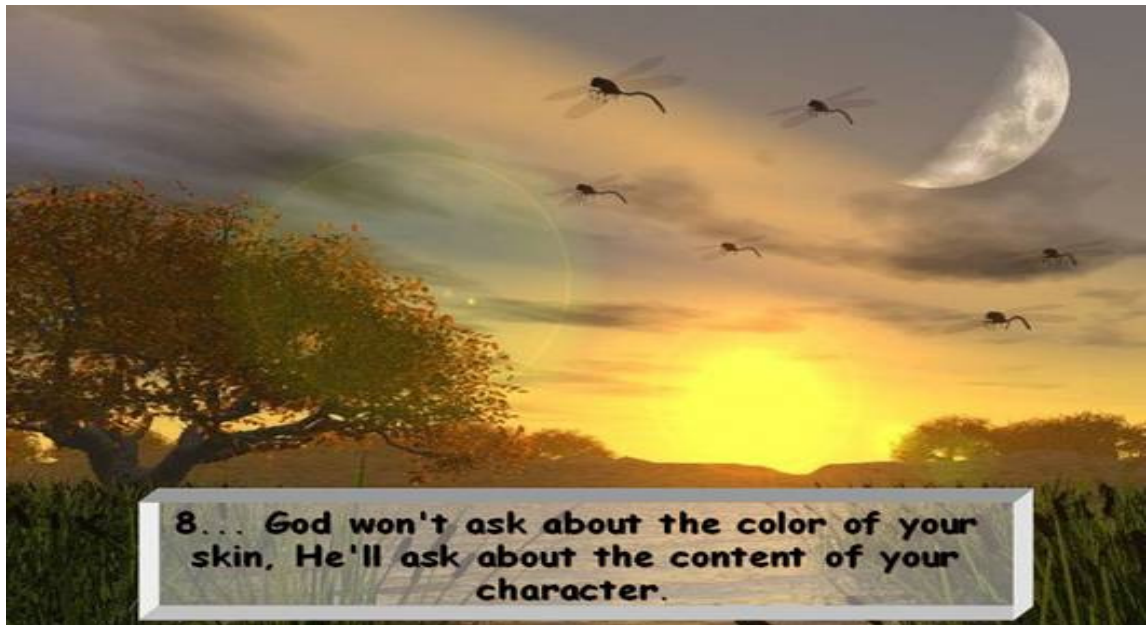


The Spiritual Dimension of Marriage



Graham F. Watts, Sr.

VISION: To hear the midnight cry, “The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him” (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

MISSION: Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3), to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

VALUES: Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb’s fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

OVERALL AIM: Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: “Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father” (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY

27
28 To emphasize that marriage is enriched by the spiritual dimension.

OBJECTIVES/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH

31
32 At the end of this study, readers are equipped to self-assess whether
33 they are spiritually fit for marriage and determine their need for
34 external help to become better lovers, friends, helpers and co-workers
35 in the service of Christ.

SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT

38
39 God and Jesus used marriage to represent the union between themselves
40 and kingdom candidates. "...Your Maker is your husband..." (Isaiah 58:5,
41 NIV). And to distinguish preparation for marriage from cohabitation,
42 Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a
43 wedding feast for his son" (Matthew 22:2, New American Standard Bible,
44 NASB), who expected the guests to wear appropriate attire (Matthew
45 22:11). Furthermore, to emphasize sexual abstinence before marriage,
46 Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven [may be compared] to 10 virgins,
47 who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom" (Matthew
48 25:1), who delayed His coming until midnight (Matthew 25:5-6), then
49 only those virgins who had a reserve supply of oil in their lamps went
50 into the wedding when the bridegroom arrived (Matthew 25:6-10).
51 Through A.D. 95, the last Bible author penned these words: "...Be glad
52 and rejoice and give honor to Him for the marriage of the Lamb is come
53 and His wife has made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7). These
54 metaphorical and literal associations expand marriage beyond the
55 traditional boundaries of procreation and sex for pleasure to encompass
56 union with Christ (read Romans 7:4), a dimension that is often
57 neglected and unexpressed in secular thought and contemporary society.

59 **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

60

61 **In the end time, injustices increase** (read 2 Timothy 3:1, New Living
 62 Translation, NLT). Instead of loving one another as God loves [us]
 63 (John 15:12), people will “...Love only themselves and their money;
 64 ...[they will be]... unforgiving... [and] ...cruel and [will] hate what is
 65 good. [Moreover, they will] ...love pleasure rather than God; ...[and have
 66 the audacity to] act religious, but... reject the power that could make
 67 them godly” (2 Timothy 3:2-5, NLT). This state of affairs will prevail
 68 in the time before the coming of Jesus, but you need not be among those
 69 who practice injustices.

70

71

72 **“[In Noah’s time, injustice also increased while], the longsuffering of**
 73 **God waited... [for repentance during preparation of] the ark...”** (1 Peter
 74 3:20). And in the interim, people were ***marrying and giving in marriage*** without
 75 the knowledge of God (Matthew 24:37-39), but in contrast to Noah who
 76 had God’s grace abiding within him (Genesis 6:8) and was a righteous
 77 man whose walk with God was blameless (Genesis 6:9, NIV), albeit not
 78 perfect (Genesis 9:20-21), the people of Noah’s day were exceedingly
 79 wicked; their thought processes was only evil continually (Genesis
 80 6:5). “There is in itself no sin in eating and drinking or in marrying
 81 and giving in marriage. It was lawful to marry in the time of Noah,
 82 and it is lawful to marry now... **But in the days of Noah, men married without**
 83 **consulting God or seeking His guidance and counsel”** (The Adventist Home, {AH},
 84 121.3). Against this background, it is not difficult to imagine sin in
 85 the form of betrayal of sacred trust, domestic violence; multiple forms
 86 of abuse and divorce at unprecedented levels. This state of affairs,
 87 among others, led God to admit that His Spirit will not always strive
 88 with man (Genesis 6:3) because people became corrupt and violent
 89 (Genesis 6:11-13).

90 **In our time, the longsuffering of God also waits for repentance amid**
 91 **growing injustices.** Meanwhile, scoffers ridicule the promise that
 92 Jesus will return (2 Peter 3:3-4). Nevertheless, this is the time to
 93 repent before Jesus marches through the land in indignation (Habakkuk
 94 3:3 & 12) and with the brightness of His coming, destroy the wicked (2
 95 Thessalonians 2:8) whose deeds are well cataloged.

96
 97 **Brief descriptions of human injustices follow.** “Globally, up to 6 of
 98 10] women experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime”
 99 (http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/). In the
 100 U.S., “Every two minutes, someone... is sexually assaulted [and] 73% of
 101 rape victims know their assailants” (<http://www.rainn.org/statistics/>).
 102 “Every nine seconds, a woman is beaten..., [particularly] women ages 20-
 103 34 years old” (http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emstrauma/vaw/data_stats.htm)
 104 and “Women experiencing... physical abuse [has] total, annual health care
 105 costs that [is] 42% higher than women who never suffered abuse”
 106 (<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/sep09/0909RA24.htm>). “[Overall], 25% of
 107 women and 8% of men experience rape and/or physical assault by a
 108 current or former spouse, cohabiting partner or date in their lifetime
 109 (<http://www.feminist.com/antiviolence/facts.html>). Adolescents are not
 110 excluded from the cycle of abuses. The Centers for Disease Control and
 111 Prevention reports that **one in four** adolescents’ reports verbal, physical,
 112 emotional or sexual violence each year and **one in five** high school girls
 113 has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner
 114 (http://www.cdc.gov/NCIPC/dvp/dating_violence.htm). The marriage rate
 115 in 2005 was 7.5 per 1,000 and almost half ended in divorce {3.6 per
 116 1,000} (<http://www.divorcemag.com/statistics/statsUS.shtml>) and divorce
 117 rates worsen with repeat marriages, from 41%-50% for the first
 118 marriage, 60%-67% for the second marriage and 73%-74% for the third
 119 marriage (http://www.aboutdivorce.org/us_divorce_rates.html). Divorce
 120 is worldwide (<http://www.divorcereform.org/nonus.html#anchor5599108>).
 121 This sordid picture prompted the study question that follows.

122 **STUDY QUESTION**

123

124 How might humanity get back to God's ideal for marital harmony?

125

126 **ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE**

127

128 1. **Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage through shared**
 129 **values, interests and needs.** In other words, there should be
 130 careful, judicious, premarital screening before dating and
 131 wedlock. "...Lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways,
 132 acknowledge God and He will direct your paths straight" (Proverbs
 133 3:5-6). "Can two walk together, except they... agree" (Amos 3:3)?
 134 Either learned or naturally acquired compatibility is important in
 135 marriage because at the core of marital union, it requires
 136 "Submitting... one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21)
 137 and marital submission encompasses the larger Christian virtue of
 138 humble, submission to one another (1 Peter 5:5), being kind to
 139 each other and in honor, giving preference to one another (Romans
 140 12:10). These unpopular counsels are contrary to the descendants
 141 of the first Adam (Genesis 5:2) because "...It is not in man who
 142 walks to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Not surprisingly,
 143 married people can be unwilling to say: "I delight to do thy will,
 144 O my God, [your] law is within my heart" (Psalms 40:8) unless the
 145 humility that led Jesus through the incarnation (read Philippians
 146 2:5-8) also leads them to submit to God (James 4:7).

147

148 2. **Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage by including the**
 149 **spiritual dimension in married life.** Hence, God, who first
 150 created male (Genesis 2:7), then female (Genesis 2:21-24) targets
 151 husband with a specific instruction, intended to debunk myths or
 152 illusions of grandeur that set up future marital failure. Hence,
 153 God says to married men, "Husbands: love your wives, even as

154 Christ... loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Ephesians
 155 5:25)! "[And to married women, God say:] Let **NOT** the wife departs
 156 from her husband" (1 Corinthians 7:10). What is the significance
 157 of the association between wife and church? This explicit
 158 association should prompt a careful exploration of the church of
 159 God to understand how God deals with His church for husband and
 160 wife to emulate His attitudes and behaviors in marriage.

161
 162
 163 3. **Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage by observing God's**
 164 **display of unfathomable, unmerited love.** God the creator, who
 165 called Israel out of Haran via Abraham calls Himself Israel's
 166 husband (Isaiah 58:5) and this is what the Savior said about His
 167 wife: "...I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed. How
 168 then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine
 169 unto me (Jeremiah 2:21)? "My people have committed two sins; they
 170 have forsaken me, the spring of living water and have dug their
 171 own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water" (Jeremiah
 172 2:13). It is not uncommon for married people to be sobered by the
 173 reality that they mature and differentiate in unique ways over the
 174 lifespan. And it is against this experience that God's call to
 175 love aims to overcome a sense of resignation or hopelessness that
 176 can set in after the honeymoon is over. "...God is gracious and
 177 merciful and [does] not turn away His face from [us when we]
 178 return unto Him" (2 Chronicles 30:9); therefore, He calls upon
 179 husbands everywhere to "...Dwell with [their wife] according to
 180 knowledge, give honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel and
 181 as [a joint] heir together of the grace of life that [their]
 182 prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7). The take home message
 183 here is "...Love one another as [God has] loved [us]" (John 15:12).
 184

185 4. **Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage by following God's**
 186 **time-tested wisdom.** It is natural for self-righteous,
 187 narcissistic people (read 1 Corinthians 10:12) to make up their
 188 own marriage rules and be the judge and executioner of their law.
 189 However, God wants us to "...Ask for [His] old paths, where [lies]
 190 the good way, [to] walk therein.. and [to] find rest.." (Jeremiah
 191 6:16). "...[We] must live as God's obedient children [and] don't
 192 slip back into [our] old ways of living to satisfy [our] own
 193 desires..." (1 Peter 1:14, New Living Translation, NLT) because if
 194 we live in the flesh the motions of sin will work in our members
 195 to bring forth fruit unto death (Romans 7:5). But if we live by
 196 faith, an unbelieving spouse is sanctified by the [believing
 197 partner] (1 Corinthians 7:14). The power of sanctification is so
 198 pervasive that God calls on "...Wives [to] be in subjection to
 199 [their] own husbands that if any obeys not the word [of God, he]
 200 ...may without the word be won by the conversation of the [wife]" (1
 201 Peter 3:1). If in marriages where a spouse is unbelieving, God
 202 emphasizes the power of sanctification and obedience for
 203 conversion of the unbelieving partner, then how much more should
 204 sanctification, love and obedience abound in marriages where both
 205 spouses are partakers of the divine nature (read 2 Peter 1:4)?

206
 207
 208 5. **Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage by esteeming**
 209 **obedience to God as of great benefit.** God gives the Holy Ghost to
 210 them that obey Him (Acts 5:32) AND the Spirit imparts the love of
 211 God in our hearts (Romans 5:5). "...[Thus, to them] that know to do
 212 good [but]... [refuses]; ...it is sin" (James 4:17). Both spouses are
 213 to esteem the benefits of obedience to God. Reciprocal blaming
 214 that can take the form of: I don't love you because you don't obey
 215 me and I don't obey you because you don't love me is unproductive.
 216 The divine standard for ALL humanity, married and unmarried, is:
 217 "...Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). And in the

218 marriage relationship, the explicit, **unqualified** command to
 219 husbands center on loving the wife and not treating her harshly
 220 (read Ephesians 5:25 and Colossians 3:19, NLT). Also, the
 221 explicit, **unqualified** command to wives center on being in
 222 subjection to their husband (1 Peter 3:5). That God loves us
 223 despite our marginal faithfulness and sometimes brazen rebellion
 224 (read Jeremiah 3:22 & 2 Chronicles 7:14) should encourage us to
 225 “Hold fast [God’s] faithful word... [regarding marriage] that... by
 226 sound doctrine, [we] exhort and convince... [each other to be
 227 Christlike]” (Titus 1:9).

228

229 6. **Humanity can return to God’s ideal for marriage by receiving**
 230 **satisfaction with life from God and sharing it with a spouse.**

231 Human beings have limits on their capacity to give; therefore,
 232 guard against overdrafts on spousal resources and draw upon the
 233 divine, inexhaustible supply. When married people recognize that
 234 “...God commended His love toward [all humanity] ...while [men and
 235 women] were sinners...” (Romans 5:8), i.e., while they were ungodly
 236 (Romans 5:6), it changes the way we emotionally lean on each
 237 other. If we recognize “...That God was reconciling the world to
 238 Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them; and He
 239 has committed to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians
 240 5:19, Today’s New International Version), then “...[When we] suffer
 241 for righteousness sake [even in marriage, it is an opportunity to
 242 perfect happiness in the fear of God]” (1 Peter 3:14). Cease
 243 thinking like a victim and recognize that “...Jesus Christ... [loves
 244 you] and... [gives you] everlasting consolation and good hope
 245 through grace” (2 Thessalonians 2:16). And His “...Grace is
 246 sufficient for [you]” (2 Corinthians 12:9); grace, which calls
 247 upon you to “...Be content with such things as [we] have for [God
 248 never leaves [you] or forsakes [you]” (Hebrews 13:5). Thus,
 249 “Fear... not, ...[God is] with [you]; be not dismayed..., God... will

250 strengthen [you]; [He] will help [you... and] uphold [you] with the
 251 right hand of [His] righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10). "The Lord is
 252 [your] rock, [your] fortress and [your] deliverer" (2 Samuel
 253 22:2); He "...Will not [allow] you to be tempted above that [you]
 254 are able [to sustain]..." (1 Corinthians 10:13). He is working out
 255 ALL your circumstances for you good (read Romans 8:28)!

256

257 **ANSWER SOURCE: SACRED WRITINGS:**

258

259 We are pursuing answers to the question: How might humanity get back to
 260 God's ideal for marital harmony? More answers follow!

261

262 1. **Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage if we sit with Christ**
 263 **in heavenly places.** Meditate on the words of Christ (Psalms 119:15 &

264 48). "...Keep drawing near to God and He will draw near to [you].
 265 "Turn to {God's} reproof {and He} will pour out {His} spirit... and
 266 make {His} words known to {you}" (Proverbs 1:23, NASB). Then, as
 267 one, we shall reach upward to Him" (Our High Calling, {OHC} 170.5).
 268 "Those who are truly connected with God will **NOT** be at variance with
 269 one another. His Spirit ruling in their hearts create harmony, love
 270 and unity. ...Benevolence, kindness, mercy and love originate from
 271 Infinite Wisdom... The opposite of [the fruit of righteousness] works
 272 in the children of Satan; [where] there is... strife, envy and
 273 jealousy..." (OHC 170.3). To whom are you yielding (Romans 6:16)?
 274 What you do reflect who rules your mind!

275

276 2. **Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage by cherishing the**
 277 **attributes of Christ.** "If you bring Christ into the home, you will

278 know good from evil" (AH 17.4). "Troubles may invade, but these are
 279 the lot of humanity. Let patience, gratitude and love keep sunshine
 280 in the heart through the [cloudy] day..." (AH 18.1). "...[Let] home be a
 281 place where cheerful words are spoken and kindly deeds are done,

282 where courtesy and love are abiding guests" (AH 18.2). "The family tie... was
 283 designed to be a blessing to mankind and it is a blessing wherever the marriage covenant is entered into
 284 intelligently, in the fear of God and with due consideration for its responsibilities" (AH 18.5). "[Then]
 285 bring [your] habits and practices into harmony with God's plans" (AH
 286 19.5).

287
 288 3. Humanity can return to God's ideal for marriage by exercising
 289 faithfulness to Jesus before attempting faithfulness to a spouse.

290 Love and honor to God precedes love and honor to a spouse (read Mark
 291 12:30-31). Why should it be this way? Human love... draws its closest
 292 bonds from divine love. Only where Christ reigns can there be deep,
 293 true, unselfish affection (AH 68.2). "True love is not a strong,
 294 fiery, impetuous passion. On the contrary, it is calm and deep in
 295 its nature. It looks beyond mere externals and is attracted by
 296 qualities alone. It is wise and discriminating and its devotion is
 297 real and abiding" (AH 51.2). "Love, lifted out of the realm of
 298 passion and impulse becomes spiritualized and is revealed in words
 299 and acts. A Christian must have a sanctified tenderness and love in
 300 which there is no impatience of fretfulness; the rude, harsh manners
 301 must be softened by the grace of Christ" (AH 51.3). "When the
 302 husband has the nobility of character, purity of heart, elevation of
 303 mind that every true Christian must possess, it will be made manifest
 304 in the marriage relation" (AH 125.1) and he will love his wife as
 305 Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25). Wives who were socialized
 306 as children and young adults to submit unto elder members of God's
 307 family (1 Peter 5:5), wives who submit themselves to God as a
 308 strategy to resist the devil (James 4:7) and wives who participate in
 309 "Submitting... to one another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21) are
 310 not discomfited by living in subjection to their husband (1 Peter
 311 3:1) because they have learned to be content in every situation
 312 (Philippians 4:11), recognizing that "...Godliness with contentment is
 313 great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).

314 \\Srv_1\Data\Employees\gfwatts\My Documents\5.Bible Study\2.End-Time-Messages\1.Manuscripts4Publication\Ready4Pub\SpiritualMarriage.doc

315 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: This study examined the spiritual dimension of
 316 marriage. The question that focused the study asked: How might
 317 humanity get back to God's ideal for marital harmony? In our study, we
 318 uncovered nine tools: 1) Shared values, interests and needs, 2)
 319 Include, rather than exclude, the spiritual dimension in married life,
 320 3) Observe God's demonstration of unfathomable, unmerited love to
 321 humanity, 4) Follow God's time-tested wisdom, 5) Esteem obedience to
 322 God as of great benefit, 6) Depend on God for life satisfaction and
 323 share it within the marriage, 7) Sit with Christ in heavenly places
 324 through meditation on His precepts, 8) Cherish the attributes of Christ
 325 in the heart and 9) Exercise faithfulness to Jesus before attempting
 326 faithfulness to a spouse. Because it is of little redeeming value to
 327 engage in Bible study merely for information, subsequent paragraphs
 328 follow that make a practical application of the truths set forth here.

329

330 **DISCUSSION: WHAT DO THESE THINGS MEAN?**

331

332 Marriage came from Eden! "...The Lord caused... [Adam] to fall into a deep
 333 sleep and... took one of... [his] ribs and... made a woman... [for] the man.
 334 [Adam recognized Eve as] '...bone of [his] bones and flesh of [his]
 335 flesh... [and called upon his posterity to] ...leave father and mother and
 336 cleave unto [a] wife and... [become] one flesh'" (Genesis 2:21-24).
 337 "[God signaled His agreement with Adam by giving both] male and female...
 338 [His blessings and the] name Adam..." (Genesis 5:2). This union of a man
 339 and a women was not intended as a self-service experience (read 1 Peter
 340 1:12, NASB); "therefore, prepare your minds for action (Galatians 6:2;
 341 Romans 12:15). Keep sober in spirit; fix your hope completely on the
 342 grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ [and] as
 343 obedient children; ...do not... [conform] to... former lusts..." (1 Peter 1:13-
 344 14), which is earthly, sensual and devilish and which leads to
 345 confusion and every evil work (James 3:15-16).

346 **CONCLUSIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

347

348 The divine policy manual for marriage enrichment included these
 349 guidelines: “Drink waters out of [your] own cistern and running waters
 350 out of [your] own well” (Proverbs 5:15). “Let thy fountain be blessed
 351 and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind
 352 and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be
 353 thou ravished always with her love. Why will [you] my son be ravished
 354 with a strange woman and embrace the bosom of a stranger” (Proverbs
 355 5:18-20)? “Any [husband] who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and
 356 the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (Luke 16:18, Today’s New International
 357 Version {TNIV}) because “The wife is bound [by the law of God to her husband] as long as her husband
 358 [lives]” (1 Corinthians 7:39). “So then, if while her husband [lives], she [marries] another man, she shall
 359 be called an adulteress...” (Romans 7:3), a condition to be avoided because “...The
 360 unrighteous, [which includes adulterers], will not inherit the kingdom
 361 of God...” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, {NASB}). Eternity is too precious to
 362 lose for rebellion and stubbornness (read Mark 8:37 & 1 Samuel 15:23).
 363 If we keep the word of God’s patience, He will keep us in the hour of
 364 trials that tests all... [who] dwell upon the earth (Revelation 3:10).
 365 And at the end of life’s journey, we will hear: “...[You] have been
 366 faithful over a few things, I will make [you] ruler over many things;
 367 enter into the joy of [the] Lord” (Matthew 25:21).

368

369 We have discussed strategies for returning to God’s ideal for marriage.
 370 You will have opportunities to put them into practice. Discord entered
 371 heaven; discord entered Eden; then by inference, discord lurks, seeking
 372 entry into your marriage. Be aware of this threat and when it does
 373 emerge, then if you are filled with “...The wisdom that is from above,
 374 [which] is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated,
 375 full of mercy and good fruits...” (James 3:17), then “...learn to maintain

376 good works..." (Titus 3:14) and "...Obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).
 377 Let it NOT be said of us as it was said of ancient Israel; "She obeyed
 378 not the voice [of the Lord], she received not correction; she trusted
 379 not in the Lord; she drew not near to her God" (Zephaniah 3:2). Draw
 380 near unto God and He will draw near unto you (James 4:8) for you lack
 381 the capacity to self-direct in righteousness, truth and holiness (read
 382 Jeremiah 10:23). The first Adam's children see ways that seems right
 383 in their own eyes but the end is death (read Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25).
 384 Additionally, **"Satan is busily engaged in influencing those who are wholly unsuited to each
 385 other to unite their interests. He exults in this work for by it he can produce more misery and
 386 hopeless woe to the human family than by exercising his skill in any other direction"**
 387 (Messages to Young People, {MYP} 455.3). In view of these things:
 388 "...Walk in all the ways [that] the Lord... [commands and] ...live"
 389 (Deuteronomy 5:33). "I call heaven and earth to record this day
 390 against you that I have set before you life and death; ...therefore,
 391 choose life that both you and your seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

392

393 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

394 Fine tune your imperfect marriage with loving patience. "Every member
 395 of the family should realize that a responsibility rests upon [each
 396 one] individually to do [a] part in adding to the comfort, order and
 397 regularity of the family. One should not work against another..." (AH
 398 179.5). Husbands, what God has joined together, let no man put asunder
 399 (Mark 10:9) for we dwell in God and God in us if we keep His
 400 commandments (1 John 3:24). It is only as we remain in Christ that He
 401 will remain in us (John 15:4, NIV).

402

403 "[Let] ...love abound... in knowledge and ...judgment" for sincerity and
404 blamelessness (Philippians 1:9 & 10). Each of you, partake of "The
405 wisdom that is from above, [which] is first pure, peaceable and gentle,
406 easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality
407 and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17). "And let the peace of God rule in
408 your hearts to... which also [you] are called in one body..." (Colossians
409 3:15) to be of one mind and one mouth, glorifying God..." (read Romans
410 15:6, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 2:2 and 1 Peter 3:8). "If you
411 know these things, happy are you if you do them (John 13:17)!"