



Lesson Thirteen

“Holy Matrimony”

Objective: To train and equip students to perform weddings

I. Holy Matrimony (Christian marriage)

1. Marriage is _____ by God between one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:18 NKJV *And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”*

AMP *Now the Lord God said, It is not good (sufficient, satisfactory) that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper (suitable, adapted, complementary) for him.*

Genesis 2:21-24 NKJV *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He ^[a]made (built) into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³ And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called ^[b]Woman, Because she was taken out of ^[c]Man.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be^[d] joined (cling) to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

2. God’s intention for marriage is a co-equal _____ for life.

1 Peter 3:7 NKJV *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being **heirs together of the grace of life**, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Genesis 5:1-2 KJV *In the day that God created man, **in the likeness of God made he him;** ² **Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam,** in the day when they were created.*

3. God defines our _____ in marriage.

In Christian marriage, it is God Who matters most of all. He is at the center of the lives of each believer and

The roles of the partnership of marriage are clearly laid out in Scripture. If we want to be successful in marriage and in joining others in Holy marriage, we must get an understanding of God's plan for our roles in the partnership. To the degree that we adapt to these roles, we will be successful because when we become doers of the word, we will find good success!

Joshua 1:8 NKJV *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you^[a] (you shall be constantly in) shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Eph. 5:22-33 NKJV ***Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** ²³ **For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.** ²⁴ **Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.** ²⁵ **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,** ²⁶ **that He might \square sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,** ²⁷ **that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.** ²⁸ **So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.** ²⁹ **For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.** ³⁰ **For we are members of His body, \square of His flesh and of His bones.** ³¹ **“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”** ³² **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** ³³ **Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.***

When we do things God's way, we win!

4. The role of wives is to _____ and _____.

Submit: yield; defer to

Subject: submissive; submitted

Respects: to revere; to be in awe of

Revere: deep respect and admiration

1 Peter 3:1-2 AMPC *In like manner, you married women, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them], so that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives, ² When they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your \square reverence [for your husband; you are to feel for him all that reverence includes: to respect, defer to, revere him—to honor, esteem, appreciate, prize, and, in the human*

sense, to adore him, that is, to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love, and enjoy your husband].

5. The role of husbands is to _____ protect, nourish, provide for, cherish, sacrifice, present to himself a glorious bride! (Eph. 5 – above)

Proverbs 18:22 NKJV *He who **finds** a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.*

The purpose of our lives is to reflect the glory of God and please Him with our lives. This is even more so true of marriage. Marriage is a “unit” and the unit must win! When we fulfill our roles in submission to God, we win!

These are truths that should be discussed with people before marriage along with other topics, such as finances, sex, children, religious beliefs and practices of the household, etc.

Amos 3:3 KJV *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

II. Preparing the Wedding

A wedding requires tremendous planning, cakes, dresses, tuxedos, venues, music, DJ’s, food, beverages, ice sculptures, photography and video, bridesmaids and groomsmen.... And the list goes on and on. The most important part of the day is the work you will do at the altar where a miracle takes place and there are no longer two people, but one marriage.

You will want to talk with the couple to see what their desires are for the nuptials but there are a few things that are customary and mandatory and the wedding can be planned around these things.

1. The prayer – Invite God to be glorified in this most holy event.

2. The vows – The vows are the most important part! They are making a covenant vow before God and the witnesses there that is for the rest of their lives.

Sometimes people like to make their own vows to read or recite but in most cases they will repeat after you, vows that are already prepared by you, the minister.

3. The rings – The exchanging of rings is an outward symbol of the covenant, worn to honor their husband/wife.

4. The pronouncement – I now pronounce you husband and wife.

5. The kiss – You may now kiss/salute your bride!

6. The announcement – It is my honor to present to you Mr. and Mrs. _____.

Of course the couple may want to change things around some, which is ok as long as these main things are accomplished. Remember this is Christian marriage and you are God's representative to join the two in holy matrimony, so there are some guidelines that must be followed.

III. Marriage Sermon Sample

Opening Prayer

We are gathered here in the presence of God, family, and friends to unite _____ and _____ in holy matrimony. Marriage is an honorable estate, and is therefore not to be entered into lightly, but reverently, advisedly, soberly, and with God's blessing. Today, they will receive God's greatest gift; another person to share with, grow with, change with, be joyful with, and to stand with as one when trials and tribulations enter their lives. It is fitting, therefore, that we should on this occasion begin by asking for God's blessing on this marriage. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we gather to celebrate your gift of love, and its presence among us. We rejoice that these two people have chosen to commit themselves to a life of loving faithfulness to one another. We praise you, Lord, for the ways you have touched our lives with loving relationships such as _____ and _____'s, and we give thanks for the special love and friendship you have put in their hearts. Renew within us an affectionate and loving spirit.

Enrich our lives with the gracious gift of your love so that we may embrace others with that same love. May our participation in this celebration of love and commitment, give to us a new joy and responsiveness to the relationships that we cherish. In your loving arms, we pray, Amen.

You may all be seated.

Definition Of Commitment

#2

Marriage is a joyous occasion. It is connected in our thoughts with the charm of love, the warmth of home, and with all that is pleasant, as being one of the most important events of our lives. Its sacredness and unity is the most significant and binding covenant known in human relations.

_____ and _____, let me charge you both to remember that your future happiness is to be in mutual consideration, patience, kindness, confidence, and affection. It is the duty of each of you to find your greatest joy in the company of the other; to remember that your love pledged today must remain undivided for a lifetime.

It is your duty, _____, to be to _____, a considerate, tender, faithful, and loving husband: to support, guide and cherish her in prosperity and trouble; to thoughtfully and carefully enlarge the place she holds in your life; to constantly show to her the tokens of your affection, to shelter her from danger, and to love her with an unchangeable love.

It is your duty, _____, to be to _____, a considerate, tender, faithful, and loving wife; to comfort, guide and cherish him in prosperity and trouble; to give to him the unfailing pieces of evidence of your affection; and to continue making the place he holds in your heart, broader and deeper; to support him, value him and work with him to make your marriage the very best that it can be.

I call your attention to the seriousness of the decision which you have made and the covenant you are about to declare before God. The vows you are about to take care not to be taken without careful thought, for in them you are committing yourselves exclusively to one another for as long as you both shall live.

Wedding Vows

#3

If you are ready to assume the obligations and duties before God, as I have defined them, you will unite your hands and pledge your love and your lives to each other.

Groom, repeat after me.

I _____, take you, _____, to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, for as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

Now Bride, please repeat after me.

I _____, take you, _____, to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, for as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

Exchange Of Rings

You will now exchange rings as a symbol of the lifelong commitment and abiding love which you as husband and wife have promised to each other.

Groom, please place the ring on _____'s finger, and repeat after me.

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

And Bride, please place the ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me.

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

(Great Place for a Reading - 1 Cor. 13)

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, help _____ and _____ to fulfill the promises they have made here today and to reflect your steadfast love in their commitment to each other. Give them kindness and patience, affection and understanding, happiness, and contentment. May their family and friends continue to support them in difficult days, so that their love for each other may continue to grow as long as they both shall live.

Let us all pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On Earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us,

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever and ever.

Amen.

Declaration Of Marriage

_____ and _____, having witnessed your vows for marriage before God and all who are assembled here, by the authority invested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride!

It is my pleasure to introduce you to you for the first time...

IV. Practical Wedding Instruction

1. Be _____.

Weddings happen in various places, outdoors can be windy, hot, cold, or turn rainy. You may want to use a smaller book to hold the sermon notes that is easier to maneuver in the wind. Just try to predict any situation you may encounter and be ready. Also be sure to speak loudly enough.

2. Dress _____.

For outdoor weddings pants or a suit with pants is better than dresses or skirts for female ministers. For men jackets should be worn unless the wedding party has suggested casual or tuxedo. For men, traditional white shirt with tie and suit jacket and pants is most appropriate, rather than colored dress shirts.

3. Have _____ available.

I usually have tissue in my notebook or in my pocket to quickly give to the bride or groom if needed.

4. Be _____.

Most always, weddings do not start on time. I usually let the bride and groom know that we will need to start on time because of my schedule, but usually people run late. I waited for over an hour outdoors at a park in 100 degree temperatures for a wedding to begin. It happens. We have to show the love of God and patience in times like this unless there is an extreme situation and you cannot wait.

5. Behave _____.

Receptions can be fun but keep it holy and let your conduct glorify God.

6. Sign the _____.

When you have completed Ministry Development, you will be ordained and licensed in the State of Texas to perform weddings and sign the documents. Don't forget to sign the document before you leave.

7. Take a _____.

Most times the bride and groom will want to take a picture with you after the ceremony is over at the altar. Be sure to be available.