

HOLY MATRIMONY

Introduction

- 1) At a wedding ceremony you will witness two individuals being joined in “holy matrimony”
- 2) “Matrimony” is the state of being married, and “holy” means that they are joined by God
- 3) It is a bonding of two lives for a lifetime – one of the most important steps to take (Matt. 19:6)
- 4) Many continue in matrimony, but their marriage becomes less than holy and good before God
- 5) The bond of marriage is established by God – what are the characteristics that make this bond holy and good for a lifetime?

I) LOVE

A) Love for God

- 1) Key for any successful relationship – love for God will make us good neighbors, employees, citizens, husband, wives, parents, friends, etc.
- 2) Loving God means we will keep His commandments (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3)

B) Love for mate

- 1) If one loves God, he/she will love his/her wife/husband as commanded by God (Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4)
- 2) Love (*agape*) – unselfish, sacrificial love that seeks the highest good for the one loved
 - a) Seek God’s will first and then the very best for our mate’s life and soul

II) UNDERSTANDING

A) Married couples need to understand the will of the Lord for their marriage (Eph. 5:17)

- 1) What attitudes, actions, words, thoughts, commitments would please or not please God
- 2) Why it is always helpful to seek a committed, practicing Christian to marry if possible

B) A husband must dwell with understanding [lit. “according to knowledge] (1 Pet. 3:7)

- 1) Understand the wife as a woman – her needs and her responsibility to God as a wife
- 2) This understanding is necessary to give the proper honor and care due her as a wife and weaker vessel, and seeing yourselves as heirs together of the grace of life

III) SUBMISSION

A) The husband and wife must both submit to Christ’s spiritual headship (I Cor. 11:3; Jas. 4:7)

- 1) If unwilling to submit to God, problems may arise – unwillingness to hear divine guidance
- 2) The husband must submit to his role as head of home and the wife must submit to her role as a submissive helper

B) The wife is to be submissive to her husband, as to the Lord (Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Pet. 3:1, 5)

- 1) Puts greater responsibility on husband to honor that role with faithful and loving leadership that seeks only the best for those he leads in the home (cf. Eph. 5:28-29; 6:4)
 - a) Wife must be able to trust his love and leadership – if not, much trouble and sorrow

IV) UNITY

A) All parties being unified with God will strengthen any and all relationships on earth

- 1) [We] can do all things in Christ who strengthens [us] (cf. Phil. 4:13)

B) God joins two into one (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6)

- 1) This joining, beginning at the wedding, creates one mind, goal, purpose, desire, joy, etc.
- 2) This union is the closest and most intimate on earth – mind, spirit, and body

Conclusion

Failure in these vital areas often brings the sadness of divorce. Let all of us strive to obey God!