

MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIPS

(Moerewa CF - April/89EKB)

1. After God created man, *Gen 2:18*, He said, "It is not good for man to be alone. **I will make a helper** suited to him". So God took a rib (or side) of man and made a woman and he brought her to the man, *Gen 2:21-25*. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh, *Gen 2:24*.
2. The Bible teaches that God has made the man to be the leader in the family and responsible to God for their physical and spiritual well-being, *1Cor 11:3*, *Eph 5:21-23*. This includes provision, protection, guidance, security, peace and fulfilment of each one's potential.
3. The **family is the most precious thing** anyone can have upon this earth, after the knowledge and love of God Himself.
4. The husband cannot make a family on his own, nor can the wife make a family on her own. **Both are necessary** and therefore equally as important.
5. Children need a father and a mother **living together in love**, working together in peace, and serving one another in humility.
6. **The husband needs to regard his wife as an equal** and show by the way he acts that she is. Great upset naturally arises if the wife feels that she is considered inferior by her husband. God considers both husband and wife to be **equal in His sight** and heirs together of the grace of life, *1Pet 3:7*, *Gal 3:28*. God did not take woman from man's head to be his ruler,
He did not take her from man's foot to be his servant, but from his side to be his companion.
7. The most important thing to a woman in the marriage relationship is to know that she is the **first love** in her husband's heart (after his love for God). If any other thing has first place in her husband's life then intolerable rejection results.
8. It is the **husband's responsibility** to show his wife that she is his equal and has first place in his heart.
9. The wife starts in marriage **by giving herself** to her husband to support, encourage and help him. She gives up her name, her independent career, to make a home and a family for her husband and herself and her children. She is **the maker of the home**, *Tit 2:5(New KJV)*. Generally the husband keeps his plans and career. It is the husband's attitudes and actions that give the wife security and fulfilment, in her life of service to others in the family.
10. The secret of marriage is learning to **communicate and understand** the way the other is thinking. Plan time or make time to share thoughts and feelings together. Communication depends on acceptance of each other.

11. The smooth running of marriage depends on each one **denying selfish ends** and deliberately choosing to serve, help, and encourage one another, *Gal 5:13b*. Jesus is our Lord and Master but He came among us as one who serves, *Lk 22:27*, *Jn 13:1-17*, *Mat 20:28*.
12. The strength of marriage is to have **God the Father and Jesus Christ at the centre**, because faith in God and His Word releases His grace and power to be able to do the things mentioned above. When we make a marriage covenant vow before God He joins us together, *Mat 19:6*, and as we pray to Him He gives us the help we need.
13. **Marriage, God's way** is fulfilling to husband, wife and children and increasingly so as the days, months and years go by.