AFTER You Say "I Do"

The Lord Seeks a Godly Seed

Ephesians 5:22 (Message)

22) Wives, understand and SUPPORT YOUR HUSBANDS in ways that show your support for Christ.

Ephesians 5:23-24 (Message)

- The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, NOT BY DOMINEERING but by CHERISHING.
- 24) So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands.

Ephesians 5:25 (Message)

Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church - a love marked by GIVING, NOT GETTING.

Ephesians 5:26-28 (Message)

- 26) Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. EVERYTHING HE DOES AND SAYS IS DESIGNED TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN HER,
- 27) dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness.
- 28) And THAT IS HOW HUSBANDS OUGHT TO LOVE THEIR WIVES...

Ephesians 5:28-30 (Message)

- 28) ... They're really doing themselves a favor since THEY'RE ALREADY "ONE" IN MARRIAGE.
- 29) No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church,
- 30) since we are part of his body.

Ephesians 5:31-32 (Message)

- And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh."
- 32) THIS IS A HUGE MYSTERY, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is THE WAY THAT CHRIST TREATS THE CHURCH.

Ephesians 5:33 (Message)

And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, LOVING HIMSELF IN LOVING HER, and how EACH WIFE IS TO HONOR HER HUSBAND.

What Would JESUS Do?

- 1) A Healthy EXPECTATION of Marriage
- 2) A REALISTIC Understanding of Love
- 3) A POSITIVE Attitude and Outlook
- 4) Ability to COMMUNICATE Feelings
- 5) ACCEPTANCE of Gender Differences
- 6) Ability to SETTLE Arguments
- 7) Common Spiritual FOUNDATION

1) A Healthy EXPECTATION of Marriage

- Married People Expect the SAME THINGS
- Everything GOOD Gets BETTER
- Everything BAD in Your Life DISAPPEARS
- My Spouse Will Make Me WHOLE

Types of Relationships

ENMESHED Relationships

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DISENGAGED Relationships

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INTERDEPENDENT Relationships

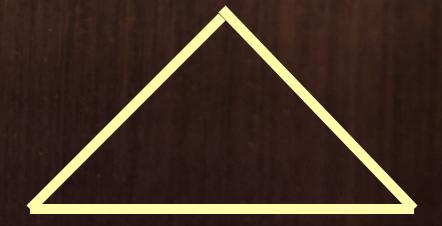
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2) A REALISTIC Understanding of Love

EROS - Passion

PHILEO - Intimacy

AGAPE - Commitment



3) A POSITIVE Attitude and Outlook

- Happiness has nothing to do with LUCK, and everything to do with WILL
- Happy Couples CHOOSE to be Happy
- Take RESPONSIBILITY for your own feelings

4) Ability to COMMUNICATE Feelings

- Use "I" Statements, not "YOU" Statements
- Practice REFLECTIVE LISTENING
- Communicate through TOUCH

5) ACCEPTANCE of Gender Differences

What a WOMAN Wants:

To Be CHERISHED

To Be UNDERSTOOD

To Be RESPECTED

What a MAN Wants:

To Be ADMIRED

To Have AUTONOMY

To Enjoy SHARED ACTIVITY

6) Ability to SETTLE Arguments

- DON'T RUN From Strife
- CHOOSE Your Battles Carefully
- Define the Issue CLEARLY
- State Your Feelings DIRECTLY
- Give Up on the PUT DOWNS

7) Common Spiritual FOUNDATION

- WORSHIP Together
- SERVE Together
- PRAY Together

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1st Peter 3:1 (Message)

1) The same goes for you wives: Be good wives to your husbands, responsive to their needs.

1st Peter 3:2-4 (Message)

- There are husbands who, indifferent as they are to any words about God, will be captivated by your life of holy beauty.
- What matters is not your outer appearance the styling of your hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes -
- 4) but your inner disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in.

1st Peter 3:5-6 (Message)

- The holy women of old were beautiful before God that way, and were good, loyal wives to their husbands.
- Sarah, for instance, taking care of Abraham, would address him as "My Dear Husband." You'll be true daughters of Sarah if you do the same, unanxious and unintimidated.

1st Peter 3:7 (Message)

7) The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground.

1st Peter 3:8 (Message)

8) Summing up:

Be AGREEABLE, be SYMPATHETIC, be LOVING, be COMPASSIONATE, be HUMBLE.

Amen.