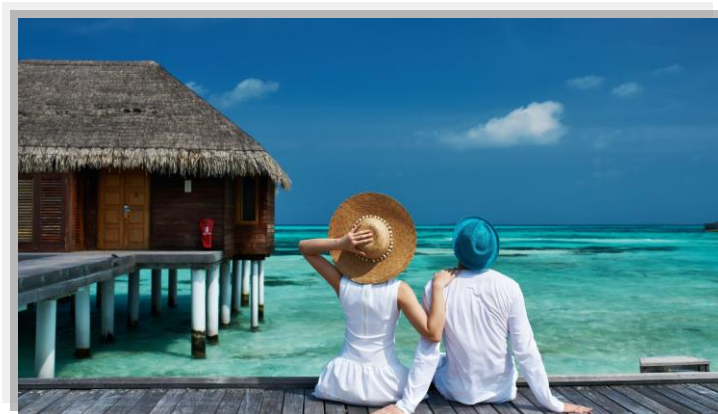


MARRIAGE: THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT



TEXT: *Prov. 24:3,4 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

INTRO: A. A 4 yr old girl at Nursery School heard the story of Snow White. She couldn't wait to tell her mommy. With wide-eyed excitement, she retold the fairy tale and after relating the part where Prince Charming arrived on his white horse & kissed Snow White back to life, she asked: "And do you know what happened then?" "Yes," said her mother, "They lived happily ever after." "No," said the little girl with a frown: "they got married!"

B. In fact Snow White and Prince Charming were the last couple who ever "lived happily ever after." Getting married and living happily ever after is only a fairy tale. There are always heartaches, heartbreaks, setbacks, problems and pressures. But God did ordain marriage as the first and foremost unit in society & has made provision, even after man's fall, for couples to have a life together which will not only please and honor Him, but will be the closest & most intimate relationship on earth to heaven itself. **MARRIAGE IS THE HOUSE THAT GOD BUILT** and we need to examine some principles which will help every marriage to be what He intended. **"Except the Lord build the house..."**

REMEMBER WHEN.....BUT NOW

She was beautiful?.....She is older!
When he was handsome?.....He is bald!
There were no kids?.....They drive you nuts!
You were both perfect?.....You know his/her faults!
You enjoyed each other?.....You have no money to do anything!
You couldn't wait to see each other?.....You wish you could get away!
The kids were so sweet?.....Now they are teens!
You used to talk with each other?.....Now you yell at each other!
Kids, your parents were wonderful?.....Now they are your biggest problem!
You had such wonderful dreams?.....Now they have become nightmares!

I. DRAWING THE BLUEPRINT:

A. A Flawless Floor Plan:

Proverbs 24:3-4 Through **wisdom** is an house **builded**; and by **understanding** it is **established**: **4** And by **knowledge** shall the **chambers** be filled with all **precious** and **pleasant** riches.

1. Building terms
2. Biblical terms

NOTE: The rooms in this house are "filled w/all precious & pleasant riches." Objects to fill the rooms or chambers? Or more! Is your house simply an accumulation of physical objects: furniture, photos, drapes & appliances? Your house should be a home "filled with precious & pleasant riches" which cannot be destroyed by fire, flood or other circumstances!

"Wisdom"– seeing with discernment; the ability to see what is really important!

"Understanding"– responding w/insight, realizing that differences are not personal attacks, just personal distinctions. Compromise is needed!

"Knowledge"– learning w/perception; having a teachable spirit, willing to listen and learn

Is yours just a house or a home? A marriage or a mess? A relationship or a wreck?

II. LAYING THE FOUNDATION:

NOTE: God's math: 1 + 1 = 1 (Monogamy – permanent, till death.)

Genesis 2:24-25 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

A. Four Cornerstones:

1. Severance: **"leave"**

ILLUS.: Not only must the bride & groom leave mom & dad, but mom & dad must sever their former relationship. That means non-interference! Counsel is O.K.

When the father of the bride symbolically "gives away his daughter" it should be more than symbolic. Perhaps we should have the parents on both sides "give away" their children. Apart from this severance there can be no permanent bond between the couple.

2. Permanence: **"cleave"** (bonded, attached to, glued to – permanence! – not "till disagreement or debt or difference or divorce do us part!")

3. Unity: **"one flesh"** (Even created out of Adam – similar but different – not a female Adam, but one to complement, help and assist and to provide companionship to him.

Genesis 2:19 *And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

NOTE: Adam looked at all the animals and named them: giraffe, hippo, aardvark, brontosaurus...*then woman!* The woman came out of man, and in marriage becomes one flesh with him again. Adam looked at Eve and said *"You are the most beautiful woman I have ever laid eyes on."* And he was being honest! 😊

Notice that it is **"one flesh"** i.e., that this unity should take place only w/in the context of marriage. Like the High Priest in O.T. Only one man was allowed inside the Holy of Holies!

This is the concept of complete unselfishness, a mutual acceptance, giving, forgiving, belonging and blending of two lives. One completes the other! Both are less w/out the other. Together they are more than the sum of both parties.

4. Intimacy: **"not ashamed"**

a. Nothing hidden, complete openness, no embarrassment, inhibitions, fears, total transparency, no self-consciousness, and emotional and physical freedom.

Proverbs 5:15-19 *Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. 16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. 17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. 18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. 19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.*

QUOTE: "(Adam & Eve) had been brought together by God w/the express commandment to 'be fruitful and multiply.' At this time they were still w/out sin and thus w/out consciousness of moral guilt. Later, however, their sin brought an awareness that the springs of human life had been poisoned...This discovery made them painfully aware of their reproductive organs, and they were then 'ashamed.'" Defenders Bible, p.11

1 Corinthians 7:2-5 *Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. 4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.*

Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

This physical relationship should begin on the honeymoon – never before. The word "honeymoon" is a poor choice. All is not "honey" and the full moon only shines about once per month. How about "attitude adjustment period" or "realignment period" or "compromise and negotiation period?" Not as romantic, but probably more realistic.

The "honeymoon" concept is **unrealistic** (no pressures), **awkward** (if virgins – like riding a bike the 1st time, not much fun and embarrassing and maybe even a few minor injuries), **brief** (the honeymoon should begin after the "realignment period" and then should last for life.)

CONCL.: Someone suggested **12 Magic Words** to keep the honey in the honeymoon.

"I am sorry!" "I was wrong!" "Please forgive me!" "I love you!"