make me holy, it can be a cop out, and there is no desire to seek deeper intimacy or purpose with my spouse. I also lose sight of the fact that God is the only one who can sanctify me. If He uses a spouse, it is to point us to Him (often through repentance), the only one who can purify us!

Marriage is a great gift, and we honor God when we embrace it for the purpose He intended:

1. Enjoyment

The principle behind enjoyment is self-control. "Marriage is honorable [precious] in all, and the bed [should be kept] undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

2. Fruitfulness

God's first command in Scripture is this: "... Be fruitful [bear fruit], and multiply [increase], and replenish [fill] the earth ..." (Genesis 1:28). - The very nature and character of God is to multiply life, whereas the nature and character of Satan is to multiply death.

3. Protection

A husband is to protect his wife by laying down his life for her. (See Ephesians 5:25.) A wife is to protect the interests of her home. (See Titus 2:4-5.) Parents are to protect their children to raise up a Godly seed.

4. Typify Christ and the Church

Marriage is to be a human object lesson of the divine relationship between Christ and believers. (See Ephesians 5:31-33.)

Myth #4 - Marriage is for everyone

Marriage is not for everybody. And yes, from the Biblical point of view there's a great deal to be said for the advantages of the single life.

At the same time, we can't possibly go along with the idea that "marriage is a second-class state" or that "singleness is the ideal."

- If that were true, why did God say in the very beginning that "it is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18)?
- Why did He purposely make man "male and female" (Genesis 1:27)? Why did He create for Adam "a helper comparable to him" (Genesis 2:18)?
- Why did He bless Adam and Eve with the words, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28)? Such statements make it clear that marriage is anything but a "second-class state."
- On the contrary, it's vital to the design of creation. It's central to the Lord's original intentions for the human race.

In this connection, we should point out that there's an important difference between mere "singleness" and a genuine spiritual calling to the celibate life. We must be careful not to confuse the two.

- Singleness is circumstantial. It "happens" to people for a wide variety of reasons. Inability to find a mate. Death of a spouse. Difficult family situations. Medical or financial difficulties. The age and stage you're in as a young adult. The list goes on and on.
- Celibacy, on the other hand, is a vocation/calling. It's a rare gift that God grants only to a few special individuals (see Matthew 19:10-12; I Corinthians 7:7). In our opinion, the charge of living a completely asexual life - and this, we must remember, is what "singleness" or celibacy implies for a serious Christian - is a difficult standard to achieve.

That's why we consider marriage such an important part of the divine plan for the average believer (see I Corinthians 7:2).

Paul in particular doesn't pull any punches in this regard: "But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: it is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion" (I Corinthians 7:8, 9). **The practical application seems plain: if you're single and aren't convinced that you have a clear calling to the celibate life, you should be thinking seriously about exploring the option of marriage.**

Naturally, we don't take any of this to mean that married people are somehow "superior" to singles. That's not the point. We understand that singleness can be a good thing in many situations and for a number of different reasons. But we still believe that it's the exception to the rule.

This is the assumption underlying Paul's entire discussion of the subject in **I Corinthians 7**. In this passage the apostle is careful to distinguish between commandments from the Lord and pronouncements based upon his own opinion (see vv. 8, 10, 12, 25). He also makes it clear that his ideas about the advantages of the single life are largely a response to the practical necessities of the immediate historical situation (i.e., persecution and hardship-see v. 26). Whatever else he may be saying, he is certainly not arguing that singleness is the "standard" for human life. (*Focus on the Family*)

Myth #5 - Marriage is strictly for having children

Is it wrong to enjoy one another sexually/intimately? Scripture nowhere teaches that sex for enjoyment is wrong within a marriage as long as sin is not otherwise being committed. In fact, married couples are specifically commanded to have sex.

First, we should look at why God created marriage...

Eph 5:31-32 (NIV) *"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...*

Note that the purpose of marriage is defined for us here (to reflect/display the love of Christ and the Church), and there is no mention of children. Children are indeed a hope and blessing for many, but not God's primary purpose for marriage.

Think about it: There are some Christian couples who do not have children and may never have children. Are they not blessed by God in their marriage? Does God love them less than the couples who have children? Are they not able to fulfill God's plan for marriage because they don't have children? These are rhetorical questions.

- God made marriage to show us a "great mystery"... of the joy and bliss of communion between God and man {Christ and the Church}.
- It is not the only purpose, but the principal, and the one God says was His motive for creating sexual capability.
- According to Scripture, sex within marriage is the "God ordained sermon" given us to understand how it is and will be with Him.

Elsewhere, married couples are commanded not to abstain from "normal sexual relations"...

1 Cor 7:5 (NIV) - *Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

Notice the exclusive case God allows for the sexual desire within marriage not to be consummated is only for a "fast" for the purpose of prayer. It is not in any way related to having or not having children.

Again, in the Old Testament:

Prov 5:18-19 (NAS) *May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer--may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.*

Note that in first part of this verse there is the connotation of children being anticipated as a blessing, for "fountain" can be a metaphor (directly in Essene writings) of male ejaculation. And this is representative of many Scriptures. But more to our point here, "enjoy the breasts of your wife" is an on-going thing. A baby, if the Lord will it, is a once a year (or every few years) thing. But we are to enjoy each other in God's blessing and grace, regularly.

Notice also the goal, that "*you ever be captivated by her love*". See the connection to 1 Cor 7:5? Paul turns this advice into a command "lest you be tempted" due to lack of self-control.

This makes it sufficiently clear (or at least it should be made clear) that God made sex within marriage to be enjoyed and not just for having children.

Things to carefully consider:

- a) The empty-nesters.** What will a husband and a wife, who have put all their time and energy in their children (let's say, for 20+ years), do when their children are no longer in the house!? Will they love each other, pursue each other, serve one another, and so on? If they didn't do all these things, and so much more, when their children were in the house, they most likely won't do those things when their children are out of the house! Or, at the very least, it will be difficult. If a couple doesn't begin with the proper Biblical perspective of marriage and children, it will be difficult to live out God's purpose for their marriage. Not to say that God cannot change them. Now, anything can become an idol, but it seems that the things that are often closest to us (spouse, children, etc.) have a greater chance of becoming an idol. The husband and wife must remember that the primary purpose of their marriage is not to have children but to reflect the glory, mystery and relationship of Christ and the Church in this world, as a couple.
- b) Pre-children stage.** Some young(er) couples may say, *Things will be better after we have children.* In other words, if the marriage is stale, characterized by frequent problems, or even boring at the moment, a child will make it more exciting. Sure, a child will change your life, and, through them, God brings us much joy and laughter (but be prepared for a lot of heartache as well; that's another subject). This mindset (*a child will fix things*) is a cover-up. The problems a husband and a wife experience before having children do not automatically disappear once they have a child. They must work together at the root of their problems. Otherwise, the issues will compound once a child enters the picture. And then, the unnecessary tragedy that can happen is that they begin to blame the child for the new or unexpected problems that they are now experiencing! Do you see the cycle? - (Clarification: The term *problems*, above, does not refer to day-to-day circumstances within a marriage. The normal stress of life comes to us all via work or family responsibilities, sickness, physical exhaustion, and so on. By *problems*, I'm referring to reoccurring issues that negatively impact the unity of a couple and harm their spiritual life, and connection with God and each other. Things such as verbal/physical abuse, neglect of spiritual life, lying, laziness, etc.)

Myth #6 - A good marriage is all about intimacy (sex)

Sex is holy (set apart for a specific purpose). In marriage, it is a beautiful gift, and we honor God, the Giver, when we accept the gift with joy and enthusiasm. A husband and wife honor Him when they cultivate physical, spiritual, and emotional intimacy.

We miss His heart when we think, believe, and/or make statements such as: *He gave us marriage just to make us holy, Sex is strictly for having children, Spiritual intimacy is what matters,* and the like.

To be clear, marriage is not all about having sex. And the couple, or spouse, who clings to this expectation will be quickly disappointed. But sex needs to be a part of your marriage (God says so) and it needs to be understood if it is to be enjoyed.

Sex doesn't create intimacy, it is a result of intimacy. You can't fix a frail marriage by having more sex.

Intimacy is created and maintained mainly by your emotional and spiritual connection. This includes but is certainly not limited to: the way you speak to one another, how often you speak and how deep the discussions are, how you look at each other, how you spend time together, the things you share or don't share with one another (fears, dreams, pain, frustrations, unforgiveness, etc.), the spiritual disciplines that you practice together (prayer, fasting, worship, Bible reading, serving, etc.), and so on.

There are many things that can hinder this connection, some of which arise from the normal day-to-day activities and stresses of life such as work or family responsibilities, sickness, or physical exhaustion.

Don't be quickly discouraged or scared when you see that you have not been sexually active for a while. At the same time, don't neglect it! That can and will create other problems down the road.

Other factors to this emotional & spiritual intimacy may include impure thoughts or behaviors from one or both partners (pornography, fantasies, personal struggles), problems from the past that have never been addressed and resolved, or external factors such as issues at work, conflict with relatives, tragic or unforeseen experiences, or spiritual laziness/neglect.

Young married couples especially need to understand that a healthy sexual relationship has little to do with *frequency*. At the beginning of our marriage, that was my mindset - *it's all about frequency*. Frequency is important, but it is not the primary gauge for the emotional health of your relationship. To give a negative example, consider the wife who agrees to having sex whenever her husband wishes, but she is never fully engaged. She does it just to get it over with. That does no good. The husband, in this case, should be sensitive to this, refrain from being led by his physical desires, and begin to focus his attention on cultivating emotional intimacy.

Sex has much more to do with intimacy than frequency.

Here are some questions and areas to consider:

- **Connection:** Do you, as husband and wife, regularly connect with each other emotionally?
- **Intentionality (or Priority):** Do you make time/plan for sex or is it something that you get to when or if you can?
- **Passion:** Is it a struggle to be fully intimate or do you enjoy it?
- **Creativity:** Are you physically intimate in other ways besides sexual intercourse? (Touching, playfulness, quality time together, etc.). In other words, what are you doing to build up to good sex?

Dear married couple, want to be pleasing to God? Cultivate emotional and spiritual intimacy first and it will allow you to cultivate and experience physical intimacy.

Myth #7 - If he/she loves me, they will know what I want or need

There is the false notion that if two people are in *love* they will know each other's needs/wants without having to express them. The problem with this attitude is that marriage doesn't turn you into a mind-reader (there's no such thing)! Marriage requires healthy, frequent communication. At first, this may not come easy for some couples, especially if they grew up in households where there was a poor example of communication but, with God's help and by His grace, it's possible.

In order to understand each other and to serve one another, you must learn how to communicate. Here are some Biblical suggestions:

a) Be mindful of your words, they matter

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

Be mindful of your words to your spouse. This is especially challenging when the conversation is tense. As you engage your spouse in conversation, ask yourself whether the Lord is pleased with the tone of your words and with the words you choose to use with each other. Pray together that your conversations would be acceptable to God. Be careful of what you think (meditate) on for this turns into words.

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (Proverbs 12:18)

Whether we use them for good or for harm, our words matter. In marriage, our words should be used to build each other up, and to share our feelings, needs, and dreams with our partner. They should not be used as a weapon. Do your words bring healing to your spouse, or are they more like the thrusts of a sword?

b) Restraint equals knowledge

He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. (Proverbs 17:27)

Are you hotheaded, or are you of a calm spirit? Do you run from communication (like your father or mother) or do you seek earnestly to talk about things. You should know this and discuss it with your future spouse, before getting married. It takes self-control to be able to restrain harsh words. You need to be aware of your own emotional states and you must be equipped with the skills to calm yourself, and to stay engaged with your spouse through tense moments. Experience and wisdom are the foundation of this sort of "calm spirit."

c) Listening is a part of communication

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. (Proverbs 18:13)

The foundation of good communication is active listening. Too many times we respond to our partner without fully understanding what they are communicating, needing, or sharing. Proverbs says that it is folly to respond before we hear. To hear, we must devote our full attention to our partner, without distractions.

Unlike some married men, Jesus doesn't offer His bride quick solutions. Men especially need to understand that part of effective communication involves listening. *Men, sometimes we need to stop talking and just listen.*

Aren't you glad we have a heavenly Father who hears us? When I have a lot on my heart and want to talk to God, I know that He listens when I draw near to Him in prayer. I just know that He is there, and I can talk to Him, whatever the state of my heart.

But what if He interrupted me after the first few seconds of talking to Him and started offering advice and solutions to the needs I bring before Him (I'm not saying it can never happen that way, He is Sovereign after all)? Or vice versa. What if He wants to talk to me and all I'm doing is rambling and concerned about my own agenda?

Do our prayers sometimes go wrong because we insist on trying to talk to God when He wants to talk to us? (C.S. Lewis)

Tips for Listening to Your Spouse (Not Just Hearing, Listening)

- 1. Make time** - Of course, we should always be listening to our spouse but when he/she has something more serious or important to share, make time for it. Put everything else aside.
- 2. Listen with your eyes** - God made us so wonderfully that we can intake information (body language, visual cues, etc.) with our eyes not just with our ears. As your spouse speaks, they want/need to see you listening.
- 3. Focus & wait** - Think about what he/she is saying, don't try to come up with a response or answer. They're probably not even interested in that. Take a few seconds of silence after he/she is done talking to consider what they shared.
- 4. Follow-up** - At a later time, the right time, follow-up on what he/she told you.

d) About anger in communication

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to get angry.
(James 1:19)

Good marital communication involves more than just talking. Two people devoted exclusively to talking will both end up feeling missed, unheard, and undervalued by their partner. From this passage (and others), we see that God's design for communication appears to place a larger focus on hearing than it does on talking. It has been said that the Good Lord gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason. Open your ears to what your spouse is saying. Open your eyes to how your spouse is saying it. Practice speaking less and listening more.

Myth #8 - The husband's job is to make the wife happy (or vice versa)

(This is somewhat related to *Myth #1, He/She will complete me or make me whole.*)

Understand this: Whether you are a husband or a wife, the only way you can experience true joy is by pursuing intimacy with Christ daily.

Comedian Jeff Allen has capitalized on a humorous and catchy series around a little modern proverb: *"Happy wife, happy life."* His comedy may be compelling, and his style engaging, but, like many catchphrases in Christian pop culture, his seemingly harmless comedy communicates falsehood. The truth is, the idea of "Happy wife, happy life" is not found in the Scriptures, and pursuing this advice will make both you and your wife miserable. Here are three Biblical reasons:

1. **Neither you nor your wife knows what will make you happy.** The assumption behind, "Happy wife, happy life" is that your wife knows what she wants, and your life would be happier if you would just give her what she says she wants. Jeremiah 17:9 teaches us that no one knows their own heart and, if there is one thing we do know, it is that the heart can easily be deceived. Eve got what she eventually wanted in the Garden of Eden, presumably while Adam was not far away. Adam was the original poster boy for "Happy wife, happy life," and when Eve got what she eventually came to believe would make her happy, no one was laughing. Only God knows what will make you happy and bring you true, lasting peace. That's why He gave us Jesus Christ! Without Him, we'd all be hopeless and miserable. When our heart is changed, our desires change.
2. **Even if you give your wife what she says she wants, you cannot make her happy.** We all come to realize that a new job, a new truck, a remodeled house or 2 healthy kids cannot *make* us happy. James teaches us that we do not even realize that we often ask wrongly for things that we intend to spend "on our own passions" (James 4:3). *There is no more miserable person than one who receives the thing they set out to get only to find that it cannot satisfy the longings of their heart.* Conversely, the one who is pursuing Christ with all their heart can be content and satisfied even while enduring the most difficult of circumstances. Marriage cannot make one happy and, therefore, a spouse cannot make the other happy, either.
3. **You were not designed to make her happy.** The Scriptures do not instruct a man to make his wife happy. We are called to love our wives and, yes, by default, this involves a commitment to doing things and living with her in such a way that nurtures joy. Every person is made in the image of God and, therefore, a wife finds her ultimate meaning, worth and, yes, happiness, in Him alone. Your wife was made to be complete in God (refer to Myth #1). She will be most happy when she counts everything a loss compared to the "surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:8). When a husband gets in-between his wife and God, he can easily become an idol. She may appeal to you, require of you, and even manipulate you. But life will eventually deliver circumstances which you cannot control or overcome.

You will learn that God is God, and that husbands make lousy gods. She will find that her soul will be satisfied (made happy!) with nothing less than God himself.

So, what's a husband to do? Here are three actions, especially for husbands, who love Jesus:

- **Take initiative.** Ephesians 5:23 says that the husband is the head of the wife. Husbands, this means that you have been given an important role; and that, for God's own reasons, he is holding you responsible, not for your wife's happiness, but for the way you minister godliness in your home. Oh how our Christian homes will be impacted when the men step into the role that God has designed them for: not primarily to respond to the needs of our wife, but to set the pace in following closely after Christ!
- **Know the Word of God.** Eve could've really received benefit from this (remember our study on Adam, Eve and God, and how things were in the beginning?). When you know the Word of God and are seeking to apply it first to your own heart, you have the credibility, boldness and wisdom to show your wife what the Word says by first living it. Isn't that what Paul is teaching us in Ephesians 5:26 when he speaks about a washing and sanctification that comes "with the word"? The church needs men who are actively pursuing God by actively pursuing his Word.
- **Understand the uniqueness of your wife** and then aim at the goal of giving her sacrificial love each and every day (1 Peter 3:7). But this does not equate to living each day to try to make her happy. Understanding your wife does not mean, "Try to keep her comfortable." It means that we understand where our wife is weak, and we bring service, prayer, humility and love to cover that weakness. Does your wife struggle with body image? Was she abused? Is she an addict? Does her insecurity breed social anxiety? Does she avoid people who have hurt her? Is she pre-occupied with politics? My Christian friend, making her "happy" in these areas will not yield a "happy life." Not for her or for you. So, take initiative. Step into your role and bring a humble spirit as you pursue God with her.

Setting out to make your wife happy will not make your life happy. If this becomes your goal, you will experience failure, frustration and, possibly, a string of fights. And the greater danger is that your wife will become an idol. That was never God's purpose. But if you will faithfully pursue Christ Jesus with all your heart and mind, you will begin to deliver to your wife what she really longs for, a godly husband.

SUMMARY



Myth #1 - Marriage will complete me

Marriage doesn't complete a person, only God can. Seeking fulfillment from a spouse leads to frustration, as no human can meet all our needs. Scripture reminds us that we are made whole in Christ, not through another person.

Myth #2 - He/she is my soulmate

There isn't one "perfect" person for everyone. Compatibility in marriage is built over time ('they shall become one'), not found instantly. The idea of soulmates comes from Greek mythology, not the Bible. God is involved in our relationships, and cares for the details of our life (from the number of hairs on our head to the person who will be our spouse!), but we are complete in Him, not in a spouse.

Myth #3 - God will use my spouse to make me holy

Only God sanctifies and makes us holy and whole (as we find in 1 Thess. 5:23 and other passages). Marriage is not just for holiness but enjoyment too. God uses relationships to refine/sharpen us, but holiness comes from God, not from our spouse. Marriage is a gift for joy, fruitfulness, and mutual support. If God does use our spouse, it is to point us to the ONE who makes us holy, often, through repentance.

Myth #4 - Marriage is for everyone

Marriage is not for everyone, nor is singleness inferior. While marriage is central to God's design for many, and God's plan and desire, singleness can be a valid and fulfilling calling. Most people will marry and if someone chooses a celibate life, they must be clear/sure it is God's plan, as this is often tied to a ministerial calling etc. Both states are valuable in different ways.

Myth #5 - Marriage is strictly for having children

Children are a blessing but not the sole purpose of marriage (take for example couples who never are able to have children). Enjoying intimacy with your spouse is a significant part of marriage, and Scripture encourages this. Couples without children are equally blessed by God and fulfill His design for marriage. God unites two people to reflect the love of Christ and the Church and to display the wonderful work of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in union.

Myth #6 - A good marriage is all about intimacy (sex)

Sex in marriage is a beautiful gift from God, but it's not the core of intimacy. True intimacy stems from emotional and spiritual connection, such as how you communicate, spend time, and support one another. Sex is a reflection/byproduct of intimacy, not a way to fix a struggling relationship. Frequency of sex matters less than building genuine emotional and spiritual closeness.

Myth #7 - If he/she loves me, they will know what I want or need

Marriage doesn't make you a mind reader. Effective communication is crucial to understand each other's needs. This includes speaking kindly, practicing restraint, listening attentively, and controlling emotions like anger. Open, honest communication, rooted in love, helps both partners feel understood and valued.

Myth #8 - The husband's job is to make the wife happy (or vice versa)

True happiness in marriage comes from pursuing a deep relationship with Christ, not from trying to make each other happy. Husbands should lead their families in godliness, focusing on love, sacrifice, and understanding, which can lead to happiness. Remember, lasting joy comes from God, not from another person.

Foolish Reasons for Getting Married

1. Because your friends are getting married

If all your friends jumped off a bridge, would you? This is an absurd, rhetorical question, of course! The point is, you must live the life God gave you and not copy what someone else is doing. Just because it is time for your friend to get married doesn't mean it's time for you to get married. Plus, you may be seeing just the exterior of someone's love life. Deep down, they may be entering marriage foolishly; don't be envious. If anything, pray for your friends who seem to be rushing into marriage, without *counting the cost*.

Balanced perspective: If a friend of yours is getting married for all the Biblical reasons and their family/community attests that it is a wise time to do so, rejoice with them! This example is notable and worth following. (It still doesn't mean it is time for YOU to get married.)

Not a few have entered marriage because it's the popular thing to do. Seeing everyone's proposals and engagements on your social media feed doesn't help the matter. *All my friends are getting married, why should I be left behind?* Peer pressure is so great at certain times in life that it can dull or blind your focus; some even become delinquent or irresponsible in certain areas of life such as school, work or family life. Far too many have impulsively run off to get married on a dare, or because others were doing it.

Hasty decisions can generate a lifetime of bitter experiences. Marriage should not be entered into carelessly.

How can a single man or woman overcome this pressure?

a. By seeking to please God.

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

Getting married because your friends are getting married might be exciting, but it can be short-lived. Before thinking of how your friends will react or seeking to fit in, be concerned with what God thinks. Is it His will? Are your motives pure? In all we do, especially marriage, we should seek to please God.

b. By growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

With God, there is always more. More to learn, to discover, to embrace. Make spiritual maturity a priority, while you are single. This will be a blessing for you and your future spouse.

c. By walking/associating with wise people.

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (Proverbs 13:20)

If your 'friends' are causing you to awaken love at a time when love should not be awakened, stop hanging out with them. We know that whoever we associate with we tend to become like and if we're associating with people who are Christ-like, we'll become wise. We know that wisdom tends to rub off so why not walk or associate with those who are wise, meaning, Biblically wise. The only other choice is to suffer harm from being the companion of fools (or those who don't have the Spirit of God).

2. For Money

Some marry for financial security. Some of us have heard those exotic stories of the young girl who is romanced by, and becomes wedded to, the proverbial rich boy to live in luxury. Such cases are rare, of course, but the happiness sought in such arrangements is rarer still.

Closer to home are the situations, for example, where a daughter is overlooked by an unproviding father. Determined to have the better life, she marries the first young man who is able to offer her economic stability. Such trade-off is a sorry basis for marriage, and she may learn all too well the heartbreaking lesson that a blessed home & marriage is more than dollars and cents.

Guard against the love of money, and all that it implies. It is a terrible and sinful thing when we place this, from the start, higher than the love for our partner, the marriage covenant and, ultimately, God and His Word.

Loving money and getting married strictly in order to advance financially is like assisting Satan in his mission to split up couples and wreak havoc on the family life.

Why is this (marrying for money) such a problem?

First, because it's a **character** problem.

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," (Heb.13:5)

- a. **We need to look to God as our provider, not a person.** Marrying someone strictly for money may improve where you live, what you drive, what you eat, and so on, but it can ruin your heart, the hidden person that is so important to a flourishing life in the Lord. Trust in the Lord, not in riches.
- b. **Be content with what you have.** This doesn't mean you can't grow financially, advance in your career, or buy nice things. But don't allow your heart to be tied to those things. Count your blessings. Do you have health? Praise God! Many do not. Keep counting. Understand that more is not always better. Be rich in the things that matter - faith, love, serving, etc.

Second, the love of money is **the root of all sorts of evil.**

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Tim.6:10)

Love of money really is at the root of all kinds of evil, and it's one of Satan's key weapons in destroying the world. He does it by first penetrating marriages, families, relationships, until the destruction spreads like cancer across a nation. But I can be watchful so that it has no place in *my* life.

Note: This doesn't mean money doesn't have a place in marriage or that we should not educate ourselves, as a couple, seeking to be financially stable and wise stewards of all God gives us. But we are to seek His kingdom first. Is it wrong to need things for the house, to buy groceries or clothes? Of course not. What's wrong is when our desire for money and for the accumulation of earthly possessions takes root in our hearts and it begins to control the way we think and behave.

3. Because you're bored and looking for a change or adventure

There are those who enter marriage to escape a miserable or boring family/domestic situation.

Late adolescence can be a difficult and confusing time of life. Youngsters are sometimes in a "twilight zone" of sorts. They are not ready to survive on their own, yet they have started to develop a sense of independence; they are restless for new adventures and want to explore the world.

If their home-life is an unhappy one (with perhaps harsh and insensitive parents), they may be tempted to quickly find a mate simply to escape the misery of their present circumstance. This is a serious mistake. *It may be like going from the proverbial frying pan into the fire.*

Escape is not a noble motive for forming the most intimate of human relationships.

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. - **John 10:10***

Jesus wants us to experience real life! There is no such thing as a 'bored' Christian. One of the best cures for boredom is to serve & help others. --- *One doctor said that whenever a patient comes to him complaining of vague symptoms with no medical cause, he tells them to "crawl out of yourself." It means to crawl out of the cave of self-pity and get involved in the world of hurting people.*

There are two primary causes of boredom:

The first is overstimulation. *We live in a society that encourages us to believe that more is better. A little of something will not suffice, you need more and more. If one drink is good, two is better, and five will send you to heaven. If one pill helps, two is a kicker, three is a party, and five will knock you out. We see this in relationships as people jump from one person to another. We see it in the pressure at work, to constantly move "up the ladder," so people hop from one job to another, hoping to find the perfect fit. And we move from city to city, and from church to church. We make friends, keep them for a while, get to know them, and then we move on to someone else. Advertisers prey on this tendency when they urge us to buy more, buy new, buy now.*

The second cause of boredom is under-commitment. *This is partly a result of the massive overstimulation. Too many people live at the 20% level of commitment. We are 20% committed to our marriage, 20% committed to our work, 20% committed to our relationships, 20% committed to our families, 20% committed to our careers, 20% committed to our church, and we end up being 20% committed to Jesus Christ. No wonder we are frustrated. No wonder we are antsy. No wonder we are bored. We aren't committed enough to anything to find a reason to get out of bed in the morning.*

Ecc.9:10 - *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.*

1. Do something - Do not be idle; make sure your mind and hands are doing something. There is plenty to do! (Ex. Visiting the sick, giving, missionary work, etc.). Start small. Start today.

2. Do it with passion - Not only are we to do whatever lies close at hand, we are to do it with passion. The Puritans talked often about the importance of earnestness. We don't hear it much nowadays, but it perfectly describes how Christians should approach life. Life is too short, too fragile, and too precious to take lightly. Whatever we do, we should do it heartily, with enthusiasm!

3. Consider the brevity of life - Life is not a dress rehearsal. We only get one chance to do whatever we're going to do on planet earth. Some people never get around to really living because they don't think enough about death. Keep an eternal perspective in all you do!

4. To get back at your ex or your parents

Some marry out of revenge. It is difficult to fathom the fact that there are those who would enter into such a sacred union merely out of the desire to hurt, or to *get back at*, another person. But the "I'll-show-you" attitude is more prominent than most would care to admit. Sadly, it ends up hurting them more than it ends up hurting the person(s) they are vengeful against.

Ex.1 A young lady may enter marriage to show her parents that they cannot control her life – particularly in the case of a young man of whom they may disapprove. Perhaps she has had problem after problem with her parents and she cannot *take it anymore*.

Ex.2 In another sad example, a young man or woman may marry on the rebound – just to demonstrate that "two can play this game." In other words, they had their heart shattered but now they want to show their ex that they are doing fine without them.

But it's not a game! Marriage relationships can have eternal consequences.

Lev.19:18 - *Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*

1 Peter 3:9 - *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*

1 Thess.5:15 - *Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.*

Prov. 20:22 - *Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will avenge you.*

"Revenge belongs to the Lord" means that it is not our place as humans to retaliate and repay a wrongdoing with another wrongdoing. It is God's place to make the situation right and it is Him who will bring justice to a hurtful circumstance, maybe not here on earth, but in the end.

*The Lord is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth. Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve - **Psalm 94:1-2***

❶ Unforgiveness grows into bitterness, and one of its many "bitter fruits" is vengeful thoughts & actions.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 - *Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*

Ephesians 4:26-27 - *In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*

- The Greek word translated "foothold" means: "a place, region, seat; an opportunity."

God will settle our accounts. This promise should bring us comfort. He is both just and merciful, not like us. He punishes all sin. If it's concerning sin, that has been done against you, know that He knows about it! He punishes it either in Christ on the cross for those who repent and trust him, or in hell for those who don't. Therefore, let God be God!

5. To 'cover' a mistake or sin

Marriage should not be entered into just to cover a mistake or sin.

The difference between a mistake and a sin:

The term "mistake" implies an error in judgment – something done unintentionally. For example, a legitimate mistake might be:

- Turning onto a one-way street, going the wrong way.
- Pouring salt into your coffee, thinking it was sugar.
- Clicking an ad or opening an email and ending up on a porn site.

These could all be legitimate mistakes. They happen because we get distracted or careless. But a sin is more than a mistake. It's a deliberate choice to do something you know is wrong.

The word "transgression" is even stronger. It implies deliberately stepping over a boundary. The word "trespass" is similar. It implies entering onto another person's property without permission. *Unlike a mistake, we choose to sin. Therefore, we must accept responsibility for it—and the consequences.*

What to do? In this age of lust and promiscuity (really, this is nothing new; it's been around since the *days of Noah*, but it seems to have increased in intensity), what should a couple do when they discover that a child has been conceived out of wedlock? Sometimes, a "we-must-get-married" is the quick-fix formula that first comes to mind (often, this may be a knee-jerk reaction, out of shame or fear).

- In the event of such a mistake, a Christian couple should repent – with genuine sorrow and seek God's forgiveness. (Ex. David – Read **Psalm 51**)
- Second, the couple should then carefully consider their options. Do they really love one another, and are they committed to serving God? If so, they may wish to marry, and put their sin behind.
 - On the other hand, if exalted qualities are not a part of the relationship, merely "getting married" is not a resolution to their problem, and it certainly will not enhance the happiness of their child. In some cases, it would be far better for a young woman to wait, perhaps eventually finding a devout father for her child, than to wed her partner in fornication "for the sake of the baby."

Covering up sin is never the answer. Here's what God's word tells us:

- **Proverbs 28:13** - *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.*
- **Job 31:33** - *Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom...*
- **Proverbs 10:18** - *He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool.*
- **Psalm 19:12** - *Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.*
- **John 3:19,20** - *This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

6. Strictly because of physical attraction

Marriage on the basis of mere physical attraction is a foolish mistake. We are to walk by the Spirit not by the flesh (Gal.5:16). Physical attraction is stronger than we may think, and it must not be our guide.

The grass withers and the flowers fade (Is.40:8) – and so does physical beauty! Many couples have watched the degeneration of their marriages because the relationships were grounded primarily on external features. When they don't find each other attractive anymore, they call it quits and look for someone else.

Spiritual qualities and personality traits are the characteristics that bonds couples in covenant marriage. Marry someone, first, on the basis of character. *Do they love the Lord? Do they show it in their life? Have they experienced trials and come out refined and stronger? Can you see the fruit of the Spirit in their life?*

Unmarried men and women need to know and seek after the true values that define lasting marriages.

1 Samuel 16:7 - *But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'*

What it means: This scripture about beauty illustrates that the world focuses on what people look like on the outside. God focuses on what people look like on the inside. Do you put more time and effort into being pretty on the outside or the inside? As you get older, you will meet Christian girls who spend more time trying to find the perfect outfit, get the perfect tan, find the perfect lip gloss, and have the perfect body. While there's nothing wrong with wanting to look pretty, we need to make sure it's in balance. God would rather see us work on becoming drop-dead gorgeous on the inside. You know, the kind of girl who talks to Him on a regular basis (prayer) and reads her Bible. Of course, this all applies to the guys as well!

Proverbs 31:30 - *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

What it means: Beauty fades with age, so if you are more concerned with your outer appearance, you will be unhappy when the wrinkles come and the number on the scale goes up. In fact, did you know that your body may show the beginning signs of aging as early as age twenty? That is why God wants us to "fear" Him. That doesn't mean to be afraid of Him but rather to be in awe of Him and all that He has done. Let me put it to you this way. If you stand two girls next to each other and one is Miss Teen USA whose beauty is limited to physical beauty, and the other young lady is a more average-looking girl who loves the Lord more than anything, she is the more beautiful girl in the eyes of God.

1 Peter 3:3-4 - *Your beauty should not come from outward adornments, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

What it means: This scripture about beauty does not mean it's wrong to braid your hair or wear nice clothes and jewelry. The verse was written to warn women not to follow the customs of some of the Egyptian women who, during that time, spent hours and hours working on their hair, makeup, and finding the perfect outfit. God would rather see women work on becoming beautiful on the inside – the kind of beauty that lasts forever. Again, the principle here applies to the men as well.

Source: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/scriptures-about-beauty-and-appearance/>
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/381-foolish-reasons-for-getting-married>

7. Out of desperation

Finally, it hardly needs saying, but it is the epitome of folly to marry out of desperation. It is better to be single for life, than to live with a spouse you don't love. Marriage is meant to be enjoyed not endured.

Some are so afraid that at their "advanced" stage of life, if they don't marry soon, the bliss may never come! The thought of missing out is too horrible for them to contemplate. And so, marry they must.

You may be single, but you don't have to be desperate. Desperation comes when we place the source of our joy onto anything other than God and act as if we need or else we can't go on living.

Possible reasons for desperation:

- *Age:* You're getting 'older' and you're afraid time might run out. *He/she has to be the one.*
- *Heartbreak:* You've had relational issues in the past and are concerned that you won't find someone else, so you marry the first decent human who comes your way
- *Pressure:* Everyone around you is asking when you're going to get married. It doesn't help that all your friends are getting married as well.
- *Impatience:* You simply don't want to wait. Whoever comes first, he/she is the one.

Often, the moments of desperation in life are the moments when God can reveal Himself in a deeper way. Let's look at the example of Habakkuk and learn what he did...

His heart pounded, his lips quivered, decay crept into his bones, and his legs trembled ([Habakkuk 3:16](#)). He was confused, angry, terrified, and desperate for relief. He cried, "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?" ([Habakkuk 1:2](#)). Habakkuk, an Old Testament prophet, experienced a season of trials that seemed endless. He was desperate for relief, for change, for God to intervene. *Does that sound like something you can relate to?*

1. Rely on God by faith

Every believer in Jesus Christ is called to a life of faith ([Galatians 2:20](#)). Faith beckons us to rejoice in the Lord and be joyful in God our Savior (Hab. 3:18). When we love and are joyful through trials, it is the ultimate demonstration of true faith. Christian faith doesn't rest on what is seen and what is temporary—it relies on the all-sufficiency of Christ ([2 Corinthians 4:18](#)).

2. Express your thought's and feelings to God (He already knows)

Habakkuk was far from denial regarding his situation. Through his knowledge of the Father's character, he fueled honest prayers. He expressed himself passionately, honestly, asking "Why are you silent?" ([1:13](#)) and "Why do you tolerate wrong?" ([1:3](#)). Our Savior Jesus modeled this numerous times in his earthly walk, where it's recorded that he prayed all night to God ([Luke 6:12](#)). We also see Christ's honesty about his circumstances in Matthew 26, where three times he asks the Father to take the cup of suffering away from him (vv. 39, 42, 44).

3. Rely on God's grace

We have a warm invitation from the Creator of the universe to approach his throne of grace to find mercy in our time of need ([Hebrews 4:16](#)). By faith, we acknowledge that God is not obligated to respond to our questions or cries—but we rely on the gift of his justifying grace to us through Christ ([Romans 3:24](#)). On this side of heaven, we may never comprehend why God acts or withholds in our lives—but we can rest in the truth that his grace is sufficient for us ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)).

Source: <https://unlockingthebible.org/2018/12/relying-god-times-desperation-habakkuk/>
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/381-foolish-reasons-for-getting-married>

Closing Perspective

God's will for marriage is found in His Word. Seek it out! And keep in mind: Marriage is not the final solution to your 'problems', nor should it be your greatest treasure.

Marriage is a wonderful gift from God. As [Proverbs 31:10-12](#) exclaims, *"An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life."* Amen! Next to Jesus, Daniela is the best gift God has given me! And my children right after that! My recommendation to all young adults is to get married, in the Lord. But at the same time, if God is not at the center of your life and your spouse's life, marriage will create more problems than it solves. Without the Lord at the center, marriage brings together two self-centered people expecting the other person to meet his or her needs. That doesn't work. Put God at the center of your life. Pray that He will bring you a spouse with the same commitment. Then joyfully follow Him together.

Conclusion

Psychologist William Marston once asked 300 people, "What do you have to live for?" Nine out of ten were simply waiting for something to happen—a better job, a new house, a trip, etc. They were putting in time while they waited for an uncertain tomorrow.

But as Christians, our mentality should be that of [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#): the time is short, and eternity is just ahead. Our focus should be on the Lord and His kingdom. If He graciously gives you the blessings of a Christian marriage, enjoy it thankfully. But don't put your hopes for fulfillment in a family. Hope in the Lord! Whether you're single or married, your purpose should never be to seek self-fulfillment. Rather, your purpose should be to pursue a course that leads to the greatest devotion to Christ and His cause in these days that remain before His coming.