

LESSON PLAN

Date:

Lesson Number: 129

Title: **WHEN TWO ARE ONE**

Grade Level: 4-6

Text/Story: Eph 5:22-32; Matt 19:3-6

Main idea: God intended marriage to be a special covenant between a man and a woman, and forbids the breaking of this union expect by death.

Key Verse: Mark 10:9

Time	Activity	Description
	Pre-Lesson Defining Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show a video clip, tape recording, pictures etc. of a wedding ceremony, and show a marriage certificate if available • Talk about weddings and have students share their experience at weddings • Ask the students to describe what marriage is • Put their answers on the board/chart paper • Also write down the dictionary meaning of the word
	Lesson Story: Adam and Eve Gen. 2:18, 22-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before telling the story, give each student a white sheet of paper and a pencil and have them fold the paper in half three times to get eight boxes • As you are reading the story from the text, have the students list down 8 key words or phrases on the white paper (e.g., alone, help meet, deep sleep, rib, woman, man, etc.) • Talk about the importance of the event and emphasize the act of marriage at the beginning
	Post-Lesson Question Sheet: What do you think?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute to each student the worksheet "What do you think?" and a pencil • Students can work together in partners to answer the questions • As a class, discuss their answers and explain anything that they have trouble with

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Look up *Ephesians 5:22-32* and *Matthew 19:3-6*. Read the following statements and write 'A' if you agree with the statement and 'D' if you disagree. Then use the lines under each statement to explain why.

Agree or Disagree?

___ 1. The wife is the head of the home.

___ 2. Husbands should love their wives.

___ 3. When a man gets married, his mother and father should make some of the decisions for the couple.

___ 4. It's O.K. for a man and a woman to live together without getting married if they really love each other.

___ 5. If a husband and wife don't love each other anymore, it's all right to separate and get a divorce.

___ 6. Husbands can do whatever he wants to his wife because he's in charge.



Do You Know What That Means?



Match the actual scriptures with their meanings:

Proverbs 18:22 _____

Genesis 2:24 _____

Ephesians 5:22 _____

I Corinthians 7:10 _____

Mark 10:9 _____

Ephesians 5:25 _____

- A. When God puts something together, no one should separate it.
- B. A man and woman will leave their parents and be joined together as a family unit.
- C. Husbands should love their wives as much and with a love like Christ has for the church.
- D. If a man finds a wife, he has found a good thing and the Lord is pleased.
- E. If a couple should separate, they can not marry another while the other lives, but could remarry each other.
- F. Wives should submit to their husbands like they would submit to the Lord.

Lesson 129 Marriage

MARRIAGE: WHEN 2 ARE 1!

1. GOD CREATED THE FIRST MARRIAGE.
WHERE WAS IT? _____
WHO WERE THE BRIDE AND GROOM?

2. GENESIS 2:22 SAYS THAT GOD CREATED
A _____ FOR ADAM.

WHY DIDN'T HE CREATE ANOTHER MAN
FOR ADAM? _____

3. DO YOU THINK GOD KNOWS WHO YOU WILL MARRY? _____
IF YOU ANSWERED YES, HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHO YOU SHOULD MARRY?

4. GENESIS 2:24 TELLS US THAT A MAN AND WOMAN BECOME ONE _____
WHEN WE MARRY.
WHEN WE COMPARE MARRIAGE TO OUR BODIES, WE SEE THAT OUR BODY PARTS
MUST WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY SO OUR BODIES WILL WORK PROPERLY.
LIKEWISE, WHEN WE MARRY, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY WITH OUR
SPOUSE FOR THE MARRIAGE TO WORK PROPERLY.

5. OUR MEMORY VERSE SAYS, "WHAT THEREFORE GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER,
LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER."

What does ASUNDER mean? _____



Let's ENLARGE on it!

ASUNDER: TO DIVIDE OR CAUSE TO BREAK UP



6. DO YOU THINK DIVORCE IS GOD'S WILL? _____ WHY OR WHY NOT? _____

7. PSALMS 146:5 SAYS THAT WE WILL BE _____ IF WE HAVE _____
AS OUR HELP. OUR HAPPINESS IS IMPORTANT TO GOD!

PRAYER: DEAR GOD, I WANT YOU TO BE MY HELP ALL MY LIFE AND KNOW THAT
YOU WILL SHOW ME THE RIGHT PERSON TO MARRY AND MAKE ME
HAPPY AS I FOLLOW YOUR PERFECT PLAN FOR ME. AMEN!



**GOD WILL SHOW ME WHO
I SHOULD DATE**



**I CAN TRUST GOD TO SHOW ME
WHO TO MARRY**



**I CAN TRUST GOD WITH
MY FAMILY**



**I'LL BE GLAD WHEN I AM OLD
IF I HAVE TRUSTED GOD WITH
MY LIFE**



SUGGESTION: COPY ON COLORED PAPER, LAMINATE, CUT OUT AND MOUNT SMALL MAGNET ON BACK



MARRIAGE; WHEN 2 ARE 1!

1. GOD CREATED THE FIRST MARRIAGE. WHERE WAS IT? _____ WHO WERE THE BRIDE AND GROOM? _____

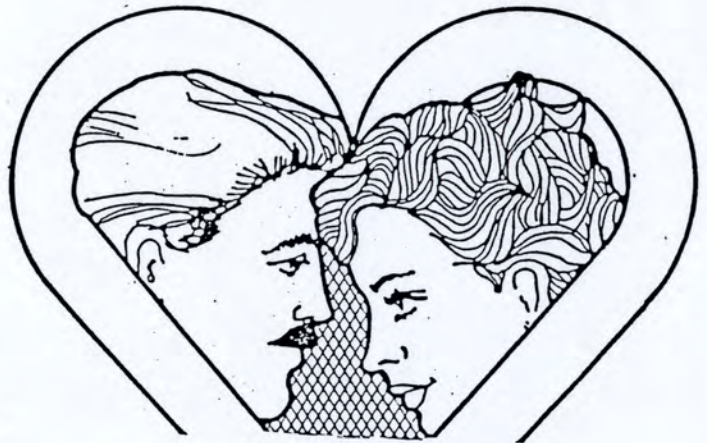
2. GENESIS 2:22 SAYS THAT GOD CREATED A _____ FOR ADAM. WHY DIDN'T HE CREATE ANOTHER MAN FOR ADAM? _____

3. WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD'S INTENTION FOR THE CREATION OF THE FAMILY? _____

4. OUR MEMORY VERSE SAYS, "THEREFORE, SHALL A MAN LEAVE HIS _____ AND HIS _____, AND SHALL _____ UNTO HIS _____: AND THEY SHALL BE ONE _____."

DISCUSS THE ORDER OF EVENTS THAT MUST TAKE PLACE AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS VERSE.

5. WHAT DO YOU THINK ONE FLESH MEANS? _____ COULD IT ALSO MEAN OTHER THAN THE PHYSICAL? _____ IN WHAT OTHER WAYS? _____



"Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

LET

GOD

KEEP

YOU ON

TRACK!!!



6. What does the word CLEAVE mean? _____

Let's ENLARGE on it!



CLEAVE: AS FOUND IN WEBSTER: TO ADHERE, CLING, BE FAITHFUL

7. IF WE OBEY GOD'S WORD, WHO ARE WE TO CLEAVE TO? _____
DOES THAT LEAVE ROOM FOR ANYONE ELSE? _____

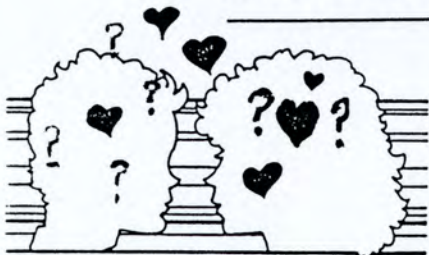
8. LIST SOME CHARACTERISTICS YOU WANT IN A MARRIAGE PARTNER:
NUMBER IN THE ORDER OF IMPORTANCE THE CHARACTERISTICS YOU WANT IN
YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE:

_____ APPEARANCE _____ SPIRITUALITY _____ FAMILY

_____ EDUCATION _____ REPUTATION _____ FINANCES

OTHER: _____

9. DO YOU THINK GOD HAS CHOSEN A MARRIAGE PARTNER FOR YOU? _____
IF YOU ANSWERED YES, HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHO YOU SHOULD MARRY?



EVERY DECISION HAS ITS CONSEQUENCES!

10. THOUGHT PROVOKERS: AM I DATING THE PERSON I WANT TO MARRY?
IS MY PARENTS APPROVAL IMPORTANT TO ME?
DOES IT MATTER HOW MY PASTOR FEELS ABOUT IT?

PRAYER: DEAR LORD, HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU REALLY DO LOVE ME
AND WANT ME TO BE HAPPY. I WANT TO BE SENSITIVE TO YOUR LEADING
IN MY LIFE BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE THE BEST LAID PLANS FOR
ME AND I CAN TRUST YOU COMPLETELY. AMEN!



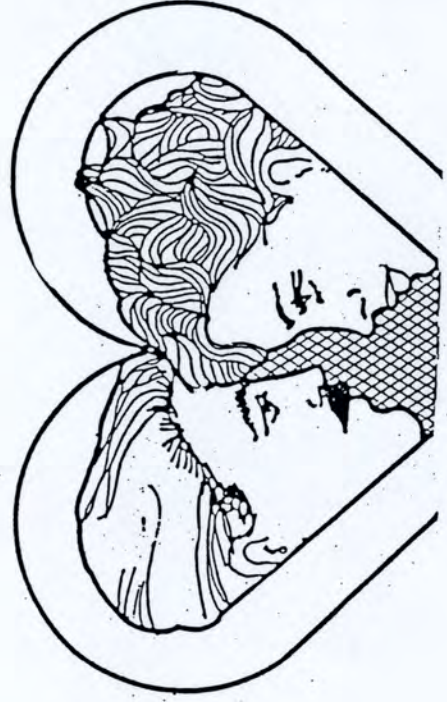
"Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24



"Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

Lesson 129 Marriage High School Memory Verse

Suggestion: Copy on colored paper, laminate, cut, add small piece of magnetic strip



"Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24



"Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

DISCUSSION:

QUALITIES OF A SHOE

QUALITIES OF A SPOUSE

SUPPORTS FOOT

SUPPORTIVE IN DECISIONS,
CHILD-REARING, ETC.

PROTECTS, KEEPS CLEAN,
WARM

PROTECTS - KEEPS FROM
HARM, SPIRITUAL "DIRT"

FITS RIGHT

COMPATIBLE: BOTH MUST
BE SAVED 11 COR. 6:14

TONGUE - GIVES COMFORT

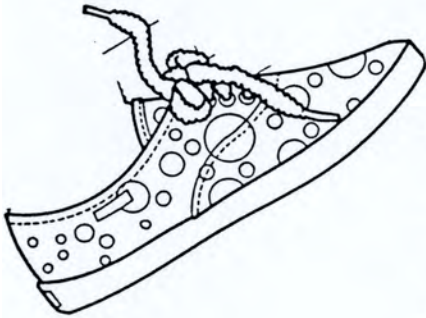
COMMUNICATES

LACES - KEEP IT ON

PROVIDES SECURITY -
RELIABLE

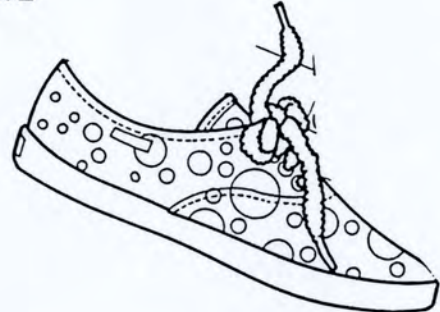
SOLE - PLIABLE YET STURDY

AGREEABLE, PEACEABLE,
GIVING



THOUGHTS: ONLY ONE SHOE WILL BE THE RIGHT "MATE"

MARRY FOR LOVE AND LIFE



ACTIVITY: CHOOSE 4 OR ? PEOPLE
THEY CHOOSE A PARTNER
HAVE PARTNER REMOVE ONE SHOE
BLINDFOLD PARTNER
HIDE SHOE
POSITION PARTNER ACROSS ROOM
PERSON WHO CHOSE PARTNER THEN YELLS DIRECTIONS TO PARTNER
TO FIND THEIR SHOE
FIRST COUPLE TO GET CORRECT "MATE" ON WINS

POST ACTIVITY DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

ONLY ONE SHOE WAS THE RIGHT ONE
HAD TO FOLLOW THE RIGHT VOICE TO FIND IT
WRONG "VOICES" AFFECTING US IN THE WORLD: MEDIA, MOVIES, FRIENDS,
MONEY, GUILT, ESCAPE
RIGHT VOICES TO FOLLOW: GOD, SOMETIMES USES PASTOR, FAMILY, OR
FRIENDS



I've also been reconsidering the ingredients that contribute to a lifelong marriage, a subject I addressed at some length in *Life on the Edge*. This new book was written specifically for those between 16 and 26 years of age—the so-called “critical decade” during which so many irreversible decisions are typically made. Perhaps there are many of my readers, either young adults or their parents, who would enjoy reading that discussion from *Life on the Edge* this month. I hope so, because the balance of this letter is devoted to that purpose. If by sharing it I can spare one young couple the tragedy of a failed marriage, my effort will not have been in vain.

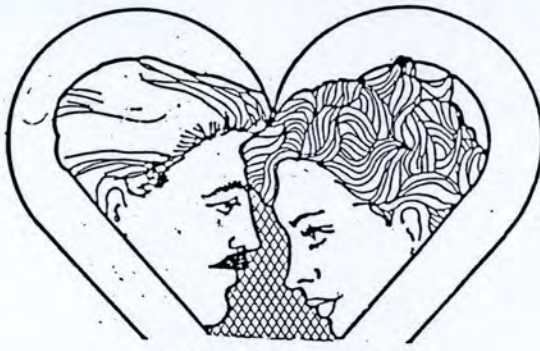
With that, let me quote a portion of chapter six, entitled “The Keys to Lifelong Love,” suggesting how teenagers and young adults can make marriages go the distance. This is what I wrote in what is currently the best-selling Christian book in America:

We're going to talk briefly about another life-changing issue you will probably deal with during the critical decade. It concerns the choice of a marriage partner and the establishment of a family. Not everyone will decide to marry, of course, but approximately 77 percent of you will make that move sooner or later.¹ Some have already been to the altar, so this discussion may be less relevant to you. Nevertheless, I believe the concepts I will present will be helpful to everyone.

The tragedy of modern families is how frequently they break up. No one knows for sure what the probabilities of divorce are, but they are far too high: (We hear often that 50 percent of marriages end in divorce, but that estimate is based on faulty information.) What we do know for certain is that marriage is a risky enterprise that must be entered into with great care. It can result either in lifelong companionship or some of the most bitter experiences in living.

Make no mistake about it, divorce inflicts terrible pain on its victims. Every member of the family suffers when a marriage blows up. A Russian woman who was my guest on the radio talked about her years in a Nazi extermination camp. She had seen mass murder and every form of deprivation. After the war, she came to America and married, only to have her husband be unfaithful and abandon her a few years later. Unbelievably, she said that experience of rejection and loss was actually more painful than her years in a German death camp. That says it all.²

If husbands and wives suffer dramatically from the breakup of their families, imagine how much more painful it is for their vulnerable children. Some of you have reason to understand precisely what I mean because you've been there. It is not a pretty picture. Research focusing on children of divorce shows that emotional security in children is dependent on the presence of a warm, nurturing, sustained, and continuous interaction with both parents. When those relationships are interrupted, some kids never fully recover from it. In fact, one study showed that 90 percent of children from divorced homes suffered from an acute sense of shock, including profound grieving and irrational fears. Fifty percent reported feeling rejected and abandoned, and for good reason. Half the fathers never came to see their children three years after the divorce. Most significantly, 37 percent of the children were even more unhappy and dissatisfied five years after the divorce than they had been at eighteen months. In other words, time did not heal their wounds.³



"Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24

To my readers who plan to marry, I urge you to be extremely careful in the selection of a mate. Bathe the matter in prayer, and bring all of your intelligence to bear on the decision. You do not want this tragedy of divorce to happen to you. It must not happen to you.

Unfortunately, many young people are not so cautious. They move glibly through their courtship and into marriage, not seeming to realize just how much is at stake for them. They remind me of a candy lover peering into a box of delicious chocolates. He has been offered only one piece, and the decision is killing him. There are too many choices. Some are creams, some contain nuts, some are fruit-filled, and some are chewy nougats. The guy's mouth waters for a particular chocolate, but where is it? In frustration, he begins crushing the tops to see what's inside of them. Finally, he bites into the one he has chosen. If he makes a mistake, he will know it instantly. But by then, it is too late. The box is passed to someone else.

Haven't you seen young men and women looking intently for the "perfect" chocolate? They know what they want but aren't sure how to find it. Furthermore, the decoration on the outside is often misleading. Their search leads them to crush many potential lovers along the way. At last, they "bite" into the chosen delicacy, only to realize very quickly that they should have given the matter a little more thought.

The big question is, how will you select the right chocolate from all the alternatives? How will you find the intimacy most of us long for? It is one of the greatest treasures life can offer when it is genuine. Instead of being alone, a person's basic need for love, belonging and acceptance is met in that precious relationship. There is now someone on your team who is looking out for your welfare. He is fighting for you, and defending you, and praying for you. He's someone who will be there when things go wrong. He will also share your hopes and dreams and joy. And if your union should be blessed with children, he will help you raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

This special bonding is God's gift of companionship to the human family. It all started in the Garden of Eden when the first man, Adam, showed evidence of great loneliness.

Can't you see him sitting on a log in the middle of the garden, drawing little circles in the sand with his toe? His eyes are glassy and he yawns absentmindedly. The Creator looks at Adam compassionately and says, "It is not good for the man to be alone." Imagine that! Even though Adam could fellowship with God Himself in the cool of the day, he needed something else. He needed human companionship. So the Father said, "I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18, NIV).

That word "suitable" in this Scripture is one of the Lord's profound understatements! He beautifully designed the sexes for one another, giving each gender the precise characteristics needed by the other. Consider, for example, how men and women's bodies were crafted to "fit" together sexually. Anyone, even the most avid evolutionist, can see that they were constructed anatomically for one another. In the same way, the emotional apparatus of males and females is designed to interlock. It fits like hand in glove. Having thus prepared us lovingly for one another, the Lord revealed His plan for the family: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Mark 10:7-9, NIV).

That is the way the system was designed. Unfortunately, there is a flaw in its implementation. Sin has invaded God's creation, and we live now in a fallen world. God's beautiful plan has been corrupted by selfishness, lust, greed, jealousy, suspicion, adultery, immaturity and other distortions of the human personality. Consequently, romantic love sometimes fails to deliver on its promise, even among God-fearing people. Someone observed, "marriages are made in heaven, but so are lightning and thunder."

Studies have shown that only 10 percent of couples ever experience true intimacy in their relationship. Others may remain together for the sake of the children or from a sense of duty, or because they genuinely care about each other. But they never achieve the companionship and affection they desire and need.

In that kind of imperfect world, let me ask you about your own future. How will you secure the prize of intimacy in marriage? How will you avoid a sour surprise after it is too late to reconsider? How will you beat the odds against a successful marriage? How will you prevent the fever of infatuation from turning into a marital rash? What are the keys to a deeply committed and satisfying relationship? How will you go the distance when others within your generation are breaking up every day? Is there a way to improve your prospects for marital happiness?

One of the most important components of lifelong marriage can be traced to the quality of the "bond" that forms during the courtship period. By bonding we refer to the process by which a man and woman become cemented together emotionally. It describes the chemistry that permits two previous strangers to become intensely valuable to one another. It helps them weather the storms of life and remain committed in sickness and health, for richer or poorer, for better or worse, forsaking all others until they are parted in death. It is a phenomenal experience that almost defies description.

But how does that cementing process take place? What are the conditions that encour-

age a strong and stable attachment between a man and woman? A critical factor appears to be a determination to take the dating relationship very slowly, especially avoiding early physical intimacies. Frank Sinatra once recorded a song years ago that included this line: "Let's take it nice and easy, making all the stops along the way."⁴ That's the basic idea. Time is the critical ingredient.

That reminds me of my efforts to build model airplanes when I was a boy. In those days, one could buy inexpensive kits that included a sheet of balsa wood on which the parts of the model had been stamped. It was a big chore to cut them with an exacto knife and then glue all the pieces together. Once that was finished, tissue paper was pasted to the frame. The final result was a beautiful little plane to hang in your bedroom. I wanted to build one of those models in the worst way, but I never got it done. Repeatedly, I bought a kit and began cutting out the pieces. But I couldn't finish the project because I was too impatient to wait for the glue to dry. I wouldn't leave the fuselage alone and it would fall apart in my hands.

That's more or less the way a courtship period should be constructed; it takes time for the glue to dry. A proper bond between two people is severely damaged if the process is rushed. The emotional connection between them is weakened especially by early sexual contact. If they kiss passionately on the first date, engage in heavy petting a month later, or have sexual intercourse before marriage, something precious is lost in their commitment to one another. They have not allowed the "glue" to dry. Unfortunately, that's how the entertainment industry presents the ideal romantic relationship. A young man and woman are shown being introduced, and the next thing you know, they're making passionate love together. That exploitation for momentary pleasure carries serious implications for the future of the relationship.

When two people have a chance to become knowledgeable of each other on an emotional, as opposed to a physical, level, good things begin to happen. Their courtship is nurtured through leisurely walks and talks and "lover's secrets" that lay a foundation for mutual intimacy. They talk endlessly about anything and everything. And by the time they marry, there is very little they don't know about each other. Romantic commitments are born in those prolonged conversations.

Before we tuck away this understanding of bonded commitments, let me emphasize that the concept applies not only to the courtship period. The most successful marriages are those in which husbands and wives also need to take the time to relate to each other regularly on an emotional basis. Nor does the need for that interaction go away as the years unfold. Touching and talking and holding hands and gazing into one another's eyes and building memories are as important to partners in their midlife years as to those in the critical decade. Indeed, the best way to invigorate a tired sex life is to interact with each other on an emotional level.

Here is one more little tip that I hope my male readers will salt away for future reference: Women resent being rushed into a sexual experience when their husbands haven't taken the time for conversation and romanticism. They often feel "used" under those circumstances. Tina Turner recorded a hit song a few years ago that asked the question, "What's love got to do with it?"⁵ That is what is communicated

when physical intimacy is expected in the absence of romantic stuff. It's as though love is irrelevant, which reduces the mystical sexual union to an animalistic act. If you want to have an energized sex life in marriage, try a little tenderness during the other 23½ hours of the day. Remember, you read it here.

At this point, I'll leave you with seven straightforward recommendations:

1. *A Sunday school teacher gave me some advice when I was 13 years of age that I never forgot. He said, "Don't marry the person you think you can live with. Marry the one you can't live without." There's great truth in this advice. Marriage can be difficult even when two people are passionately in love with one another. It is murder when they don't have that foundation to build on.*

2. *Don't marry someone who has characteristics that you feel are intolerable. You may plan to change him or her in the future, but that probably won't happen. Behavior runs in deep channels that were cut during early childhood, and it is very difficult to alter them. In order to change a deeply ingrained pattern, you have to build a sturdy dam, dig another canal and reroute the river in the new direction. That effort is rarely successful over the long haul.*

Therefore, if you can't live with a characteristic that shows up during courtship, it may plague you for the rest of your life. For example, a person who drinks every night is not likely to give up that habit after the honeymoon. If he is foolish with money, or is basically unclean, or tends to get violent when irritated, or is extremely selfish, these are red flags that you should not ignore. What you see is what you get. Of course, we all have flaws, and I'm not suggesting that a person has to be perfect to be a candidate for marriage. Rather, my point is that you have to decide if you can tolerate a quirky behavior for the rest of your life—because that's how long you may have to deal with it. If you can't, don't bank on deprogramming the partner after you've said, "I do." I advise you to keep your eyes wide open before marriage and then half closed thereafter.

3. *Do not marry impulsively! I can think of no better way to mess up your life than to leap into this critical decision without careful thought and prayer. It takes time to get acquainted and to walk through the first eight steps of the bonding process. Remember that the dating relationship is designed to conceal information, not reveal it. Both partners put on their best faces for the one they seek to attract. They guard the secrets that might be a turn-off. Therefore, many newlyweds get a big surprise during the first year of married life. I suggest that you take at least a year to get beyond the facade and into the inner character of the person.*

4. *If you are a deeply committed Christian, do not allow yourself to become "unequally yoked" with an unbeliever. You may expect to win your spouse to the Lord at some future date, and that does happen on occasion. But to count on it is risky at best, foolhardy at worst. Again, this is the question that must be answered: "Just how critical is it that my husband (or wife) shares my faith?" If it is essential and nonnegotiable, as the Scripture tells us it should be for believers, then that matter should be given the highest priority in one's decision to marry.*

5. Do not move in with a person before marriage. To do so is a bad idea for many reasons. First, it is immoral and a violation of God's law. Second, it undermines a relationship and leads often to divorce. Studies show that couples who live together before marriage have a 50 percent greater chance of divorce than those who don't, based on 50 years of data.⁶ Those who cohabit also have less satisfying and more unstable marriages. Why? The researchers found those who had lived together later regretted having "violated their moral standards," and "felt a loss of personal freedom to exit out the back door." Furthermore, and in keeping with the theme of marital bonding, they have "stolen" a level of intimacy that is not warranted at that point, nor has it been validated by the degree of commitment to one another. As it turns out, God's way is not only the right way—it is the healthiest for everyone concerned.

6. Don't get married too young. Those who wed between 14 and 17 are twice as likely to divorce as couples that wait until their twenties. Making it as a family requires some characteristics that come with maturity, such as selflessness, stability and self-control. It's best to wait for their arrival.

7. Finally, I'll conclude with the ultimate secret of lifelong love. Simply put, the stability of marriage is a by-product of an iron-willed determination to make it work. If you choose to marry, enter into that covenant with the resolve to remain committed to each other for life. Never threaten to leave your mate during angry moments. Don't allow yourself to consider even the possibility of divorce. Calling it quits must not become an option for those who want to go the distance!

If you conform to these seven principles and if you are totally committed to your marital partner, your probabilities of living happily together for a lifetime will be vastly improved. Again, the Scripture endorses the permanence of the marital relationship, saying, "Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Mark 10:9, NIV).

