

LOVE AND A HAPPY MARRIAGE

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Never forget that man has the breath of God, creating a living soul within him. This breath of God, distinguishes man from all other animals.

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Note, Adam, alone, was given the commandment of EVERY tree of the garden, Adam could eat of freely, except, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was before Eve was created. So Adam was responsible to see that Eve did not eat of that tree. So in defense of Eve, it may have been Adam's fault that she had been deceived.

I believe that our culture, including many in the Christian churches, have completely lost sight of what a wife and helpmate is supposed to be, based on Bible teaching. The result of this are the high divorce rates in both Christian and non-Christian marriages.

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

God has a special helpmate somewhere for you. Seek His will first before you start your search. If you are already married, ask God to take control of your life and marriage. Put Him first, each other second, everyone, and everything else, including jobs, below each other.

I was honored to have such a woman for 51 wonderful years of marriage. In honor to the memory of my precious wife, I write this to tell how we had such a wonderful marriage.

Jo and I met at her church, in 1955, while Shelton Young, (now Dr. Shelton Young), and I were holding a revival at her church. Dr. Young, (at the time was a 17 year old young man, I was 15).

I had been preaching about a year fulfilling a promise to God, "if you will heal me, I will preach for you when I get big enough." My head snapped upright immediately and I was not sick anymore.

At the time of my illness, I was 5 years old. I had what doctors thought was Polio. This was in 1944 and I had been bedfast for about 3 months. My head had drawn over and lay upon my right shoulder. I could not move it or lift it. There was a world war raging, we lived on a farm about 40 miles from the

nearest hospital, but, there was nothing that could be done for Polio in 1944 anyway.

I had prayed the week before the revival, "Lord, you have someone special for me, I can wait on her, but, I would like to meet her."

Shelton called and said, "guess what?"

I said, "no telling, what?"

"They called me from Marshall, Texas and want us to hold a youth revival."

"Wonderful, when are we going?"

"They want us there Sunday night."

The very first night of the revival, this beautiful, 12 year old young lady came up to me and said, "howdy, my name is Jo Jo."

I said, in my mind, "that is her!"

She must have felt something too. From that night forward for the rest of the two week revival, after church was all over, and the kids were standing around talking, she was either at my left elbow or right elbow. I called her, "my little elbow girl."

We had a wonderful two week revival. We did not date or talk about dating. We were very serious about the revival.

After the last night of the revival, when all of the young people were standing around talking, everyone teased or bantered with Jo, she was very outgoing, I turned to her and said, "you are the little girl that I am going to marry one of these days, did you know that?"

Everyone's mouth dropped as they waited for her reply. I was expecting some wise crack that she was very good at; however, instead, she quietly said, "O.K."

We wrote each other for the next two years. I did not have an automobile and we lived 50 miles apart. Then in 1957 when I got out of High School, bought a car, we started dating. I worked 6 days per week and was going to college, so, our date consisted of me going to see her on Sunday, going to Sunday School with her, then to her house, where her mom would always have this banquet style, picture perfect, dinner fixed.

After dinner, we would go to the living room and play music. She and her sister played the piano. We would play and sing most of the evening.

We were married June 6, 1959 and it was a fairy tale marriage in the way we got along. God took her home July 28, 2010. It was a Bible Based marriage, and I believe, I learned and adapted to those principles and would like to share with you. "How to have a happy marriage."

The first step in a happy marriage is to allow God to make the choice for you. Pray that God will allow you to meet the perfect mate for you.

If you are already married, then, this is a must for a happy marriage. Turn your lives over to Jesus, put HIM first in everything. Then each other second, only to Jesus, children or family members, below each other, job or any other things, below each other, always put your mate before anyone or anything, except, God.

Genesis 2:19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 2:20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 2:22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 2:23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them: and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

God, "called their name Adam." For this reason, the wife takes her husband's name.

The creation of a woman was God's final act of creation as recorded in the Bible in Genesis. The woman was created from man's side. Her purpose was to be man's helper. A woman, being a "help meet," is to be a helper suitable for man.

She is to be man's, "Assistant," "Companion," Helpmate," "our Helper," "Our Partner," as well as our Spouse.

Woman was created from man's side for a reason. Woman was taken from the rib of man. The rib is the protection for man's heart. Since woman was taken from the protection for the heart of man, the wife should always be the guardian and protector for the heart of her husband.

God said, "her desire shall be toward her husband." Our wife may not, always, understand our work, and they may not, always, care about our work, but they deeply care about us, because her, God given, desire is toward her husband, to be by his side.

They came from our side, and when standing by our side, they make a man complete.

I realized very early in our marriage that Jo just wanted to be near her husband. If I were under an old car working on it, she would be there to where she could see me. She did not know a radiator from an exhaust pipe, but, she loved Jerry and wanted to be near him.

I have heard men tell their wife, "don't you have something better to do than to stand around and watch me?" If you looked real close, he had the word "STUPID" engraved on his forehead.

NO, she does not have anything better to do than to be near you. This was God's commandment to the woman and she can no more help it than she can help breathing. Her desire is toward her husband.

Woman was created from man's side for a reason. Woman was taken from the rib of man. Woman was not taken from the foot, so her husband should never trample upon her feelings.

Woman was not taken from the head or neck of man, so a wife was not made to rule over her husband.

How many times do we drive our wife away because we do not understand her God given desire to be by our side???

In successful marriages men come to understand what God had in mind. God intended for our wife to not only be by our side and to be our helper and spouse, but, God intended for our wife to actually complete our creation as a man.

Think about this concept, each and every time you look at your wife. Your wife's place is to be constantly at your side.

In Genesis, when looking at His creation, "and God saw that it was good." Sharing life with your wife is good!

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

In verse 20, it says that there was not found a helper fit for him. Although all of the creatures God created on days 5 and 6 were formed male and female, He did not follow the same pattern when He made Adam in His own image.

I've heard some Christians say that this was an oversight on God's part, but an all knowing God is incapable forgetting to do anything. I believe God purposely delayed in forming woman in order to impress upon Adam his need for a mate and partner.

Men often quote Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Too often this is taken to mean that a woman's role is to be a servant or slave to the man's needs. Some men try to support a subservient role of the woman.

This is not what is meant in Genesis 2:20 when it talks about a helper.

The Hebrew word used for helper in Genesis 2:20 is *gēh-zer* which means a helper or aid. The root word conveys the primary idea of giving aid in the form of girding up, surrounding and defending, not acting as a servant or slave.

The perfect helpmate woman is one that not only helps her husband in taking care of the house, but she is a woman that stands beside her husband to give him strength and support in everything, good and bad. She defends him against others and against things that may be harmful to him. She girds and supports him when he needs moral, emotional and physical support. She surrounds him with a well run house; a place of peace, comfort and love.

The perfect helpmate woman is a woman who stands next to her husband regardless of the situation. When times are rough, she is there for him. When he is hurting and ill, she is there for him. When he needs advice and counsel, she is there for him.

When Genesis 2:24 states that they shall become one flesh, this is not just a reference to intimate marital relations, but to the entire relationship between them. As one flesh, they share life together as one. What affects one of them affects the other. Consequently, a perfect woman is a complement to her husband. She completes his being by providing a balance of thought, emotion and love.

And when a man finds a wife, he needs to follow the rest of Ephesians 5:25-31 which states:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 5:26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 5:27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 5:30 because we are members of his body. 5:31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

A husband is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church. This is a sacrificial love. Even though Christ was God incarnate and the head of the church, He still took on the role of a servant to the church. He washed the feet of His love for His church and His people. Though Christ was head of the church, He always remained humble in caring for it. He never flaunted His authority or power. Never did Christ treat the church as

a slave or servant to himself, though He had every right to do so. And ultimately He gave up His life to save the church. This is the example husbands are commanded to follow.

Husbands, keep the first love alive in your marriage. Your wife lives by and for your complements and approval. Tell her often, how pretty she looks with the new dress, shoes, purse or whatever she is wearing to get you to notice her. Tell her how pretty the new hairdo looks on her.

Tell her often, how much you love her, need her and would not know what to do without her. Always respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of each other.

When you walk together, hold her hand. Most ladies like for you to show your love for her. Keep the marriage alive and exciting. Surprise her with a gift. When she fixes a special meal for you, tell her how much you appreciate it and how good her cooking is.

When she is working in the kitchen, washing the dishes or something, walk up behind her, put your arms around her and ask her if you can help. Let her know that you notice all of the things she does. Hold her and a kiss on the neck or ear would be in order. A kiss on the mouth would also be in order. Keep the love and romance alive in your marriage.

Never, never, never, put her down or embarrass her in front of someone. Treat her as a Queen and she will respond as such.

Husband and wife must be on the same page! Children will attempt divide and conquer or control. If a child comes to you and ask you, "can I do this or that."

Ask them, "have you talked to your mom or dad, (whichever is the case), about this?" "Uh, um, well, aaah, mmmm, yes."

"Well what did she say?" "well, uh, um aaah, well, well, aaah, she said no."

"Then you have your answer, right?" Smile when you say this. You are training up your child, do it with love and a smile.

That will not happen but a few times, before the children get the message, that if mom said no, it was no. Never overrule your spouse. If you feel there was a wrong decision, let it stand, but, talk to them in private, and give your opinion, but, not in judgmental manner. Do so to get your opinion out in the open, then, let your spouse give their opinion of why the decision was made the way it was made. Then let it alone, let the decision stand. Never, override your spouse's decision, unless it is a matter of breaking the rules that the two of you have already set for your home.

I was blessed to have a perfect helpmate Genesis 2 woman as my wife. We were married for 51 wonderful years. Each day I saw more and more of her Genesis 2 qualities as the perfect helpmate for me.

I prayed to meet her to begin with, there were a number of strange circumstances that brought us together. As I look back upon it, I clearly see that I didn't choose her, rather God chose her for me and who was I to argue with Him. He always does things right.

After battling cancer for 12 years, God took Jo home, on July 28, 2010. There were 5 miracles documented at the UAMS in Little Rock, Arkansas, during her treatment, including 7 rounds of Chemo and 3 bone marrow transplants. I fully expected God to heal her completely; however, He chose not to heal her here on earth. I believe she is running circles and dancing on streets of gold with our daughter, who died in 1967 at the age of 5. Angela had a birth defect and was paralyzed from her waist down; however, she lived up to her name, Angela Jo, (means angel of Joy). She was certainly that and so were her mother, brother and sister. Time just flies too fast, so enjoy them while you can.