

Marriage and the Family
Mr. Salyer; Spring 1985
CED

Marriage Vows

1/22/85

"There can be no more joyous ceremony than this we now enter."

- A. Should be positive and uplifting with family, friends, etc.
- B. Baptism is more important, but usually between you, the minister, and God.

"Marriage is a natural union, but divine institution, ordained of God."

- A. Psychologically it is supposed to be (natural drives, emotions, etc). Marriage can operate on a purely physical level, but will not work for long without the spiritual.
- B. Spiritually marriage is a divine institution.
 - 1. Gen 1:26 We are created in God's image.
 - a. Man was created with an element of God in him which qualifies him to have dominion over the animals.
 - b. We are to be fruitful, multiply and cover the earth.
 - 2. Gen 2:7 Adam was made a living soul.
 - 3. Gen 2:18-21 Eve was made an help meet (suitable for; answering to) for him (Adam).
 - 4. Gen 2:24 The institution of marriage.
 - a. Matt 19:3-12 Christ's comments on marriage.
 - b. I Cor 7:1-5 it is good to marry. The wife does not have control over her own body.

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Mate Selection

1/24/85 Mr. McCullough
Mate Selection.

A. When should one start planning for a family?

1. Before serious dating.
2. Before engagement.
3. Before marriage.
4. Before pregnancy.
5. Eph 4:1 God started before the foundation of the world.
6. God is not going to have any illegitimate children.

B. You are marrying the family.

1. Your wife is going to end up looking like her mother.
2. Be aware of the impact of in-law problems.

NOTE: You face the big things together, but the little things are the things which come between you.

What areas should one focus on when planning and thinking about marriage?

1. Qualify for the Kingdom of God (building character to).
2. When wanting the marriage to succeed God's way you need to look at God and His way first. We need to compare ourselves with Christ, not those around us. We need to look at our perspective mate as God does.
 - A. I Sam 16:7 Man looks on the outward appearance, but the [Eternal] looks on the heart.
 - B. Matt 7:16-20 You shall know them by their fruits.
 - C. Matt 12:33 The tree is known by its fruits.

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Mate Selection

- D. vs. 23 Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. How long can a perspective mate put up a front?
 - E. It is to our benefit to let our perspective mate to know what we really are now, because they will find out sooner or later.
 - F. Prov 23:7 As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.
 - G. Prov 16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but God knows what we really are. Ask God to help us see ourselves and each other, as He sees us.
 - H. Prov 25:28 We have to be able to first build our own character and relationship with God.
3. We need to look at ourselves the way a perspective mate might see us.
- A. A perspective mate might be perfectly "O.K.", but are you suited for her? Are you suited for, but not ready for her?
 - B. We should not expect to get more out of a relationship than we put into it.
 - C. Are our standards realistic (for us and/or our mate)?

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Mate Selection
Questions You Should Ask
Yourself about Perspective Mate

2/7/85 Mr. Salyer

How do you come to decide that you are in love enough with someone to marry them? They must have a balance between the emotional and the practical.

Questions You Should Ask Yourself about Your Perspective Mate.

1. Is he deeply converted?
 - A. What is his consuming interest? Sports, the Work, career, partying?
 - B. How does he feel about the Church?
 - C. Is he committed to God's way of life?
2. Are you comfortable with this person, or when you are with him, is it always "open season on your faults"?
 - A. Is there trust?
 - B. Is there acceptance?
 - C. Is there jealousy?
3. How does he respond when hurt or offended?
 - A. What is his initial reaction?
 - B. What is his degree of tolerance (thin or thick skinned)?
 - C. Is he a good winner/loser?
4. What are his priorities (involving the family)?
 - A. What is his stereotype of a husband/wife?
 - B. Can you fulfill that stereotype?
 - C. Do you have the same priorities?
 - 1) God?
 - 2) Mate?
 - 3) Children?
 - 4) Job?

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Mate Selection

5. Is he financially responsible?
 - A. What are his budgetary habits?
 - B. Wife = credit cards; Husband = loose [stereotypes]
6. Is he committed to the biblical perspective of sex?
 - A. What is his attitude toward sex?
 - B. Self control? or "I want it NOW!!"
7. Does he recognize and submit to authority?
 - A. College rules.
 - B. Attitude toward job/boss.
 - C. Attitude after correction.

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Mate Selection
Questions Women Should Ask Them-
selves About Perspective Husband

Questions Women Should Ask About Their Perspective Mate.

1. Does he demonstrate by his actions that he is no longer as selfish as he once was?
 - a. Unselfish love.
 - b. His relationship with others.
2. Does he set a spiritual example for you?
 - a. Spiritual leader?
 - b. Is he someone you can learn from?
3. Does he show the desire to protect you?
 - a. Physically?
 - b. Is he someone you can lean on spiritually?
4. Is he able to provide for you and a family?
 - a. You might have a child in 9 months and 3 days.
 - b. Is he ready to be a father (and you a mother)?
5. Does he provide leadership in the relationship now?
6. Does he demonstrate empathy for you?
 - a. Does he pray for you?
 - b. Does he help you in different areas?
7. Does he give you honor? (in front of and behind you)
8. When you have a problem, does he talk about it and try to be reconciled, ~~or~~ is he the "Peace Maker"?
9. Does he demonstrate ease in the Romantic Relationship?
 - a. Can he be with you without sex (just friendship)?
 - b. How does he approach sexual subjects?
10. Does he cherish and appreciate you? Does he like you for being you?

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Mate Selection
Questions Men Should Ask Them-
selves About Perspective Wives.

2/26/85 Mr. Larry Salyer
Questions Men Should Ask Themselves About Their Perspective Wives.

1. Would she make a good mother for your children?
 - a. You must first know what you want your children to be.
 - b. You must know what her attitude is about children.
 - c. You must realize that marriage is very close to parenthood (9 months, 3 days).
2. Does she respect you and your leadership?
 - a. Do you allow her to lead you around, in return for the privledge of living with her the rest of your life?
 - b. Does she have a "ring through your nose"?
3. Is she willing to find her primary identity in being your wife?
 - a. Is her relationship with you second only to her relationship with God?
 - b. Is she willing to put energy into backing you up and being your wife, before career, hobbies, garage sales, etc.?
4. Does she have a healthy and proper attitude toward sex?
 - a. Understand and follow God's views.
 - b. Is she free of vulgarity, crassness and slapstick?
5. Does she identify with being a homemaker?
 - a. She will have other interests and hobbies, but will being a homemaker come first?
 - b. Basic nitty-gritty jobs must come first.
 - c. Plus kids, dogs, chickens, slumber parties, etc.
 - d. If she doesn't do the housework, you will.

Bo... (L)

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Mate Selection
Qualities Looked for in a Mate.
(A.C. Survey)

Qualities Looked for in a Mate. (A.C. Survey).

Husband:*

1. Same religion.
2. Same race.
3. Warm -- affectionate.
4. Good education.
5. Ambition.**
6. Good health.
7. Good sense of humor.
8. Financially stable.
9. Liked by parents.***
10. Likes children.

Wife:*

1. Same religion.
2. Same race.
3. Warm -- affectionate.
4. Sharing -- selfless
5. Good looks.
6. Good health.
7. Good education.
8. Desire for children.
9. Liked by parents.***
10. Good housekeeper.

(Survey of entering Freshmen at Ambassador College, Pasadena;
"What qualities are you looking for in a future mate?")

*Qualities looked for in a:

**Drive, energy, enthusiasm for accomplishing something worthwhile.

***The single most accurate predictor of the success of a marriage is whether or not the parents approve. They know us better than anyone.

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Love
Romantic Love.

2/5/85 Mr. Les McCullough

Love -- "the positive emotion experienced one to another . . . "

Many times, love is primarily turned inward.

Love is never complete -- you can't love one another and then that's it.

Mr. Armstrong always thought about Mrs. Armstrong's good points whenever he was away from her.

Don't always let your mind dwell on your wife's bad point's.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands are to be the leaders, but sometimes they have a tendency to give in to please the wife.

Love increases as you go along. As you practice it, you get more satisfaction.

You will get to the point where you enjoy providing for her more than you do yourself.

Don't say anything that you won't want to answer for the next day.

What do you want from a wife? Talk about that with your fiance.

X Keep up the communication once you are married.

Marital love is an art.

2/12/85 Mr. Raymond F. McNair
Romantic Love (Delicious Insanity)

A. There are three Greek words translated "love":

1. <philia> = brotherly love.
2. <agape> = Godly love.
3. <eros> = romantic love.

b. Misconceptions about romantic love.

1. Cupid's bow (love is directed from Cupid).
2. Love at first sight (based on eros love).

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Mate Selection
Questions Men Should Ask Them-
selves About Perspective Wives.

3. "Fall head over heels in love" (when you fall, you get hurt).
 4. Love is blind (Eros really is blind, but agape overlooks, forgives and has mercy).
 5. Puppy love (love too young can be very detrimental).
 6. Infatuation: Infatuous = foolish; infatuated = in the state or condition of foolishness.
- C. There should always be the proper balance between loving with the heart and loving with the head.
- D. Marriages are made in heaven, but they are lived here on earth.
- * E. "Anticipation is 50% of the experience."

Pro 5:18-22 Embrace your own wife; enjoy the wife of your youth.

Song of Sol. 1:10-13 Wife anticipating her husband's love.

4:1-7 Him describing her.

6:6-9 virtuous woman, too.

Characteristics of romantic love.

1. Strong emotional attraction.
2. Strong physical attraction (touch, lust, etc.).
3. Tendency to idealize a person and overlook all his faults.

In some situations, romantic love can just become a means of releasing sexual frustrations.

2/14/85 Mr. Raymond F. McNair
Examples of romantic love.

1. Gen 29:15-20 Jacob and Rachel.

Bibliography: Family, Society, and the Individual, William Kipharp.
Psychology for Living, Sorrenson, pg. 565.

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Authority
Administration of Authority.

2/19/85 Dr. Donald Ward

Since Adam, man has had a problem with the administration of and the submission to authority.

One of the main problems with the administration of authority today is inconsistency. In the supermarket you see parents loving their sweet little children one minute, then twisting the ear of a screaming little brat the next minute.

Considerations of administering authority.

1. You cannot always go by your wife's emotions in how you administer authority, but you can always go by the Word of God.
 - A. Jer 17:9 The human heart is deceitful above all things, who can know it?
 - B. II Cor 10:7 We should look on the heart as God does -- not on the outward appearance.
2. Tyranny leads to revolution leads to anarchy leads to tyranny etc.
3. God is the author of true, just government.
4. If a man finds his authority being questioned and/or rebelled against, he should first look at himself to see what he is doing wrong.

Proper Administration of Authority.

1. We have the opportunity to administer God's authority.
 - A. I Cor 11:2-3 The head of the woman is the man, just as the head over Christ is God the Father.
 - B. Gen 1:26 Male and female created He them (not androgynist). Authority is given to the husband from God. It is God's authority, not man's. If we stray past the bounds that God has set, we are taking authority which we do not have and God will not back us up.
 - C. I Cor 11:4 If a man wears his hair too long, he dishonors Christ. If a woman wears her hair too short, she dishonors her husband and Christ.

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2. The basis for administering authority should be agape love.
 - A. Matt 20:26 "minister" = <diakonos> = one who runs through the dust for others (for our wife).
 - B. Authority must be administered through true, agape, or spiritual God-like love.
 - C. Agape love is measured by our willingness to give ourselves as a living sacrifice. To become a living sacrifice, we must lay down our lives for others (our wives). This does not mean running into a burning building to save her, but being willing to let our attitudes and our ego die for the benefit our our wife and family.
 - D. Jn 15:12-13 This is the greatest love that can be given.
 - E. Jn 3:16 God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.
 - F. Eph 5:1-2 Christ gave His life willingly. We need to follow His example.
 - G. vs 23-25 The husband is the head of the wife, and is the savior of his wife's body (spiritual leader of the family), just as Christ gave himself for the Church.
 - H. vs 28-33 Husband is to love his wife as he loves himself. "Reverence" = deeply respect.
 - I. I Pet 5:3 We are examples to the flock (family).
3. We must first examine and humble ourselves to grow toward perfect authority.
 - A. Only those who can live under authority are fit to administer authority.
 - B. Only those who submit to authority can truly understand faith (God will deliver).
 - C. I Pet 3:18-23 When we are buffeted for our faults (something we didn't do), we are to take it patiently like Christ did.

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Authority

Administration of Authority.

1. vs 19 "thankworthy" = <charis> = favor
(grace).

2. Most marriages have the "Because Syndrome".
"I don't have to follow him, because he
isn't doing his part."

D. We as husbands must have a solid relationship with
God in order to have a solid relationship with our
wives.

1. Phip 2:5 "let this mind be in you that was
also in Christ Jesus".

2. vs 6-8 "Made no reputation of himself. . .
Took upon himself the form of a servant.
Was obedient even unto death."

E. Moses was the meekest man to ever live and
probably had the most responsibility ever given to
one man (up until that time) [Num 12:3].

1. Ex 3:3 "Who am I that I should have
authority over the wife?"

2. Phip 2:3 Esteem others better than self.

3. Num 20:7-12 The only recorded time that
Moses took authority into his own hands
(instead of God's) and it cost him being
able to go into the promised land.

2/21/85 Dr. Ward

4. The husband must be the leader in reconciliation.

A. II Cor 5:19-20 Reconciliation. Jesus Christ died
so that we could be reconciled to God. We need to
give up our pride, ego, attitudes, etc., so that
we can be reconciled to God and each other.

B. I Jn 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.
How can we love Christ, who we can't see, if we
don't love our brother (wife) who we can see?

C. Eph 4:26 Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.
**Make sure that you are one spiritually and
mentally before you are one physically.

D. Jn 13:14-17 Serving attitude; feet washing;
concern for others. Happy are they who do them.

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Authority

Administration of Authority.

5. The husband must provide his wife's physical and spiritual needs.
 - A. The man must watch his manner of expression in the little things (tenderness, kindness, etc.).
 1. Read What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women. by Dobsen.
 2. "To women, sex is the opera; to men, it is the intermission."
 3. Man thinks about love only when he is home; women think about it all the time ("You're going to the ball game instead of taking me shopping? You don't love me anymore!")
 4. Eph 5:29 No man hates his own flesh. Husband and wife are one flesh.
 - B. The husband must be the spiritual leader.
 1. Rom 9:3 So often the husband is not the spiritual leader of the family.
 2. The husband must be well educated to lead the family; teach and be an example to the family.
 - C. The husband must provide physical things for the wife/family.
 1. Ps 31:10-11 Respect for a virtuous woman.
 2. Consider your wife a treasure given by a bountiful God.
 3. Express your love everyday. God will bless you for it.
 - D. Don't ever surrender the reigns.
 1. Leadership never operates in a vacuum.
 2. Silence is a message.
 3. Your family will follow your example (good or bad).

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Authority

Submission to Authority.

Submission to authority

1. Submission is beyond obedience. Obedience you can do by rote, without heart.
2. Submission is a frame of mind, a way of life; it is not just put on, but lived. I Pet 3:3-6
3. To a wife, honor should not be in submitting to the husband, but to God. The wife must understand who her chief lord is.
 - A. Col 3:22-25 Whatever we do, we must serve God and not man.
 - B. I Pet 3:17 Honor all men, but fear God.
4. Marriage is not a master - slave relationship (Matt 23:1-2).
 - A. I Pet 3:13 Submit to every ordinance of man, for the Lord's sake.
 - B. If your husband does not follow God:
 1. Bring up his error (Matt 5:23-25).
 2. Talk to the ministry about it. Not his friends, the ministry (Matt 18:15).
 3. Do all that you can with your husband and the ministry, then turn your husband over to God. There is nothing as fearful as to be in the hands of the living God.

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Understanding the Opposite Sex

3/1/87 Mr. Larry Salyer

There is a difference between the sexes; even though they have the same potential -- to become the very sons of God.

1. T.V., movies, careers, etc. try to portray that there is no difference between male and female, except for the obvious differences.
2. Sex change operations. People try to change the physical instead of changing the attitudes. We should change our minds, not our organs.
3. Gen 1:26-27 God made male and female and said that it was good. He made both male and female in His image. Not only the obvious organs, but each cell is different in the male than in the female (hormones, emotions, etc).
4. Gen 2:24 "Be one flesh" does not mean androgynist. It means that men and women were made to share their attitude and thought so that they can, as one whole body, have more of God's mind. Male and female complement each other. Neither is complete without the other.
5. In order to fulfill God's purpose for us, we must be willing to share the strengths and accept the weaknesses of our mates.
 - A. We must be able to see our own strengths and weaknesses first.
 - B. You cannot see the strengths and weaknesses of your perspective mate on your own; you must have God's help.
6. Being one in marriage makes both balanced and helps them to better see a more complete picture of what God really is.
7. God has some of the characteristics of both sexes.
8. Christ is called both a lion and a lamb. He is able to wield authority as well as submit to it.
9. Rom 1:19-20 We can understand the things which are not seen (spiritual), by looking at the things which we can see (physical). We can better understand the relationship of God and Christ, and Christ and the Church through our own marriage.

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Understanding the Opposite Sex
Physical Differences.

10. The fact that God is reproducing Himself (and His character), is the greatest truth we can ever know
[MDS, p. 69.]

<u>Physical Differences</u>	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>
1. Metabolism	Fast	Slow
2. Skeletal system	Larger	Smaller
A. Legs	Longer	Shorter
B. Torso	Shorter	Longer
3. Lungs	Larger	Smaller
4. Skin	Hairier/tougher	Not hairy/smooth
5. Blood	Thicker/less water	Thinner/more water
6. Muscular	Stronger	Weaker
7. Heartbeat	Slower/low temps.	Faster/higher temps.
8. Voice	Lower	Higher
9. Aptitudes	Math/Geometry	Verbal/communication
10. Sexual stimuli	Thoughts/sight	Touch/affection
11. Emotions	Controlled More friends/distant	Volatile/fragile Fewer friends/closer

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Marriage Vows

3/5/87 Mr. Larry Salyer

Marriage is a covenant between you, your mate, and God. It was invented by, ordered by, and ordained by God.

The taking of the vows.

God must be involved. If you go to the Justice of the Peace, or do not go to a minister for counselling, you are leaving God out of the picture.

The vows are a promise before God (not just the physical witnesses).

It is a sacred covenant. The vows should not be repeated or altered as part of the marriage ceremony.

The vows are a restatement of the responsibilities and meaning of the marriage relationship.

The Marriage Vows

Men: "and covenant with God"

"lawfully wedded" (State legal as well as by God's laws)

"cleave to her unto death"

cleave: to cling or adhere to. Strong's #1692: abide fast, ajoin, stick together (bonded together).

"love her, cherish her, honor her, and provide for her."

love: Unselfish concern that freely accepts another in loyalty, and seeks her good.

cherish: To hold dear, to keep or cultivate with care and affection; to entertain or harbor in the mind, deeply and resolutely.

honor: v. to regard or treat with honor or respect. n. Honor may apply to the recognition of the title of great respect, or the expression of such recognition.

provide: To supply what is needed for sustenance or support (physically and spiritually).

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Marriage Vows

Women: "covenant with God"

"lawfully wedded"

"remainder of your natural life"

"submit yourself to him, as to the Eternal"

submit: To yield to government or authority; to desire to commit yourself to the discretion or judgment of another. The condition of being humble and compliant.

"being subject to him in everything, deeply respect him"

subject: Owing obedience or allegiance to the power or dominion of another.

deeply respect: to honor (see pg. 18).

Note: The minister is in charge of the wedding ceremony (not the mother-in-law).

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Roles in Marriage

3/7/85 Mr. Larry Salyer

When we consider marriage, we must not only look at things as they are now and in ten years, but how things will be in 50 years when you are old, gray and crippled.

Roles in Marriage

A. Husbands and wives.

1. Eph. 5:21-24 We should model our actions and attitudes after those of Christ. This is why there are more scriptures relating to submission, because the Church is to submit. The men also have Christ as an example.

vs 25-26 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it. This is an example of outgoing concern for your wife.

vs 29-30 No man has ever hated his own flesh (Gen 2:24, ". . . and they shall be one flesh.")

vs 31-33 Love your wife as you love yourself (Php 2:3, "Esteem others greater than self.")

2. I Cor 7:1-5 Sexual conduct in marriage.

vs 1-2 Let every person have his own mate.

vs 3 Husband and wife must show appropriate love, affection, etc.

vs 4 Sex is commanded as part of the marriage relationship. We can't use sex to get our own way.

vs 5 You can abstain from sex only as long as you can fast.

B. Woman's Role in Marriage.

1. Pro 31:10-31 The Virtuous Woman.

vs 11 The virtuous woman helps her husband. The husband must give her enough responsibility and trust in order for her to do this effectively. (See the Living Bible).

vs 20 She helps the needy.

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Roles in Marriage

vs 23 Husband has first done his part, then has a good woman behind him.

vs 30 She has a converted mind.

C. Men's Roles in Marriage.

1. Matt 20:26 Leading is a serving role (see pg 10).
2. I Tim 5:8 You must provide for your own family first.
3. Col 3:19 Husbands love your wives and be not bitter against them. You are one flesh. You cannot think or say, "If I weren't married to you, I could do this/that."
4. I Pet 3:7 "knowledge" = you must first have knowledge of what you, your mate, and God are. "Giving honor to the wife, as unto the weaker vessel."
5. Pro 11:29 He that troubles his own house shall inherit the wind (or shall end up as nothing).

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Growth in Marriage

3/19/85 Mr. Randy Duke

Some people have the goal to get married. When the ceremony is over, that is the extent of their goals. Growth stops at that point because they have no more goals.

Gen 2:24 A man shall leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife, and they shall be one flesh (physically, mentally and spiritually).

Ps 127:1 Except the Lord shall build the house, they labor in vain that build it. God must be the foundation of the house.

vs 3 Children are a blessing.

Growth in Marriage (How to achieve).

1. Your personal commitment to God.

- A. Matt 22:36 The greatest commandment is to love thy God with all thy heart, soul and mind.
- B. Luke 18:28 Whatever we give up now for God and His Work, will be more than made up in the world to come.
- C. Acts 5:32 God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. This is the beginning of emotional maturity.
- D. I Cor 9:27 We need to straighten ourselves out before we worry about our mates.
- E. Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.

2. Growing in understanding and appreciation for God's government.

- A. Eph 4:11-12 God gave some "for the perfecting of the saints."
- B. Eph 5 God's governmental structures are successful because of the attitudes in Eph 4.

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Growth in Marriage

3. Having our hearts in the Work.

A. Mark 1:13 Our work (the work of the Church) is to proclaim the Gospel.

B. Practicing God's Gospel in your marriage.

1. Tithing (uplifting attitudes toward).

2. Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

C. Entertaining and fellowshiping as a couple.

4. Growth demands continual education.

A. Reading together.

B. Traveling together.

C. Sharing personal interests.

5. Provoke one another to good works (lead by husband).

A. Study together (sermon notes, Proverbs, etc).

B. Do projects together (she watches the newspapers and magazines and goes through the concordance for his sermonettes).

C. Pray together. Pray for the direction of the family, protection of the family, and for the Work.

D. Constructive criticism.

1. Gal 6:1 Restore one another in a spirit of meekness. Bear one another's burdens.

2. Pro 15:1 A soft answer will turn away wrath.

6. Do household chores together (with the kids).

7. Allow sexuality to be an expression of love, concern and appreciation.

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Sustaining Romance in Marriage

3/26/85 Mr. Larry Salyer
Sustaining Romance in Marriage.

1. There must first be romance. In many marriages today, there is no romance.
2. Proper physical attraction.
 - A. The God-ordained purposes of sex (MDS):
 1. Reproduction.
 2. Marriage.
 3. Expression of marital love and companionship.
 - B. Sex appeal.
 1. 95 - 99% of sex appeal is from the neck up.
 2. Pro 15:13 A cheerful countenance.

In order to sustain romance, you must be able to sustain enthusiasm, emotions, attitudes, facial expressions, countenance, and the heart.

We must know that we will be able to sustain most of these things with our mate when we are married, and in the future.

We are not talking about the physical features of a person, but the attitude, countenance, character, and personality.

Eyes, hair, and teeth play their part. These are not primary things, but when you let down on personal hygiene and looks, it projects an attitude -- a lack of outgoing concern.

Romance: The excitement, electricity, and enjoyment of being together.

Principles for Sustaining Romance in Marriage.

1. Don't take your mate for granted.
 - A. "My mate owes me a good marriage."
 - B. Marriage is not an end.

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Sustaining Romance in Marriage

2. Always show the utmost respect for your mate (Grooming, manners, conduct, language, etc).
3. Never put the affection or approval of another before that of your mate.
 - A. Be more concerned about what your mate thinks than what your boss thinks (within reason).
 - B. Put your wife before parents and in-laws.
4. Seek to fulfill your responsibilities in your role.
5. Beware of offenses.
 - A. Vulgarity.
 - B. Embarrassments (don't intentionally put a stumbling block in front of your mate).
6. Communication (know your mate's mind).
- 3/28/87 7. Don't get in a rut (when marriage gets routine and the mystery disappears).
 - A. Do not let your marital duties be a burden.
 - B. Keep your attitude towards your mate positive.
 - C. Share your day's experience with your mate.
 - D. Literally share your work (visiting, dishes, etc).
 - E. Be creative in finding ways to change your routine (from time to time, bring back the dating atmosphere).
 1. Special outings at least once a month.
 2. Saturday afternoon picnic.
 3. Little things mean a lot.

We frequently treat a casual acquaintance better than a loved one.

Pro 12:25 Heaviness in the heart makes it stoop: but a good work make it glad.

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Family Unity

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Family Unity.

The oneness comes by and through God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Jn 1:1-5 God the Father and the Word (Christ) lived together through all eternity.

Jn 17:17,21-24 Christ wants us to join Him and the Father, in family unity, for all eternity. But after having oneness of mind.

Eph 3:14-15 The whole family is named after God.

You need to understand the physical family to understand the spiritual family (and visa-versa).

Amos 3:1-3 Two cannot walk together except they be agreed.

Matt 24:20-24 There was a lack of unity among the twelve: "I want to sit on your right hand".

vs 25-27 "minister" = <diakonos> = one who runs through the dust for others (your wife). Whoever is chief among you is your servant.

I Cor 12:25-26 When one member suffers the whole body suffers.

Gal 6:1-2 Help one who is overtaken in a fault. Bear one another's burdens and encourage.

Eph 5:20 The husband must have the same attitude of sacrifice as Christ does for the Church.

Things which deter Family Unity.

1. Not putting God first in your life.
2. Selfishness.
3. Lack of communication.
4. Jealousy.
5. Poor planning.
6. Misuse of time.
7. The influence of outsiders (In-laws, etc).

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Family Unity

How to Grow in Family Unity.

1. Put God first in your life.
2. Have outgoing concern.
3. Have good communication.
4. Work together (constructive labor).
5. Play together (recreation).
6. Eat together.
7. Exercise spiritual leadership and serve the brethren.
8. Establish clear priorities.
9. Be involved with the closer relatives (aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc).

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Child Rearing

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Child Rearing: The process of governing and educating from birth to adulthood. (LRS)

Always keep in mind "the greatest truth we can ever know (MDS), the fact that God is reproducing Himself".

God is perfect, Holy, Righteous Character. He is creating this character in us.

In allowing us to have children, God is allowing us to play the role of both creator and ruler. (Our babies are created "in our own image").

The family unit is a type of God's spiritual government to come.

Line of Authority.

I Cor 11:3 Establishment of the chain of authority.
God -> Christ -> Husband -> Wife -> Children -> Dog.

Eph 5:21-23 The husband is the head of the wife.

Eph 6:1 Provoke not your children to wrath. The husband and wife are responsible for not misusing the authority God has given them.

Honor thy Father and Mother.

Ex 2:12 "Honor thy father and mother . . ." This fifth commandment is a bridge between love towards God (the first 4) and love towards neighbor (the last 5).

Deut 6:7 Parents, diligently teach your children. It is our Christian responsibility to pass true spiritual principles on to our children.

Goals of child Rearing.

1. Obedience to God (train up a child in the way that he should go).
2. Prepare the child for abundant living (physically and spiritually).

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Components of Child Rearing
Loving Authority

3. To experience the blessings and joys God intended families to have.
4. Through all of the above, to learn deeper spiritual lessons, and to better know God.

Components of Child Rearing.

1. Loving Authority.

- A. Loving Authority involves God's love, coupled with delegated authority used to express that authority in the family.
- B. I Cor 7:14 Parents are instruments of God, which he uses to work through to help the children.
- C. Parents attitude must first be right with God in order to most effectively teach their children.
- D. Motivation for any action toward the child must be with deep love for the child.

2. Instruction.

- A. Example -- a very powerful teacher and the best way to learn.
 1. Children will learn what they live. It is easier for them to follow a bad example. You cannot expect a child to rise above the environment you create for them.
 2. Example is not enough -- they still must be taught.
 3. Setting the right example gives you credibility as a teacher.
 4. You must first teach unquestioned obedience before you teach the reason for obedience.
- B. Laws and rules laid down must accurately reflect your lifestyle and the goals you want to achieve. Otherwise, hypocrisy is present and the child becomes confused.

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Components of Child Rearing
Instruction

- C. Every instruction or command, small or great, must be made perfectly clear, on the child's level of understanding. DO NOT ASSUME!
- D. Commands or requirements must be within the child's capacity to fulfill.
- E. Commands or requirements must never be contradictory to:
 1. God's laws,
 2. Other commands you expect obedience to.

***The final result of training you should desire is that your child knows there is a right way of life and chooses to live it. In other words -- your final goal is Character!

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Character: Knowing right from wrong,
Choose to do the right,
Will to do the right,
DO the right.

Teach children to make decisions based on God's laws

For how many years does a parent have immediate influence?

A child spends about 18-20 years at home. Out of the average age of 70, this means that a child will live at home for approx. 1/4 of his life.

Parents have total control over the helpless child at birth.

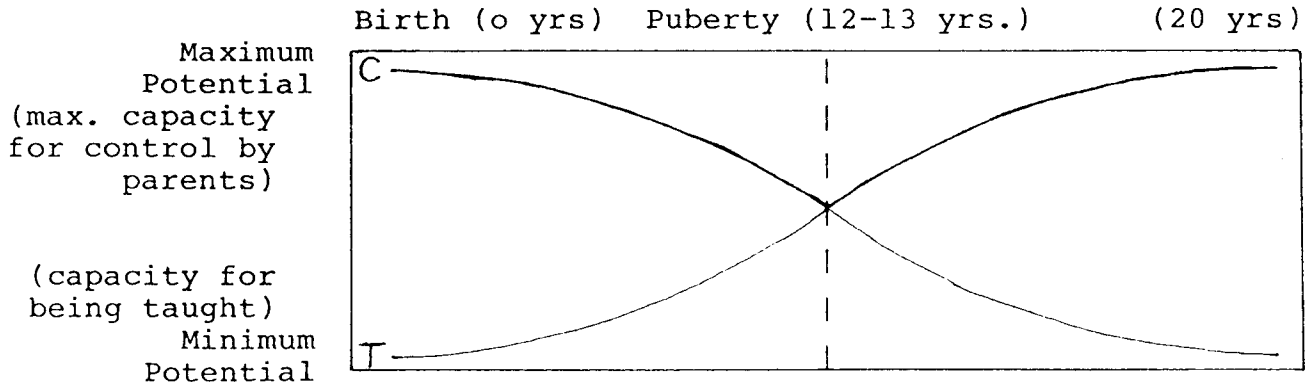
Child rearing is intended to take a child from total dependence to (near) total independence.

Problems in teen years and beyond will likely result from 1 of 2 mistakes, which are opposite extremes:

1. Retaining control too long,
2. Giving total independence too soon.

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Components of Child Rearing
Discipline



The emphasis of the first several years must be on control. Emphasis on the later years must be on teaching. These two must go hand in hand.

The Spirit in Man is passed on through reproduction at the fertilization of the egg.

The first year of a child's life is the most important as far as learning goes.

You must be in control of the child during the early years to be able to teach it anything during and after puberty.

Puberty is the critical point.

It should always be a golden time of character building.

In today's world, the time of puberty is a source of frustration -- a giant mess.

Components of Child Rearing (con't).

3. Discipline: The sum total of the tools you use to motivate your child to follow your instructions and learn the meaning of them.

The goal is that ultimately the child will know that there is God's way of life and will choose it.

God set the example of discipline for us in using: blessing and cursing, reward and punishment, pleasure and pain.

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Components of Child Rearing
Discipline

II Sam 7:14 God chastens his sons.

Heb 12:6 "For whom the Lord loves, he chastens . . ."

Prov 13:24 "He that spares the rod hates his son; but he that loves him chastens him.

Pro 23:13-14 "Withhold not correction from the child . . ."

Spanking is the most normal and generally best form of punishment.

Spanking is not the only way to punish.

Proper discipline includes both rewards and punishments.

Spanking is for disobedience, not to force into obedience.

Bribery is wrong, it is not rewarding or educating. Food should not be used as a reward or a punishment.

Typical sequence of discipline:

1. Parent gives child clear and possible instructions.
2. Child doesn't obey or "modifies" the obedience.
3. Parent tells what judgment is (I am spanking you for disobedience . . .).
4. Spank (appropriately, no abuse).
5. Then the child should be loved and encouraged and shown that you are in complete harmony with him -- if the attitude is correct.
6. Once the penalty is paid, it is paid and should not linger.

✶ The child must be brought to submission. You must break the rebellion without breaking his spirit.

✶ The child should never be spanked without a followup expression of love and affection.

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Components of Child Rearing
Faith

There is time for mercy, but mercy can only be granted when the attitude is right.

The instructional process should begin at birth. Disciplining should begin as soon as the child is old enough to understand (usually by 6 weeks, if he needs it). The terrible 2's should never happen.

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Components of Child Rearing (con't).

4. Faith.

A. Ask God to guide and bless your decisions -- to give you discernment.

B. Pray for your children.

1. I Cor 7:14 ". . . else where the children unclean; but now they are holy." The children are sanctified by the believing parents.
2. God is able to soften, work with, and direct the child's mind.

The loss of childhood.

The best gift a mother can give her child is her presence.

The first thing a child should experience is love, affection, etc.

Help the child through discipline with love and affection.

Never contradict each other in front of the children.

Self esteem.

Self esteem cannot be given by the parents. The best you can do is put them on the right path.

Self esteem is constructed during early childhood. The building blocks are instances of small successes.

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Engagment and Honeymoon

5/2/85 Mr. Salyer

Engagement

Mr. Armstrong does not encourage long engagement periods.

Familiarity breeds contempt.

Drives are too strong to risk waiting too long.

Engagement: to publicly state your intention so that you may plan and take steps towards marriage to avoid other people thinking wrong of you.

To let everyone know what is going to happen.

Engagement should be long enough to make preparations, short enough to lessen undo pressures.

Honeymoon (MDS chpt 14).

80% of people today are non-virgins before the honeymoon.

Watch alcohol on wedding night (mood, car accidents, etc).

The world approaches sex as fun and pleasure and get married to "legalize" it.

Virginity should be (will be) brought up in the personal marriage counselling.

If you discover a sexual problem on the wedding night, seek counsel right away, not six months later.

First impressions are lasting ones. This night could affect the rest of your marriage. Might change bride's look at the sex act for the rest of her life.

Try to plan your wedding day around her menstrual cycle. Try to project it as far ahead as possible.

Do not embarrass the bride in any way. She may want to undress in private. She may want very low or no light. Do not "display" your body. This is not a night of sensual pleasure, but of outgoing love.

Making love is for sharing of love in the marriage, not for selfishly seeking pleasure.

MARRIAGE: Suggested Reading Material

Church Literature

Missing Dimension in Sex

How To Have A Happy Marriage

Love, Marriage and Sex

Why Marriage, Is It Soon Obsolete?

Other Literature (recommended reading but not everything necessarily endorsed)

Dr. James Dobson:

Love Must Be Tough

Straight Talk To Men And Their Wives

What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women

Paul Tournier:

To Understand Each Other

Erich Fromm:

The Art of Loving

Dr. Ed Wheat:

Love Life For Every Married Couple

Dr. Eustace Chesser:

Love Without Fear (Published by Arrow Books.)
(This book is not readily available, and maybe out of print.)

Gary Smalley:

The Joy Of Committed Love
(especially the chapter "For Better or for Best")