

## TURNING YOUR SPOUSE OVER TO GOD

On July 29, 1981, one of the most highly publicized and glamorous weddings in history took place. Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana. But even this marriage that could have been written in a fairy tale book eventually became a nightmare. It collapsed into adultery and divorce. Obviously there must be more to marriage than a prince, a lady, and a palace.

In 1870 there was one divorce for every 34 marriages. By 1900 it was one in five, and by 1950 it was one in three. Today it is about one in two, and one of the primary reasons is adultery. One of the first things God created was marriage, and Satan has attacked it ever since. How have we messed it up so badly? Since we can't change the past, let's ask instead, "How can we fix it?"

Paul said, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Our homes should be the one place where we are built up rather than torn down? Our marriage should not be about what I can get out of it. In other words marriage says, "It's not about me. It's about my spouse!" Men, here are three things your wife needs: 1. Kindness and gentleness. 2. Conversation and affection. 3. Loving leadership. Ephesians 5:23, 25, "For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior." "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church..." The Bible says the husband is the head of the family, but he does so in the manner of a servant. Not a tyrant.

What about the needs of the husband? 1. Respect and admiration. 2. Sexual fulfillment. 3. Proactive help. Genesis 2:18, "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

Folks, it's easy to say, "I love you." And you can spend a lot of time courting each other, but things change after the wedding. There has to be more to love than lust. Love isn't just a feeling. It's a decision on your part. It is a commitment on your part. God created the male and the female. He created marriage, and He created marriage to bring happiness and not misery. Does anyone want to tell me that God did not know what He was doing?

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