

# *More Than Best Friends*

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*God's Design for Your Marriage*

*Preparing for Marriage*

*Errol and Frances Hale*



**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH**  
OF MOORPARK

## *More Than Best Friends*

*Errol and Frances Hale have taught this series numerous times at marriage enrichment seminars. This recorded series is a pared-down version of those seminars. This recorded series also includes a bonus session especially designed for couples who are using the series as a part of their pre-marriage counseling.*

*The way to get the most out of this series is to set time aside to watch the DVDs together. Take notes. Then after watching each segment, go over your notes together. By doing this you will grow together in your understanding of what God's Word says about the various topics, and find practical ways that you can implement God's design for marriage in your unique relationship.*

*May God richly bless you and your marriage. May you grow together and become even more than Best Friends!*

# Being Best Friends

“Marriage: *Accomplishing the Impossible*”  
Ephesians 5:18-33

A survey was conducted on the subject of marriage relationships. A statement was made and the responses were recorded. The statement:

*“God calls men to initiate, to lead and to love. He calls women to respond, to follow, and to submit. This calling is contrary to human nature in both men and women. In the home, men generally do not initiate or lead, nor are they very loving. Women generally do not wait for the husband to initiate so they can follow. They are not naturally very submissive.”*

**POINT #1:** God calls husbands and wives to \_\_\_\_\_ love and submission.

**POINT #2** God’s call to mutual love and submission is \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

**POINT #3** God’s calling to mutual love and submission is \_\_\_\_\_.

**POINT #4** Good News! God has \_\_\_\_\_ for the impossible.

## Salvation

## Marriage

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. <i>Before you were saved, you had to realize your need.</i>   | 1. |
| 2. <i>To be saved, you had to believe that Jesus Christ was the only remedy for your terminal sin.</i> | 2. |
| 3. <i>To be saved each must personally receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.</i>                    | 3. |

We must do three things

1.

2.

3.

*Conclusions...*

# **Being Best Friends**

“God’s Answer to Creation’s Only Flaw”

**Matthew 19:1-6 Genesis 1-2**

**In the beginning God created...**

**God’s provision for man. (Genesis 2)**

**Not everything was good! (v.18)**

**The miracle of two becoming one. (v.19-22)**

**Adam’s Reaction. (v.23)**

**Principles of Marriage. (v.24-25)**

A. Leave

B. Cleave

C. Be one flesh

D. Naked and unashamed

***What about Love?***

A. Stergo

B. Philia

C. Eros

D. Agape

**We each have some decisions to make...**

# Being Best Friends

“Following The Leader”

Matthew 20:20-28

Greatness: *The World's Way vs. God's Way*

Responsibility Structure 1 Corinthians 11:1-3; Ephesians 6:4

**God the Father**

**Jesus the Son**

**Husband**

**Wife**

**Children**

**Note three things:**

1.

2.

3.

**Two Aspects of Headship**

1. Not dictators but \_\_\_\_\_ (six characteristics)

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

2. Not dictators but \_\_\_\_\_

## **Eight Responsibilities of the Husband. Ephesians 5:23-31**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 23

2. \_\_\_\_\_wife as Christ loves v. 25

3. \_\_\_\_\_leader of the home v. 26

4. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 27

5. Love wife \_\_\_\_\_ v. 28-29

6. \_\_\_\_\_ her v. 29

7. \_\_\_\_\_ her v. 29

8. Leave, cleave, and \_\_\_\_\_ v. 31

### **Conclusions:**



# Being Best Friends

“What’s My Line?”

Ephesians 5:22-33

## Four Responsibilities of the Wife

1. \_\_\_\_\_ as unto the Lord v. 22

2. \_\_\_\_\_ husband as the head v. 23

3. \_\_\_\_\_ in everything v. 24

4. \_\_\_\_\_ your husband v. 33

***But I can't!***

**Conclusions:**

# Being Best Friends

“Effective Communication?”

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Communication:

A. \_\_\_\_\_ of communication:

1.

2.

3.

4.

B. Why?

1.

2.

3.

2. Before you can communicate correctly, you must \_\_\_\_\_ correctly.

A. Romans 12:2

B. Romans 12:3

C. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

D. Philippians 4:8

### 3. Dialogue v. Monologue

A. Step One: \_\_\_\_\_

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

B. Step Two: \_\_\_\_\_

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

### 4. Tear down \_\_\_\_\_ to communication

A.

B.

C.

D.

**5. General \_\_\_\_\_**

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

**6. \_\_\_\_\_ together**

A.

B.

C.

**7. Stay current with \_\_\_\_\_**

A.

B.

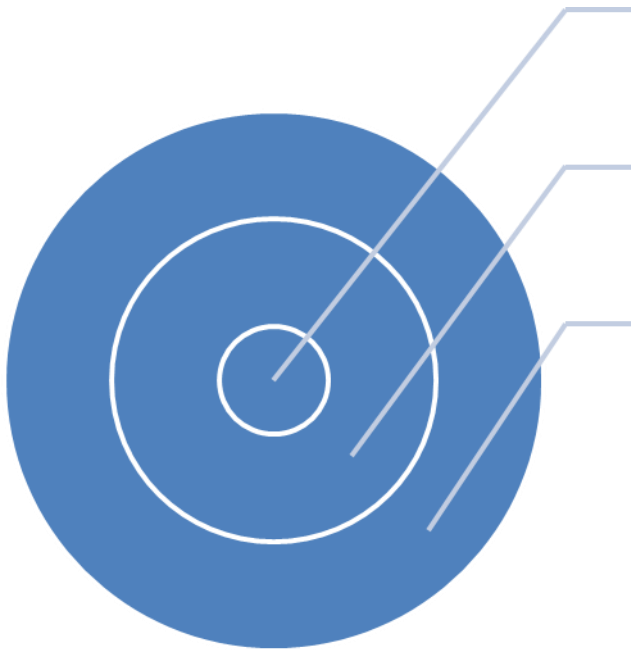
**Now what about Money, Sex, and In-laws?**

Money:

Sex:

In-laws:

**Effective Communication, *continued***



**Conclusion:**

Money, sex, and in-laws are not going to \_\_\_\_\_ your marriage.  
\_\_\_\_\_ about these things (and others) can keep you  
from experiencing God's \_\_\_\_\_.

# Being Best Friends

“Marriage v. Money: *Your Marriage Can Win!*”

## Introduction:

Be \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 13:18** “Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards reproof will be honored.”

**GOD IS THE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 4:19** “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”

**God’s Plan:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Work?

- a) **1 Timothy 5:8** “If anyone does not provide for his own, especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
  
- b) **Ephesians 4:28** “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give to him who is in need.”
  
- c) **2 Thessalonians 3:10** “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” If you don’t work, you don’t eat!

## ELEVEN STEPS TOWARD BETTER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. \_\_\_\_\_

- a) **Proverbs 3:9-10** “Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of all your increase, and so will your barns be filled with plenty and your vats overflow with new wine.”
  
- b) **Proverbs 11:24-25** “There is one who scatters, yet increases more, And there is one who withhold more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.”
  
- c) **Malachi 3:8-12** “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the LORD of hosts; “And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.”

For more get the booklet “*What God Has To Say About Your Money*”

## 2. BE WILLING TO \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 20:4** “The sluggard will not plow because of winter, Therefore he will beg during the harvest and have nothing.”

## 3. DON'T BE \_\_\_\_\_

- a) **1 Timothy 6:9-10** “Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
  
- b) **Proverbs.15:27** “He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house.”
  
- c) **Ecclesiastes 5:10-11** “He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver, nor he who loves abundance with increase. This is also vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, so what profit have the owners except to see them with their own eyes?”

## 4. BEWARE OF \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 28:20, 22** “A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished... A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.”

## 5. \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_

- a) **Proverbs 22:7** “The rich rules over the poor and the borrower is a servant to the lender.”
- b) **Romans 13:8** “Owe no man anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law”
- c) **Proverbs 6:1-5** “My son, if you become surety for your friend, if you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, you are snared by the words of your own mouth; you are taken by the words of your mouth. So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; for you have come into the hand of your friend: go and humble yourself; plead with your friend. Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids. Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, and like a bird from the hand of the fowler.”

## 6. PAY \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_

- a) **Matthew. 22:15-21** “Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? “Show Me the tax money.” So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”



- b) **Romans 13:6-7** “Because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due; taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”

**7. BE \_\_\_\_\_ . DON’T \_\_\_\_\_ YOURSELF WITH OTHERS**

- a) **Phil.4:11-12** “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content; I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”
- b) **Hebrews 13:5** “Let your conduct be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have. For He himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
- c) **Matthew 6:24-34** “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. “Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

**8. \_\_\_\_\_ OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU**

- a) **1 Corinthians 4:2** “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”
- b) **Proverbs 12:10** “A righteous man regards the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”
- c) **Proverbs 24:30-34** “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so your poverty will come like a prowler, and your want like an armed man.”

**9. ASK FOR \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_**

**James 1:5** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

**10. \_\_\_\_\_ WISELY**

**11. KEEP \_\_\_\_\_ OUT OF MONEY: LEAVE AND CLEAVE!**

## TO THOSE WHO \_\_\_\_\_

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE IT CAME FROM!

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18** "...then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is HE who gives you power to get wealth."

### B. DO NOT BE HIGH MINDED—\_\_\_\_\_

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** "Command those who are rich in this age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the Living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life."

### C. DO NOT TRUST IN \_\_\_\_\_, RATHER TRUST IN \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 11:28** "He who trusts in riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish."

### D. DO NOT OVERWORK TO BE \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 23:4-5** "Do not overwork to be rich. Because of your own understanding, cease. Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven."

## TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE

**Hebrews 13:5** "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

*God will not forsake you, so be faithful to Him!*

# Being Best Friends

“Naked and Unashamed: *A Primer on Intimacy*”

Genesis 2:25

## EVER WONDER WHY WE WERE CREATED \_\_\_\_\_?

- A. Nakedness in the \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 2:23-25
- B. Nakedness in the \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 3:6-7
- C. Nakedness elsewhere in the \_\_\_\_\_:
- D. Nakedness in our \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ man’s nakedness Genesis 3:21

## TWO PLACES WE CAN BE NAKED AND \_\_\_\_\_

- A. In \_\_\_\_\_ presence
- B. In the holy bond of \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 2:25

## THREE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR INTIMACY

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 1:28
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ have children?
  - 2. Bad reasons \_\_\_\_\_ to have children
    - a) \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_ *It's OK to enjoy!* Proverbs 5:18-19

1. If it is not \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 14:14

2. If it is \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 13:4

3. Responsibility to \_\_\_\_\_ mate 1 Peter 3:7

4. Understand \_\_\_\_\_ between men and women

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

a) \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.

b) \_\_\_\_\_ for intimacy.

c) Avoid \_\_\_\_\_.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 2:24-25

Three things:

1. Moods

2. Talk

3. Love

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASONS FOR AN** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX LIFE** 1 Corinthians 7:1-5

\_\_\_\_\_ **REASONS FOR AN** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX LIFE**

**DEALING WITH THE** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (*With God*)
  
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (*With each other*)

**CONCLUSION**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ each other -- *talk -- study in order to give*
  
- B. Explore \_\_\_\_\_ -- *Don't be embarrassed and don't judge your mate's honesty*
  
- C. Seek to \_\_\_\_\_ not only to \_\_\_\_\_ -- *The greatest fulfillment is found in giving pleasure to your mate.*
  
- D. \_\_\_\_\_!

**PRAY...**

# Being Best Friends

“Living Happily Ever After”

Genesis 3 & Ecclesiastes 4

*Ever heard of Murphy’s Law?*

**WHEN THINGS GO \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 3**

The \_\_\_\_\_ comes.

Eve’s \_\_\_\_\_.

Adam and Eve \_\_\_\_\_. *Why?*

They try to \_\_\_\_\_ their sin—*it doesn’t work!*

*“He who covers his sins will not prosper but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13*

God offers opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_.

The Result: Relationship with God was profoundly \_\_\_\_\_.

**WHEN THINGS GO \_\_\_\_\_ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

v. 9 \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 10 When one \_\_\_\_\_, the other \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 11 Keep \_\_\_\_\_ together.

v. 12 *Together* we can prevail over \_\_\_\_\_ attacks.

v. 12 The key is the \_\_\_\_\_ cord!

## **WHY MARRIAGE?**

## **WHY CEREMONY AND VOWS?**

# Being Best Friends

“What I Wish I’d Known”

*Last Minute Tips As the Wedding Day Approaches  
And Tips for the Adjustment Year*

## ▪ **The Importance of the First Year**

*Deuteronomy 24:5* “When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.”

1. This is the year that patterns are set in “wet cement.” (Be careful what you set... It may take a jackhammer to change them later in life.)
2. Deuteronomy 24:5; it takes a good year to learn how to bring each other happiness. Don’t expect it overnight.

## ▪ **Spiritual Vitality** (*It all stands or falls here, folks!*)

*Psalms 127:1* “Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.”

1. Set the spiritual tone in your marriage from the very start.
2. Pray *for* each other and *with* each other.
3. Importance of devotional life—time in the word and in prayer.
4. Importance of church life—do not drift out of fellowship because you are married!
5. What if one is stronger than the other?
  - a) Do not judge if your mate is either more or less talkative, demonstrative in worship, prays out loud differently, or has a different kind of devotional life.
  - b) Pray.
  - c) Be an example.
6. Men, be spiritual leaders. Ladies, follow His lead unless he is forbidding you to do what God commands or commanding you to do what God forbids.
  - a) If he won’t lead, or she won’t follow
  - b) Examine your heart. We see our sins in others.
  - c) Pray for your mate.
  - d) Accept that this is God’s way of teaching you!

## ▪ **Understand and Respect Different “Normals”**

*Amos 3:3* “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”

1. Understand that you grew up in different families and have different ideas about what is “normal.” Don’t be surprised at anything! (Everything from cooking to raising children.)



2. Study to learn what was “normal” for your mate in his or her growing up years. (What was “normal” for you in your growing up years may not be what was “normal” for your spouse.)
  - a) Take the time to get to know each other’s parents, (even apart from your fiancé at times), *before* the wedding. Observe and get to know the in-laws. Ask questions about your fiancé’s upbringing and observe how the family interacts. The family will give you clues as to how and why your fiancé thinks and acts the way he or she does. It might save you some shock and surprise later.
  - b) Be educated about how your spouse was raised to think and act in everything from communication, to how conflict was handled, to cooking/laundry/cleaning, and general organization. It will save you many arguments.
3. Do not expect your mate to conform to your “normals” in everything—especially in areas that do not matter (how to wash dishes), and in areas that are the other person’s responsibility (if it is her job to do laundry—let her do it her way!)

- **Knowing, Communicating, and Understanding Needs**

*Proverbs 24:3 “By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established.”*

2. Know your needs. Distinguish needs from selfish desires! (Ignoring your needs will lead you to be frustrated with your spouse when he or she does not know what they are, or how to fulfill them.)
3. Express your needs to your spouse clearly, specifically, non-critically, and attractively. (Do not expect your spouse to just *know* what your needs are.)
4. Notice and say “Thanks” when your mate is meeting your needs. Follow the “Golden Rule” – Appreciate and cherish your spouse as much you would want to be appreciated and cherished.
5. Calendar together at least monthly so you are not conflicting.

- **Conflict – It *Will* Happen**

*Proverbs 15:1 “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”*

1. Don’t be surprised if some of the little annoyances that you brushed away at first really begin to grate on your nerves after a while.
2. Be prepared to forgive. Your forgiveness can counteract the negative affects of your spouse’s mistakes.
3. There is a difference between raising a concern with a specific request for change, and simply criticizing. (Begin this kind of discussion with thoughtful words and a pleasant face.)
4. Try to see each other’s point of view.
5. When not to argue: ♦ When you are about to go out. ♦ When you are in the presence of others. ♦ On the way to church.
6. Take a break. Don’t continue complaining when you can see that your spouse is already overwhelmed. He or she may need time to digest and give an appropriate response. You may need a break before becoming too irate and irrational. You don’t have to settle every disagreement on the spot.
7. Don’t expect to resolve every single conflict. Personality tendencies and quirky habits aren’t marriage-threatening. Learn to “dance” around them instead of trying to “stomp” them out. Learn to let go... “Like water off a duck’s back...”
8. Thirty years has taught us to love each other even for the things that used to bug us. Learn to laugh because you are not going to change your mate anyway!

▪ **Guard Your Relationship From Outside Intrusions**

*Ecclesiastes 4:12* “*Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.*”

1. Do not let in-laws “buy you”
2. Do not let in-laws pressure you.
3. In-Laws: When with *hers*, *she* says when it is time to leave. When with *his*, *he* says when it is time to leave. But be sensitive to your mate’s feelings.
4. Do not complain about in-laws, and don’t agree too loudly when your mate complains about his/her family.
5. Decide now about family holidays.
6. Do not neglect outside friendships, but do not let them get in the way of your marriage either. Remember, leave and cleave!
7. See that jobs do not harm marriage—either with time or stress.

▪ **Be Best Friends, Not Adversaries**

*Song of Solomon 5:16* “*...This is my beloved, this is my friend...*”

1. In times of conflict, remember that your spouse is your friend...so speak respectfully and kindly. It’s so easy to slip into the pattern of disrespect and rudeness that comes with the familiarity of marriage. (Would I speak to my friend the same way I speak to my spouse?)
2. Never take sides against your mate—ever! If he or she is wrong, deal with it privately.
3. Care for each other. Sacrifice some of your wants and time to be with your spouse. Sit on the couch, give a massage, get medicine for your sick spouse in the middle of the night, etc.
4. Play together! Spend time together. Take time to talk—and *listen*. Take time to relax. Go on dates—even cheapy things! Go on vacations—even cheapy ones! Turn off the TV and talk or play a game or go for a walk.

▪ **Be Lovers, Not Roommates**

*Proverbs 5:19* “*...And always be enraptured with her love.*”

1. Stay pure until you are married. Do not open your presents before Christmas!
2. Respect each other—just because you are married is no reason to stop acting like a gentleman or a lady.
3. Once you are married, keep your intimate relationship alive and fun, but not sinful.
4. Gals: Be the “moral conscience” of your marriage. Men need this more than some will admit.
5. Gals: understand men. Do not judge him for his weakness—pray for him and help him.
6. Guys: you will never understand women.

▪ **Take Care of Yourselves Physically.**

*1 Corinthians 6:20* “*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*”

1. Just because you are married, that is no excuse to let yourself go!

2. Help and encourage each other, but don't nag.
3. Guys understand that she can't eat as much as you, so don't expect her to.

▪ **Making A Home.**

*Titus 2:4-5 "...admonish the young women...to be discreet, chaste, homemakers."*

1. Guys: Expect, allow, and encourage her to "foof" the home. It is natural.
2. Gals: do not over "foof" your house. Remember a man lives there too!

▪ **Finances.**

*1 Timothy 6:6-8 "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."*

1. If at all possible, live on one income—preferably his so you will not set yourself up to not be able to afford children!
2. What to do with "extra money?" Bank it. Invest it. Use it for special things.

▪ **As the Wedding Day Approaches.**

*Proverbs 19:21 "There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel; that will stand."*

1. Prepare for *marriage* not just the *wedding*. One lasts a day, the other a lifetime.
2. Do not spend too much time alone. Ladies, do not lead him on. It doesn't take much for men! He will probably take everything you give him.
3. Do not spend what you cannot afford. You do not need to impress anyone.
4. Do not place demands on those in your wedding party. They have lives and your wedding is not the center of their lives.
5. Brides: cover up! And see that your bridesmaids are covered up.
6. There is plenty of time for fun at the reception—make the focus of the ceremony holy.
7. Honeymoon—not more than you can afford. The point is time alone together. Not fancy or with other people.