

PRINCIPLES REGARDING MARRIAGE (Premarital Ministry)

I. GOD'S PATTERN FOR MARRIAGE:

According to Genesis 2:18-25, the first marriage in Scripture includes at least six principles which establish the divine pattern for marriage:

1. GOD HAS A RIGHT MATE FOR YOU!

Man makes the choice but God's guidance is to be involved. (See Proverbs 3:5-6)

2. MARRIAGE MEANS COMPANIONSHIP AND UNITY

It is a cooperative venture. Amos, the prophet, asks, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Of course not. And there are some very clear words on this subject in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 and Deuteronomy 7:1-6. It is absolutely essential that a Christian marry only another Christian. For a Christian to marry an unbeliever is contrary to Scripture as well as common sense.

3. MARRIAGE ORIGINALLY PLANNED INVOLVED ONE MAN & ONE WOMAN

it is true that we find individuals who practiced polygamy in the Old Testament, but it never was commended by God. The Biblical record demonstrates that whenever it was practiced, it created problems that led to unhappiness, jealousy, and many difficulties. A man is to be "one flesh" with one woman.

4. MARRIAGE INVOLVES PHYSICAL UNION

Since the first marriage, the Scriptures make it clear that sex is an important part of marriage (See Genesis 1:28; Proverbs 5:18-21) . In some mysterious and wonderful way, sex is the means whereby God says man and woman "become one flesh." (See 1 Corinthians 6:15-16)

5. MARRIAGE CREATES A NEW UNIT IN SOCIETY

In Genesis 2:24, the Lord God said that both man and woman must leave their father and mother, and establish a new home. In fact, it is the parents' responsibility to help prepare their children for the time when they are to break home ties and establish a new dependency where the husband now depends on his wife, and the wife on her husband, and the children depend on their parents.

6. MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

There is no hint in Genesis 2:18-25 about the possibility of husband and wife begin separated from each other, yet the term "shall cleave" (verse 24) strongly implies that this union is to be "lifelong." Our Lord Jesus clarified this when He said, "What God hath joined together, let not man put

asunder.” (Matthew 19:6)

BASED ON THESE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, I will perform marriages only for those who confess a personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. PREMARITAL COUNSELING MINISTRY

The high divorce rate in our society is proof that the Biblical principles above are not easily attained. For this reason, I am committed to a ministry of training couples to build strong marriages. I propose to do this through Biblical counseling and follow-up with the newlyweds.

COUNSELING

Every couple to be married is asked to have an initial visit with me and with any other minister who is to be involved in the wedding ceremony. At this time, the date and details of the wedding are discussed.

The couple will then be required to have at least three sessions of pre-marital counseling two with me and one with a couple(I may suggest additional sessions if deemed necessary.)

When an outside minister is involved in the wedding in any manner, approval must be obtained from me.

If at all practical, I suggest that the couple have a counseling session with me approximately one year after the wedding ceremony. This appointment will serve both as a marriage checkup and an opportunity to share the joys of marriage.

WEDDING INFORMATION SHEET

(Subject to Conditions in Wedding Policies)

Date of Wedding _____ Time _____

Rehearsal _____ Time _____

Officiating Minister _____

Minister of what church _____

Have either bride or groom been married before? _____

Counseling appointments with minister to discuss wedding plans:

Date _____ Time _____

Date _____ Time _____

Date _____ Time _____

Full Name of Bride _____ Age _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Church Membership _____ Church Name _____

Parents' Names _____

Full Name of Groom _____ Age _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Church Membership _____ Church Name _____

Parents' Names _____

Organist _____ Soloist(s) _____

Name of Florist _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Name of Photographer _____ Address _____ Phone _____

RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS:

Where _____

Caterer _____

OTHER INFORMATION: