

Marriages that Work

The Plan for Marriage
Sunday, May 23, 2010
Pastor Warner Smith

Message Truth:

As Christians, we need to follow God's design for our marriages. God is sovereign over all of the universe. He should be sovereign, therefore, in our homes, also. Do you and your spouse live and relate to one another in ways that would please God? Do you understand God's role for you in your family? Our hearts and homes should reflect His will. Marriages which operate according to God's purposes will bring joy, fulfillment, peace and contentment to you. Children raised in genuine Christian homes will increasingly experience an advantage in society and in their personal relationships over their counterparts who are reared in dysfunctional families, which according to the census are on the increase. Today we will explore the biblical plan for marriage.

The answer for those in troubled marriages is not running.

The answer is **learning** to express love to our spouses.

Keep their **Love Tank** full. "I'm thinking of someone else."

Remember, the **easiest** time to handle the flutters is the first time. "I've already messed up."

There is only one **wise** thing to do with an affair.

Break it off!

Anything without a h_____ is d_____.
Anything with two h_____ is a f_____.

The Plan of Marriage

²¹ **Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**
²² *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:21-33*

Setting the Stage

²¹ **Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**
Ephesians 5:21

God gives two commands to couples concerning their marriage roles, one to the husband and one to the wife.

① A S _____ Word to Wives

²² *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.* Ephesians 5:22-24

Submission is a military word that means “to line up under the authority of,” the sense of voluntary yielding in love.

● S _____ as an o _____

Submission in marriage is an act of reverence to Jesus Christ — not an issue of rights or privileges or “top dog” status.

¹ *Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,*
² *when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.*

I Peter 3:1-2

● S _____ as an o _____

³ *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.* I Peter 3:3-4

● S _____ as an o _____

② A S _____ Word to Husbands

Husbands, God called you to be her lover and leader, NOT for you to love her and leave her.

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* Ephesians 5:25

● A love that s _____

²⁶ *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* Ephesians 5:26-27

● A love that s _____

²⁸ *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

²⁹ *After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—*

Ephesians 5:28-29

● A love that s _____

⁷ *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.* I Peter 3:7

● A love that s _____

⁷ *and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.*

I Peter 3:7b (NASB)

● A love that s _____ h _____