

# **Maximizing Your Marriage**

**YOUNG COUPLES' RETREAT**

**THE DILLARD HOUSE**  
**DILLARD, GA 30537**  
**APRIL 12-14, 2012**

# **Maximizing Your Marriage**

**INTRODUCTION, ROLES, & DUTIES**

# Why a Couples' Retreat?

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- **For all the reasons preached to you on 4/8/2012!**
- **For all the reasons of love, fear, and glory to God.**
- **For all the reasons of adorning and defending truth.**
- **For your vows and integrity before God and men.**
- **For your personal and sexual success and pleasure.**
- **For the benefit and salvation of your children.**
- **For provoking others to love and to good works.**

# **What It Is ... and What It Is Not**

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- **Not a marriage seminar – would require more time.**
- **Not everything impacting marriage can be covered.**
- **It is a couples' retreat – for fun and many reminders.**
- **It allows me to be direct and hard, but not personal.**
- **It allows you to hide in a crowd, but change anyway.**
- **As couples away from duties – obsess on each other.**
- **As brothers and sisters in Christ – push each other.**

# Problems Affecting the Retreat

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- **You will only get out what you put into this weekend.**
- **If you think for a second you have it all figured out ...**
- **... Your pride and ignorance guarantee your failure.**
- **... Your spouse already told us their disappointment.**
- **If you have not prepared already, prepare right now.**
- **In public participate; in private pursue perfection.**
- **Fun things explored were vacuous, carnal, perilous.**

# What Qualifies the Speakers?

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- **They know the word of God, and they know it works.**
- **They are not afraid to say the hard things you need.**
- **They've been married as long as all of you combined?**
- **Only years after your 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary really count.**
- **Remember, adult maturity in the Bible is about 30.**
- **They have seen what works, what does not, in many.**
- **They see cracks and smell smoke, so Ezek 3:17-21.**

# What Is Our Goal?

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- **All the Bible goals preached to you on 4/8/2012!**
- **11 couples = 22 souls.**
- **11 couples = 33 children.**
- **11 couples = 33 spouses.**
- **11 couples = 12 grandchildren in just 25 years.**
- **11 couples = 100 souls in just 25 years.**
- **Basis for a godly seed for God's glory and our church.**

# Great Marriages Don't "Happen"

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- A happy, loving marriage is a great thing.
- It will never happen by chance or time.
- It takes work to make a marriage prosper.
- Rules for success are found in the Bible.
- But they must be put into regular practice.
- Who will make the marriage great? **You!**
- When will you get around to doing it? **Now!**

# **We Have All the Answers - 1**

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- **Man did not design or invent love, marriage, or sex.**
- **God created any part of any aspect for your pleasure.**
- **He put in the Bible everything a pastor should teach.**
- **“All scripture ... perfect ... thoroughly furnished ...”**
- **Marriage books by Christians and pagans abound.**
- **Lustful Christian wives ever learn but miss the truth.**
- **The Bible is as relevant for marriage today as ever.**

# **We Have All the Answers - 2**

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- **What if the Bible condemns you (Ps 119:128)?**
- **It is my job to destroy your ideas (II Cor 10:4-6).**
- **There is no silver bullet, but desire, diligence, time.**
- **The only issue is: sinful living patterns and rebellion.**
- **Marriage “counseling” is pressing God’s word home.**
- **You need scripture brought to bear ... our pleasure!**
- **Then you need the godliness to put it into practice.**

# His Way or the Hell Way

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- **Any compromise with God's word will bring hell.**
- **Your parents' marriage is irrelevant to truth.**
- **Your ideas from self-help books are irrelevant.**
- **What makes you feel good is the worst of all.**
- **You cannot stop the pain and trouble coming.**
- ***But you're getting away with it? – He's longsuffering!***
- **Since you know more than most, so will be your pain!**

# Don't Miss Your Obvious Beam

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- Pride will tempt you to think this retreat is for others.
- You have 50 things to improve; we see some of them.
- Pride will tempt you to think about your spouse.
- Your spouse's conduct is irrelevant to your duties.
- You vowed obedience to this in your wedding vows.
- Pride will tempt you to think about others here.
- Chop at your beam; do not search for their tiny mote.

# Roles in General

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- **Here is the foundation for marriage – and it is easy.**
- **Easy to teach and understand – may be hard to do.**
- **God has absolutely declared the roles of marriage.**
- **Altering God's wisdom will bring pain and trouble.**
- **Altering = dysfunction, frustration, and bitterness.**
- **Do you believe Genesis 1:1? Then believe Gen 3:16.**
- **True Biblical roles are nearly extinct in the world.**

# **Role of the Wife - 1**

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- **This first and simplest point is crucial to a marriage.**
- **It was and is a man's world (Gen 2:7-8,15-17).**
- **Adam was notably created first (I Tim 2:13).**
- **Eve was created to be Adam's helper (Gen 2:18).**
- **Eve was made for Adam, not him for her (I Cor 11:9).**
- **Eve was demoted for her sin (Gen 3:16; I Tim 2:14).**
- **Therefore, she is subordinate to a husband and men.**

# **Role of the Wife - 2**

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- **A wife must start every day with this crucial point.**
- **If you rebel here, God will count you a rebel-traitor.**
- **If you rebel here, husband and children will see it.**
- **His desires must be your only desires, not vice versa.**
- **Submission is when you do not like his decisions.**
- **Submission is when you cheerfully agree anyway.**
- **Submission is when you choose his desires as yours.**

# **Role of the Wife - 3**

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- **Marriage is not merely a partnership or a friendship.**
- **Marriage is an authority structure like four others.**
- **Men obey and honor other men, what's so hard?**
- **Reverence is no longer popular. Is there not a cause?**
- **God starts with wives each time, for it is crucial.**
- **Submission makes a marriage; love makes it good.**
- **You do not get to pick when or what for submission.**

# Role of the Wife - 4

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- **But he'll walk all over me ... and a president may us.**
- **Will you like snotty or sullen neglect from children?**
- **There is no "helpmeet." You are a helper that is fit.**
- **Get the order: God – Christ – the man – then you.**
- **Do you want love, honor, esteem? Then get down!**
- **What you have seen, heard, or thought is irrelevant.**
- **Getting started is an act of the will, not a process.**

# What a Contrast!

**A Gracious Woman**



**An Odious Woman**



# What a Contrast!

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- **A glorious thing is a godly, gracious, virtuous wife.**
- **She is priceless - all good men and women honor her.**
- **She is always submissive, sweet, gracious, feminine.**
- **She is never disrespectful, snotty, opinionated, etc.**
- **If you snub, criticize, or neglect your man, forget it!**
- **Resist, question, suggest, huff, pout, cry ... forget it!**
- **Graciousness is very much in the eyes of others.**

# **Role of the Husband - 1**

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- **He is the loving leader in the marriage for the Lord.**
- **His authority must be established and maintained.**
- **A king becomes king by consent: then he enforces it.**
- **He must also love, cherish, and nourish his wife.**
- **Authority without love and kindness = Rehoboam.**
- **What did Rehoboam's "wife" do just before "I do"?**
- **Godly men rule with knowledge and w/o bitterness.**

# **Role of the Husband - 2**

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- **Compromise is not weakness – it can be wisdom.**
- **God used your love of self to help loving your wife.**
- **Jesus died for the church for Himself. Such a point!**
- **Do you understand both the positive and negative?**
- **A wife is your companion, not your slave or doormat.**
- **Love cannot compromise authority or righteousness.**
- **Do you know your wife? Are you bitter? Do you love?**

# **Role of the Husband - 3**

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- **Your wife gave up her life to become your wife.**
- **You should make her life special by adjusting yours.**
- **A husband's love does not nullify authority from God.**
- **But consider God's authority showing great love!**
- **If you have hurt her, you must back up to go forward.**
- **Getting started is an act of the will, not a process.**
- **If he tries to go back or not, the wife must accept.**

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# Maximizing Your Marriage

**RELATING & COMMUNICATING**

# Communication Chasm - 1

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- **This is one of the big problems areas in marriage.**
- **Husbands and wives do not fully grasp each other.**
- **Disturbing habits that hurt are not corrected.**
- **Needed affection is not adequately expressed.**
- **Sex cannot advance beyond a few routines.**
- **It is impossible to have a good marriage without it.**
- **Marriage is a learned relationship, requiring talking.**

# Communication Chasm - 2

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- **Communication is more than the man yelling orders.**
- **Wives, do not answer back when he seeks to lead.**
- **His desires must now be yours for God's approval.**
- **Answering back or any disrespect is sin and suicide.**
- **Silence when he asks a question is also rebellion.**
- **Remember the rule of ten when it comes to words.**
- **Do not talk too much (details) or too little (nothing).**

# Communication Chasm - 3

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- **Talk about sex – a key factor requiring adjustments.**
- **Open your heart and soul – do not hide with details.**
- **If you might talk too much – cut your words in half.**
- **Husbands, tell your wife you love her, like old times.**
- **Clamming up, withdrawing, etc., is a spoiled boy.**
- **Harshness = Rehoboam = bully. You lose like he did.**
- **You will never know her fully; you end up losing.**

# Communication Chasm - 4

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- **Wives can only know what you want, if you tell them.**
- **You also should remember the rule of ten for words.**
- **Listening is very important. It can work wonders.**
- **If you retort, argue, or blink, you will stay in the dark.**
- **She must be totally secure to tell you the good stuff.**
- **Explore your wife's thoughts and needs (for benefits).**
- **Every woman has a heart – that is open or closed.**

# What Is the CRM?

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- **The husband is CRM = Conflict Resolution Manager.**
- **The husband, head and ruler, manages the marriage.**
- **He must point out his wife's faults and correct them.**
- **He must confess his own faults and correct them.**
- **He must manage the correction until all is peaceful.**
- **He must follow up and lead his wife to perfection.**
- **This is a delicate job involving love and authority.**

# The “I’m Fine” Wife

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- **You sense a problem; you ask her ... but she’s fine!**
- **She wants to be low maintenance and problem-free.**
- **She might think it too small to bother you with it.**
- **She wants to solve it herself without troubling you.**
- **Or she is lying and trying to avoid a confrontation.**
- **You pursue with love and authority for discovery.**
- **Wives, we asked, because you already gave it away.**

# Reverence Is Not an Option

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- **The Bible clearly commands it (Eph 5:33; I Pet 3:5-6).**
- **This is respectful fear of your husband as God's man.**
- **Reverence has to do with his office, not his person.**
- **A wife cannot say, "I do not respect him any more."**
- **Marriage is not a friendship, so be careful with this.**
- **Men reverence superiors. Wives can do it, too.**
- **Do you pout, look or walk away, answer back, etc.?**

# The Heart of a Servant

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- **A wife should have the heart of a servant to her man.**
- **The virtuous woman was totally dedicated to him.**
- **She easily outworked him with all things considered.**
- **Eve was created to be his helper; fulfill your destiny.**
- **Men serve superiors. Some wives find it hard.**
- **Our Lord served us by dying for us. This can be easy.**
- **Your goal is to help him in any way you possibly can.**

# How to Create Bitterness - 1

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- **Be an I'm-as-important-as-you wife in word or deed.**
- **Make him ask or beg for sex; be perfunctory at sex.**
- **Seldom initiate sex; offer or pursue it rarely.**
- **Dote on the children as if they were your life's role.**
- **Resist his efforts to direct or lead you to change.**
- **Cry because you are immature or covering rebellion.**
- **Fall back on family who luckily didn't marry you.**

# How to Create Bitterness - 2

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- **Talk more about the meal than the man at the table!**
- **Have a conscience that cannot grow into a real lover.**
- **Talk about your hard day instead of asking about his.**
- **Get more dressed up for others than you do for him.**
- **Pretend you are a good wife in public to deceive.**
- **Chase all over on “errands” but seldom chase him.**
- **Ask to check the dishwasher as he undresses you.**

# Continuing to Learn Each Other

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- **It can only happen with lots of give-and-take talking.**
- **The husband must lead, and the wife meekly follow.**
- **No subject is off-limits; sensitive ones help most!**
- **Husbands should seek answers, but accept the pain.**
- **Wives cannot cry or rebel at a husband's criticism.**
- **A wife that responds poorly to criticism is in trouble.**
- **Marriage can get better and better with learning.**

# Selfishness in the Sack

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- **Or, they should roll over and apologize for blowing it!**
- **A great tragedy! – naked under sheets but enemies!**
- **This must not happen. It breeds bitterness / hatred.**
- **Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.**
- **Go to bed together every night, always touching.**
- **Pray together before bed to resolve most things.**
- **Don't wait for your spouse. Roll over and settle it!**

# Leave Father and Mother

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- **This is God's marital design from Genesis 2:24.**
- **God's command is written regarding even the man.**
- **The wife must leave much more, as she is the man's.**
- **These are immature spouses still needing mommy.**
- **Such "family loyalty" is spousal, marital disloyalty.**
- **Marriage is a new independent family and priority.**
- **The sin shows immaturity or an excuse for rebellion.**

# Leadership Is an Aphrodisiac

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- **Women love leaders, and leaders get lots of loving!**
- **If your wife is use to leading, you must reassert you.**
- **Leading is not yelling, demanding, or punishing.**
- **Leading is knowing, informing, helping, and doing.**
- **Leading is a sound plan with all subordinate to it.**
- **It includes your life, finances, children, spiritual, etc.**
- **You be peacemaker; you be MCR; you walk with God.**

# Communication

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- **A wife needs verbal intercourse. Get excited to talk!**
- **She gave her life to you. Are you happy and thankful?**
- **She gave her life to you. What are you thinking?**
- **Communication includes listening. Are you good?**
- **You used to when dating; you would again if dating.**
- **Pursue her in a way that assures her and wins her.**
- **Express love often; reflect on past; confront wisely.**

# Cherish Her

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- **What is it? Treat her as special in word and deed.**
- **Why? Because if you do, you will benefit the most!**
- **You used to when dating; you would again, if dating.**
- **Consider golf clubs, cars, motorcycles, NFL football.**
- **Remember “loving hind and pleasant roe” (Pr 5:19).**
- **Be glad to please her; do things together; touch her.**
- **Try gifts; help in the house; be kind when she is sick.**

# Nourish Her

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- **What is it? To provide means for her to be her best.**
- **Why? Because if you do, you will benefit the most.**
- **You used to when dating; you would again, if dating.**
- **Keep her from being only a diaper-changing maid.**
- **Approve good friends; allow diversions; praise her.**
- **Avoid comparisons; challenge her gently; praise her.**
- **Help her grow, learn, experiment, branch out, etc.**

# Honor Her

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- **What is it? Respect and esteem as wife and person.**
- **What is it? Know her weaknesses and be not bitter.**
- **Know her abilities and limits; don't expect too much.**
- **Praise her in public, to the children, to her family.**
- **Share your life with her e.g. job, finances, hobby, etc.**
- **Overlook small mistakes like your boss does you.**
- **Avoid harsh, cheap, crude, cutting, jesting speech.**

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**THE GLORY OF SEX – SPLIT SESSIONS**

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# Maximizing Your Marriage

## MYTHS & OBSTACLES

# Common Sins of Husbands - 1

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- **Letting *weaker vessel* failures cause you to blow up.**
- **Getting bitter about any disappointments in her.**
- **Not satisfied with her body or lovemaking. Prov 5:19.**
- **Not satisfied with her domestic or other duties.**
- **Expectations far too high by your mismanagement.**
- **Thinking sex your way is mind-blowing to her.**
- **Thinking sex the same way makes it a nice routine.**

# Common Sins of Husbands - 2

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- **Criticize and overload her, but expect the Shulamite!**
- **Think love is coming home nightly to expect sex.**
- **Order her around like a servant but still want a lover.**
- **Homeschool, taxi, diapers ... but expect a paramour.**
- **Blow her hard earned money but expect worship.**
- **Criticize and be harsh, but expect her to be doting.**
- **Assume she gets turned on by your nudity or sweat.**

# Common Sins of Wives

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- **Doing what he wants may not be submission at all.**
- **Assuming that he can initiate sex if he wants it.**
- **Getting distracted by her life and neglecting his.**
- **Thinking that silence or suggestions is not rebellion.**
- **Turning her love elsewhere – family, kids, pets, etc.**
- **Treating marriage like a partnership, friendship, etc.**
- **Forgetting to chase him down like the Shulamite.**

# Martha Cumbered By Details

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- **The Martha fault is fussing too much over details.**
- **This woman is more about business than marriage.**
- **Being detail-worried works for engineers, astronauts.**
- **A detail-freak wife cannot relax and dote on a man.**
- **A detail-freak wife has trouble being a great lover.**
- **She is tempted to answer again with all her ideas.**
- **But no one really needs all the ideas. We need love!**

# Martha Cumbered By Children

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- **The Mommy fault is fussing too much over children.**
- **God made Eve to preeminently be a wife, not mother.**
- **A woman as a mother is secondary and temporary.**
- **Doting on children will destroy husband and children.**
- **We all know it is easier to love a child than a man.**
- **Children must always come second no matter what.**
- **A real woman is companion and lover ... *then mother.***

# Daddy Can Do It Too

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- **The Mommy fault is fussing too much over children.**
- **Never put your children over your wife in any aspect.**
- **Yes, we all know, you want to preserve your children.**
- **If they smell mom is neglected, you might lose both.**
- **As soon as they taste their own romance, you lose.**
- **Family vacations work wives and are not romantic.**
- **Don't overestimate being with children all the time.**

# Don't Get Distracted

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- Women can put the wedding above the groom.
- Women can put the house above her husband.
- Women can put a job above her husband.
- Women can put a pregnancy above her husband.
- Women can put the children above her husband.
- Women can put her family above her husband.
- Women can put the church above her husband.

# What's Love Got to Do With It

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- **What do you mean? Did God not command love?**
- **Yes, but what of this: “I just don’t love her any more.”**
- **First, love is not a feeling – it is a choice of action.**
- **Second, your loving actions are to be done anyway.**
- **What you describe as love are likely feelings of lust.**
- **What did the Israelites do in arranged marriages?**
- **Americans are spoiled with dating “love” folly.**

# What's Compatibility?

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- **Do you mean you like the same things on your pizza?**
- **Compatibility is learned compromise by two lovers!**
- **First, a wife should make her husband's desires hers.**
- **Second, a loving husband will balance him and her.**
- **Compatibility takes time, talking, experimentation.**
- **Combine your favorite things and you will prosper.**
- **The fear of the Lord is the compatibility that counts.**

# Let's Start Our Family

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- **A marriage starts a family – kids complicate it!**
- **This myth assumes marriage is for having children.**
- **But Solomon said live joyfully with the wife you love.**
- **He said nothing about living joyfully with the kids.**
- **Eve was created mainly to be a wife, not a mother.**
- **Her role as mother is only secondary and short-term.**
- **Children are a blessing, but keep the marriage first.**

# Fantasy Fun in the Flesh

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- Scary words ... *believers looking for fun in the world.*
- Christian couple watch movie ... hit night club ... etc.
- They say, “Pastor is nuts, what a great night of sex!”
- Naïve wife misses the husband had sex with actress!
- Foolish man creates carnal wife vulnerable to world.
- Both miss that Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched.
- Both miss that devil is now in marriage to destroy!

# Five Inputs Don't Affect Us

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- **Because you are reprobates? ... or carnally dead?**
- **Bible, prayer, friends, movies, music affect everyone.**
- **Your first covenant promise was to walk with God.**
- **To the degree you compromise this, you will lose.**
- **The more you keep two commands, you will prosper.**
- **Think: quench Spirit, invite Satan, corrupt manners.**
- **The best of love and sex and all else is for the godly.**

# The Blame Game

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- **Adam tried this one in Eden, and so did Eve.**
- **We cannot care less what you think of your spouse.**
- **Because they called us last week and told about you.**
- **Wife – *I will submit as soon as he earns my respect.***
- **Husband – *I will love as soon as she submits to me.***
- **Where is this marriage going? To hell and beyond.**
- **Jehovah wants to know right now what will you do?**

# Whose Fault Is It?

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- **Since the man is in charge, deficiencies are his fault.**
- **Since the man is the MCR, problems are his fault.**
- **If a man dislikes his marriage, he mismanaged it.**
- **Yet, insubordinate or irreverent wives will be judged.**
- **Yet, unhappy wives are their own fault for the choice.**
- **Man, you can make your marriage great by leading.**
- **Wife, you can humbly ask and/or help when asked.**

# But I Was Just Teasing

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- **Does God like, “Am not I in sport?” See Prov 26:19.**
- **Why tease your wife, whom you are to honor?**
- **Why jest about your wife, when it is not convenient?**
- **The dishonorable inconvenience will bite you bad.**
- **Wife, don't smirk: your jests are 10 times worse.**
- **It is never right for the slightest slight of a husband.**
- **Your disrespect of your lord is abominable to all.**

# When the Man Makes Less

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- **He can thank God for a loving wife and a cash babe!**
- **The money is his, for she was made to work for him.**
- **But ... but ... he better honor her for her hard work.**
- **But ... but ... he better use the money very wisely.**
- **But ... but ... he better give of the fruit of her labor.**
- **But ... but ... he better be diligent to grow himself.**
- **But ... but ... he better consider her for its disposal.**

# How to Ice the Wife

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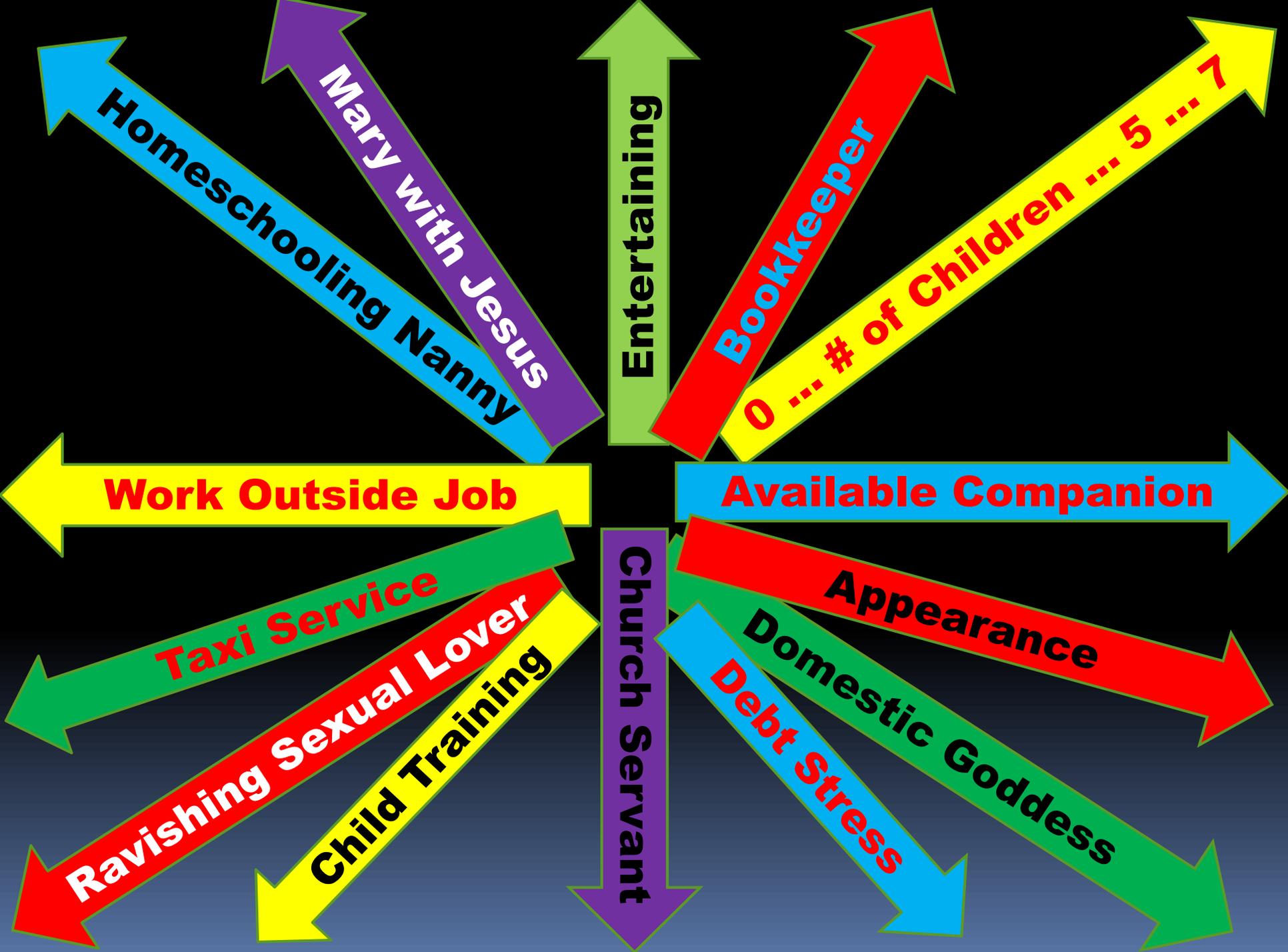
- **Be a complaining, criticizing, whining, little boy.**
- **Be an always-talking, loud mouth that embarrasses.**
- **Be a foolish, impulsive, wasteful spendthrift.**
- **Be a depressed, introverted, withdrawn melancholy.**
- **Be a ball-playing, video game expert with the boys.**
- **Be a boy with guns, rod, car, weights, etc. for toys.**
- **Be an I'd-rather-dote-on-the-children-than-you boy.**

# What Is a Wife For?

- **Companionship**
- **Sex**
- **Domestic help**
- **Income**
- **Homeschooling**
- **Bearing children**
- **Church servant**
- **Hostess**

# Don't Forget These:

- **Appearance**
- **Taxi Service**
- **Bookkeeper**
- **Mary with Jesus**
- **Debt Stress**
- **Child Training**



Entertaining

Bookkeeper

0 ... # of Children ... 5 ... 7

Available Companion

Appearance

Domestic Goddess

Debt Stress

Church Servant

Child Training

Ravishing Sexual Lover

Taxi Service

Work Outside Job

Homeschooling Nanny

Mary with Jesus

# **Maximize Your Wife!**

- **She can please you much more**
- **Are you breaking her eager spirit?**
- **Are you letting her default to folly**
- **She needs only your direction**
- **But is your direction intelligent?!**

# Get Outside Yourself

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- **A foolish lie is to isolate yourselves and call it love.**
- **Our faith has two commands – love God and others.**
- **God's blessing comes in keeping His commands.**
- **It is more blessed to give than to receive (Ac 20:35).**
- **Family does not count in getting outside yourselves.**
- **Focus on others will help cure pride and selfishness.**
- **Of course, others benefit, so this remedy is win-win.**

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# **Maximizing Your Marriage**

**RESTORATION & PERFECTION**

# Love the One You're With

---

- **Your deceitful heart may suggest a mistake.**
- **But God allowed it, so it is His will for your life.**
- **Love is a choice, not a feeling or circumstance.**
- **Anyone can learn to love anyone, if willing.**
- **Any thoughts about anyone else are wicked.**
- **Any thoughts of regret are vain and hateful.**
- **You can be happy in love with just a choice.**

# **It's Too Late and I'm Too Hurt**

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- **It is never too late to confess any sin and do right.**
- **If you would confess your sin, He can take away hurt.**
- **You are all young couples, so you can flush this one.**
- **Every marriage has hurt and problems at times.**
- **The title above is selfish by at least two counts.**
- **Get over yourself, and get into your spouse for God.**
- **He will bless, soothe, and restore beyond belief.**

# **We Just Never Clicked Like Others**

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- **This one is easy – confess your sin for not clicking!**
- **One spouse is talking ... with incredible selfishness.**
- **Whether clicking or not, marriage requires actions.**
- **Spouses have had pleasant marriages w/o clicking.**
- **Imagine an arranged marriage for a few minutes.**
- **We return to the rule – love is action, not feelings.**
- **There is no ceiling for your marriage ... God's way.**

# **We Need to Separate for a While**

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- **Do you need to worship Buddha for a while?**
- **Separation in the Bible is fully as bad as divorce.**
- **Check out I Corinthians 7:10-11.**
- **Separation breaks a covenant and defrauds. Duh?**
- **Does this absence make the heart grow fonder?**
- **If it does, then lovers should separate often. Duh?**
- **What does “cleave” mean to you, ignoring butchers.**

# Restoring Your Marriage

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“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works” (Rev 2:4-5).

- *Nevertheless* ignores any good things you are doing.
- The loss of first love is cruel, hateful, and wicked.
- Because it is a choice to love and how much to love.
- Three steps: **Remember ... Repent ... Do First Works**

# What Are the First Works? - 1

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- **Simple – what you did to get the spouse you have!**
- **If your spouse died – you would do them again easily.**
- **What is stopping you now? Bitterness? Rebellion?**
- **What is stopping you now? Laziness? Selfishness?**
- **What is stopping you now? Pride? **REPENT!****
- **If you do not start again, you are hateful and wicked.**
- **The merciful God would spue you out of His mouth!**

# What Are the First Works? - 2

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- **Simple – what you did to get the spouse you have!**
- **You were only seen looking your very, very best.**
- **You were very, very attentive to every look or word.**
- **You wanted away from family or friends for them.**
- **You were quite creative in things said and done.**
- **You only said kind and loving things about them.**
- **You only said kind and loving things to them.**

# Great Marriages Don't "Happen"

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- **A happy, loving marriage is a great thing.**
- **It will never happen by chance or time.**
- **It takes work to make a marriage prosper.**
- **Bible rules for success were just presented.**
- **But they must be put into regular practice.**
- **Who will make the marriage great? **You!****
- **When will you get around to doing it? **Now!****

# For Further Study

- **Importance of Marriage ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/marriage-importance.pdf>.
- **Covenant of Marriage ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/marriage-covenant.pdf>.
- **Marriage Only in the Lord ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/marriage-in-the-lord.pdf>.
- **Role of the Man ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/role-of-the-man.pdf>.
- **Role of the Woman ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/role-of-the-woman.pdf>.
- **Managing Your Wife ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/managing-your-wife.pdf>.
- Couples' Retreat - Spouse Questions
- Couples' Retreat - Table Topics and Fireside Questions
- Pastor's Marriage Manual