

## WEEK 5 – FAITHFULNESS IN MARRIAGE AND SPEECH

### MONDAY – God designed marriage to meet our core need for companionship



**Genesis 2: 18** *Then the Lord God said, "it is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper who is just right for him.."*

These two words, "not good" are important to note because six times in the creation account, after every other major creation event, God looks at what He has done and says, "It is good." But now, after man's creation, after making a being in His own image, ironically at this, the highest point in creation, for the first time God says that something is not good. Man has a core need for companionship so God moves to solve this problem by creating a "helper."

This Hebrew word for "helper" doesn't mean a wife is subservient to the husband. No, it literally means someone who supplies what is lacking in another person. In other words, God created Eve to do what Adam could not do by himself.

Each one is inadequate when alone. That's why God designed

the marriage relationship. Husband and wife both need each other. Each of us need someone to share life with. We need someone to talk to, someone to listen to. We need that one person to whom we always go first to tell everything.

A wedding starts when the doors are opened and everyone stands and looks back as the father escorts the bride down the aisle to her groom. That custom originated here in Genesis. God was the first Father of the Bride and He presented her to Adam, because He knew nothing else in all creation would meet man's need for companionship. He needed a friend, a helper, a being more like himself. Eve was not made identical to Adam, but different so as to compliment him and vice versa.



**Prayer:** Thank you Lord that you created an ideal companion for me to find and share my life with. AMEN

## TUESDAY – A gift from God



**Matthew 5: 31-32** *You have heard the law that says, a man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce. But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery.*

**Genesis 2: 24.** *This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and two are united into one.*

There were two schools of thought about divorce among the Jews when Jesus was on earth. The one group believed that you could divorce your wife for any reason if you felt that she did not meet your expectations. The other group believed that a divorce could be granted only if adultery was evident. Jesus taught that God did not intend for a marriage to be ended but due to the hardness of the human heart, Moses's Law was acceptable as stated in our bible reading.

God gave marriage as a gift to Adam and Eve. They were created perfect for each other.

Marriage was not just for convenience, nor was it brought about by any culture. It was instituted by God and there are three basic aspects: firstly, the man leaves his parents and, in a public act, promises himself to his wife. Secondly, the man and woman are joined together by taking responsibility for each other's welfare by loving the partner above all others. Thirdly, the two are united into one in the intimacy and commitment of sexual union that is reserved for marriage.

Strong marriages include all three of these aspects.



**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for the gift of marriage, friendship and companionship. AMEN

## WEDNESDAY – Couples must embrace a Godly commitment and love



**Matthew 19: 6** *Since they are no longer two, but one, let no one split apart what God has put together.*

Both spouses must enter marriage with a mindset that theirs will be a permanent relationship, that their marriage is one they will both work on and benefit from literally “till death do them part.” That’s the kind of commitment God intends in marriage. One of the greatest causes of today’s high divorce rate is this fact that many couples enter marriage believing it to be terminable. In fact, the whole concept of establishing a permanent bond between a husband and a wife is quickly becoming a foreign thought. More and more it is being interpreted, “Till disagreement do us part” or “Till other interests do us part.”

Jesus said that in marriage God binds two people together so that they become one and that, “...what God has joined together none should separate.” God did

not issue this command to restrict us or to make us miserable. It is just that as the Inventor of marriage, He knows that real love and genuine relational fulfillment exist only in conditions where there is long-term trust and commitment. He knows that our dreams for marriage only become reality within a permanent commitment.

Winston Churchill was known not only for his courage in WWII but for the tender love that grew between him and his wife. They were married for 55 years and one day toward the end of his life, someone asked him if he could live his life all over again what would he choose to be. He replied, “Mrs. Churchill’s second husband.” To succeed in matrimony, to build the right kind of marriage, spouses need to embrace this Godly commitment.



**Prayer:** Dear Lord. Allow me to demonstrate Godly commitment to my spouse. AMEN

## THURSDAY – Spouses must rely on Godly power



**Ecclesiastes 4: 12** *A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back to back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

It takes three to make marriage work the way it was intended. The first husband and wife didn't start to have problems until they moved away from God. If marriage is to be all God wants it to be, both husband and wife must stay close to God. They each need a growing relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. A Christ-centered marriage relationship adds another dimension to the marriage union.

Couples with an underdeveloped spiritual dimension are like an orchestra without a string section. They make music, but it lacks a fullness and a richness. The plain truth is Christian spouses are able to enjoy a greater depth of intimacy in marriage than spouses who do not know Jesus personally.

Over the years husbands and wives reveal themselves to each other in increasingly vulnerable degrees, and as they do...as they know each other more, their intimacy deepens, and as it does, their love for each other deepens and strengthens.

Christ-centred couples have the unspeakable privilege of revealing to one another the most sacred dimension of their being, their relationship with Jesus Christ. Because of this, in a very real sense they can know more about each other than other spouses. Jesus is the glue that keeps them together. It gives the couple power and guidance to deal with life's difficulties – even prepares them for the end of life.



**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for empowering me to live through all my relationships with Godly power and prepare me to live a fulfilled life with You and all those whom I love. AMEN

## FRIDAY – Speak the truth



**Matthew 5: 33-37** *But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.*

Our lives and testimonies should be so upright and respectful that there is no need of oaths. The oaths Jesus was referring to were promises meant to somehow back up what seemed to be false or at least a gross exaggeration. Jesus' commands are not to be taken lightly. His words are not suggestions but directives.

If we are His followers, we do as He says and act in accordance with His wishes. That means honouring these words to the best of our ability and understanding. Mean what you say. Do as you promise. And do it well and fully, as though you are doing whatever

it is for the Lord Himself and not just another fellow human.

It's hard to be a person of one's word, a person of truth, in a society where promises are slippery and loopholes are ever-present. But as Christians, we are to reflect Jesus and shine His light in the world. The Bible tells us to speak the truth, but to do so in love (Ephesians 4: 15). The Bible never encourages us to be heartless or uncaring. Paul wrote to the Colossians that our words should be 'seasoned with grace.' (Colossians 4: 6). No more platitudes or empty promises—let your yes be yes and your no be no.



**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help me to find the Godly discipline to let my yes be yes and my no be no. AMEN