

Reading: Ephesians 4:32 (Eph 4:32) And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

INTRODUCTION: Marriage is the very _____ institution that God established upon the earth for the blessings and benefit of both _____ and _____.

I. ATTRACTIONS:

A. Physical:

1. The most common way that a relationship begins between a guy and a girl is the avenue of _____ attraction.

(Gen 29:16) And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder *was* Leah, and the name of the younger *was* Rachel.

(Gen 29:17) Leah *was* tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

(Gen 29:18) And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

2. This _____ attraction aspect is often more on the side of the _____ that on the part of the woman, as the _____ is attracted more by sight than by feelings or emotions.

B. Personality:

1. The _____ is often attracted to the _____ by the personality and character of the individual more than just by physical appearance.

2. The _____ often looks for qualities of strength in the character rather than in the _____ of the _____ as she is searching for someone who can provide assurance and security.

(Gen 39:7) And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

(Gen 39:10) And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her.

3. This lady had a strong physical husband who was the _____ of Pharaoh's personal bodyguard team but she was attracted to Joseph because of his uprightness in _____ and personality.

C. Position:

1. Some people become attracted to another person because of the position in _____ that they have whether it be in education, in entertainment, in business or even in _____.

2. This can happen to either _____ or _____ and if the relationship develops into a serious one and it leads to marriage, it is often an unstable foundation upon which to build.

3. Sadly, many marriages that are built on the foundation of _____ end up in separation and divorce, with bitter disputing over compensation, _____ support and division of property.

II. THE REALITIES OF MARRIAGE:

A. The Romantic Stage:

1. When a _____ and a _____ meet and fall in love, the relationship is in a very romantic stage during the courtship period with only seeing each other through "rose colored _____."
2. There are only mostly minor disagreements that are quickly _____ during this romantic stage of courtship, and this carries _____ into the beginning of the marriage which is known as the honeymoon period.

B. The Reality Stage:

1. When the honeymoon period comes to an end and the reality of _____ begins to set in for the two people, some _____ will begin to occur, and it is normal.

(1Co 7:28) But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

2. The daily necessities and _____ of life have to be faced – bills to be paid, washing dishes, cleaning the _____, doing laundry, taking care of the _____, etc.

(1Co 7:33) But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife.

(1Co 7:34) There is difference *also* between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please *her* husband.

3. This passage of Scripture describes the realities of _____ – it is not describing something that is wrong in marriage, but something that is _____ and to be expected.
4. The Word of God reveals here the design of God in a marriage – each of them – the _____ and the _____ are seeking to please one another.

C. Scriptural Solutions:

1. No matter how difficult life may become, a true _____ between the husband and wife will bring them through with their relationship stronger, not _____ and confident in the Lord.
2. The number one factor in keeping a strong marriage is to _____ the relationship upon Scriptural guidelines:
 - Be Christ-like - (Eph 4:32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
 - Use wise answers - (Pro 15:1) A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
 - Be patient with each other - (1Co 13:4) Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
 - Serve God together - (1Pe 3:7) Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
 - Simply continue to love each other - (Joh 15:12) **This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.**

CONCLUSION: Remember that love is more than just a _____, it is action and it is a commandment given by the Lord Jesus that is possible to fulfill through His power and _____ in our hearts.