A GODLY MARRIAGE

I. TRUTHS ABOUT MARRIAGE

A. Marriage is to be a mini-picture of Christ and the church.
B. The similar roles of Christ and the husband, and the church and the wife
C. Marriage is one of the most important societal units.
D. Strong, godly marriages are essential for strong, godly churches.
E. Strong, godly marriages are necessary to raise strong, godly children.
F. For there to be a truly successful marriage, there must be mutual submission.

II. VITAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MARRIAGE – Ephesians 4:1 - 5:18

A. Having godly character – humility, patience, gentleness, tolerance, etc.
B. Believing foundational truths about God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, salvation, etc.
C. Both the husband and wife need to be using their spiritual gifts.
D. Speaking the truth in love and having good communication is essential.
E. Living a holy life by saying no to sin, and yes to God and godliness
F. Not being affected by false teachers and false teaching
G. Not letting the devil get a foothold in your life or in your marriage
H. Working through differences and conflicts, and quickly dealing with anger
I. Being sexually pure and holy
J. Having good fellowship, as a married couple, with other Christians
K. Knowing and fulfilling God's will for your marriage
L. Being filled, controlled, and led by the Holy Spirit

III. THE ROLE OF THE WIFE – Ephesians 5:22, 24

A. The wife is to be subject to her husband, meaning that she is to submit to her husband, her God-given authority.

B. The wife is to submit to her husband as to the Lord. A wife shows her submission to God by submitting to her husband.

C. The wife is to submit to her husband in everything, but not if it is wrong or sinful. The wife has the right to appeal to her husband, and a good and loving husband will talk things out with his wife.

D. The wife needs to see that submission is first and foremost what God wants. Submission takes faith - it means trusting God, and believing He will bless her and her marriage if she submits. She will be an example to others. Sarah

IV. THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND - LEADING HIS WIFE – Ephesians 5:23

A. The husband is to be the head, and therefore is to lead out in the marriage, to give direction to his wife and the marriage. Problems usually occur when, for whatever reason, the husband does not lead out.

B. The husband, as he submits to God, and looks to Him, will be a good leader. This is all a process, for it takes time for husbands and wives to be a good team.

C. The husband needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit to be a good leader.

V. THE ROLE OF THE HUSBAND – LOVING HIS WIFE – Ephesians 5:25-29

A. Jesus Christ is to be an example to the husband. Jesus sacrificed His life, gave 100%.

B. This love is a godly, spiritual and supernatural love. It's not being selfish, angry or unbecoming. It's being patient, kind, gentle, compassionate, forgiving and forbearing.

C. The husband is to love his wife by washing her with the word, helping her to spiritually grow, to be holy. He is the one who is primarily responsible for this.

D. The husband is to nourish and cherish his wife, to give special care to her.

E. The husband is to see his wife as a member of the church, and see that it is his duty to build up his wife.

VI. THE HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE TO BE JOINED TOGETHER – Ephesians 5:31-32

A. The principle of separation from the parents

B. The principle of oneness, of unity, of being united together for God.

C. Most of all, the marriage is to be a picture of Christ and the church.

VII. THE CONCLUSION: THE HUSBAND IS TO LOVE HIS WIFE, AND THE WIFE IS TO RESPECT HER HUSBAND – Ephesians 5:33

AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN OF GOD, HOLY AND BELOVED, PUT ON A HEART OF COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS AND PATIENCE, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND FORGIVING EACH OTHER. Colossians 3:12-13