

LOVE – MARITAL CHOICES

If we are in Christ, then he has made us free from the law of sin and death. The handwriting of ordinances has been blotted out and nailed to his cross. Now then, because we have died with Christ on his cross, been buried in the grave with him, and rose again from the dead with him, we should be married to another, which is Christ. Because of this we should be bringing forth that good fruit unto God. Remember we should be living unto him who died and rose from the dead for us. Now, we are a new creature in Christ. Old things are done away. See **Colossians 2:9-17 and I Corinthians 5:14-21**.

Romans 7:4 *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

In a marriage relationship, the man should desire to have a loving wife, and the woman should desire to have a loving husband. We all know that love should be more than skin deep to have a loving and lasting marriage. The focus should be on choosing a woman not by appearance only, but by who the woman really is. When the man chooses a wife by her outward beauty, and the fleshly lusts, then when the next woman who appeals to him in his life, then he is drawn away by her enticements, etc. The same is true for the woman in choosing a man to be her husband, beauty is only skin deep and wears away after a while. True beauty is that of the heart and soul, the real you.

What is the answer for a happy marriage? First, we have to remember, that God has given marriage, so his formula will work. We go to the scripture.

When God chose us, did he choose us because of our beauty and our looks? No, he chose us when we were dead in trespasses and sin. When life goes out of the man, and his spirit and soul has departed, death has no beauty. But Christ loved us when we were his enemies. He chose us because he loves us.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The Lord says no greater love has man than to lay down his life for a friend, but Christ loved us while we were yet sinners. That's love. We should all know that Christ's love for us should constrain us to the point that we should desire to live unto him who died for us and rose again. God would have us conform unto the image of his Son on a daily basis.

Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

In Ephesians 5, our apostle Paul tells us how that Christ loved his Church so much that he gave himself for us. *25 Husbands, love your wives, even as **Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;***

The scripture makes the comparison of how the husband is to love his wife, which is just like Christ loves his Church. Just as the husband does not hate his own body, but he loves and cherishes it, he is to love his wife, the same way.

*28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; **but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:***

Christ is the head of his Church because he is the Saviour of the body. He died for his Church. The Church is to be subject unto Christ, and should be submissive unto its head.

The husband is the head of the wife and he should love and cherish his wife, just as he loves himself; and the wife should be submissive unto her husband, because the husband loves her. The husband's head is Christ, and he should be submissive unto him. And all the members of Christ's body should be submissive unto him who loved and gave himself for them. So whether married or unmarried, we should reckon ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin and alive unto Christ our Saviour. We are truly married unto another, which is Christ.

Christ's desire is for his Church to be presented to him as that glorious church without spot or wrinkle. This is how the oneness of husband and wife, two being one body, should live before God because Christ has made us free from sin in the body of his flesh through his death on his cross. THAT'S THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT GRACE!