

# Maxims for Merry Marriage

February 3, 2019



## A PARTNER FOR LIFE

*In the beginning...*

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. {Genesis 2:18-22}

### **In the Beginning**

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. For six literal days, God spent His time making all that which He loves...plants of diverse kinds, animals, insects and people. After six days, God set aside a special day of rest called the Sabbath which began on the seventh day of the week. Before sin entered the world, God made Adam. An avid gardener, dressing Eden and keeping it, Adam was later given the duty of naming the animals. As he saw the animals pass by before him, seeing them with their partners, I'm sure he longed for another just like himself. God knew it was not good for man to be alone. So God takes Adam's own rib and creates Eve...His wife. Right in the beginning, God institutes marriage and the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath. Adam's wife, flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone, was to be united with him for all eternity. Sadly, sin entered the world. We later read in the book of Genesis that Eve ate the forbidden fruit and Adam receives the fruit and eats it too. As a result of sin, Adam and Eve died in old age.

God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided "an help meet for him"—a helper corresponding to him—one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self; showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation. "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it." "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one."

Brought to You By  
Chain of Truth Ministries

## LESSONS

- ♥ God created the world
- ♥ In six days, God finished His work
- ♥ The 7<sup>th</sup> Day Sabbath is the memorial of creation and a day of rest
- ♥ It is good to have a wife or husband
- ♥ Marriage is between one man and one woman
- ♥ God created Adam and Eve
- ♥ Eve was created from Adam's rib
- ♥ Adam and Eve were gardeners
- ♥ Adam and Eve were supposed to live together throughout all eternity
- ♥ The transgression of God's commandment ruined a blissful marriage

### **Principle: One like You**

God could have formed another human being out of the earth just like what He did with Adam, but God didn't. Eve was made from Adam's rib. Ribs lie close to the heart. What does the heart represent in the Bible?

The heart is the summation of our...

- thoughts (Matthew 9:4, Mark 2:8),
- decisions (Proverbs 6:18, 16:9)
- will or desires (Psalm 119:2, Proverbs 23:17),
- emotions (Romans 9:2, Deuteronomy 28:47)

All these describe the functions of our brains or minds. The spouse we choose today must be similar to us in disposition, likes and dislikes, and especially religion.

We are counselled in 2 Corinthians 6:14, Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Also notice the link between light and darkness. What can light represent as applied to the human brain? Consider:

Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

We see that light can represent understanding. To understand means to grasp or comprehend information, and clearly we understand things using our minds. Both potential husband and wife must be of the same household of faith and be close to the same level of Scriptural understanding or similar level of spiritual comprehension.

Although a couple should be very similar, they should not be biologically similar. For example, a man marrying his sister or vice versa is not a good thing. Consider:

Leviticus 20:17 And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.

Marriages Wrecked by Incompatibility—Many marriages can only be productive of misery; and yet the minds of the youth run in this channel because Satan leads them there, making them believe that they must be married in order to be happy, when they have not the ability to control themselves or support a family. Those who are not willing to adapt themselves to each other's disposition, so as to avoid unpleasant differences and contentions, should not take the step. But this is one of the alluring snares of the last days, in which thousands are ruined for this life and the next.

{Adventist Home 84.2} –Ellen White

- ♥ Ribs lie close to the heart
- ♥ The heart can represent the mind
- ♥ The heart is the summation of our thoughts, decisions, wills or desires and emotions
- ♥ The spouse you choose should have a similar disposition, likes and dislikes
- ♥ Husbands and wives should be of the same religion
- ♥ The study of the Bible will give us better understanding
- ♥ Husbands and wives should have similar levels of spirituality and Scriptural understanding
- ♥ Husbands and wives should not be biologically the same such as being siblings and cousins



### **Principle: Make Haste Slowly**

After Adam was created, there was a space of time when he was alone and didn't have a wife. In that time, God was preparing him to meet his wife. Adam was keeping busy with the garden and naming animals. While doing the Lord's work, he saw his need of a helper. We read the words "but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him". So what's the lesson here? The lesson is to take our time and keep busy for the Lord. Since this earth is marred with sin and filled with Satan's agents once we think we have found our Eve or our Adam, we must make haste slowly. There are thousands that are mated, but not matched, and with whom we unite our lives with will prove to be either for our eternal ruin or for our eternal benefit.

### **Principle: God Chooses Your Spouse**

We read that God made Eve and brought her to Adam. God was the active "agent" in Adam and Eve's life. Adam and Eve had a space of time where they were being prepared to unite with one another. God directed their feet into each other's paths, and God was the head of their marriage. So God today ought to lead in every Christian union. As Adam, was busy doing the Lord's work, men of God should be active laboring for souls for whom Christ died. According to God's will, the Lord may be on the verge of supplying Christian men and women with their spouses while in the field of active duty.

### **God Requires Your Heart First**

With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. {Psalm 119:10}

The Psalmist declared that he sought the Lord with his whole heart. While we may be seeking spouses, our primary focus is always to be seeking the Lord first. To us the promise is reckoned:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. {Matthew 6:33}

As Adam was busy for the Lord, our motto ought to be duty first then pleasure. So let's hear the conclusion of the whole matter...

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. {Ecclesiastes 12:13}

Marriage is something that will influence and affect your life both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will not advance his plans in this direction without the knowledge that God approves his course. He will not want to choose for himself, but will feel that God must choose for him. We are not to please ourselves, for Christ pleased not Himself. I would not be understood to mean that anyone is to marry one whom he does not love. This would be sin. But fancy and the emotional nature must not be allowed to lead on to ruin. God requires the whole heart, the supreme affections.

- ♥ There was a space of time when Adam and Eve were alone
- ♥ Adam was doing the Lord's work on earth
- ♥ It is plausible that Adam saw his need for a helper while going about the Lord's business
- ♥ We should take our time in selecting our spouse
- ♥ There are thousands that are mated but not matched
- ♥ If we choose the wrong person, it may ruin our lives
- ♥ God was the active agent in Adam and Eve's union
- ♥ Adam and Eve were prepared to meet each other
- ♥ God directed Adam and Eve into each other's paths
- ♥ God is to be the head of every marriage
- ♥ Men and women of God should be active in sowing gospel seeds and winning souls to Christ
- ♥ We must be careful about who we unite our lives with
- ♥ We must allow the Lord to direct our lives
- ♥ God must have our supreme affections
- ♥ Our motto ought to be duty first then pleasure
- ♥ We must keep the commandments of God