



GOD'S DESIGN

— for —

MARRIAGE & families

by Dr. James Merritt



Touching Lives
with James Merritt



Just the Three of Us

I Do

Genesis 2:18-24

When you fully understand what it means to say, “I Do”, you can view your marriage more thoughtfully and carefully and avoid walking away from your marriage thoughtlessly or carelessly.

When you say, “I Do,” you agree to the following:

- I. I Enter a Divine Covenant
- II. I Make a Determined Commitment
- III. I Create a Distinct Connection

Conclusion: Every marriage is meant to have no ending except death. It is designed as a three-way covenant involving God, the husband, and the wife. Just as God is a trinitarian God with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit existing as one complete unit, your marriage is designed to work the same way with the husband, the wife, and God in complete unity.

NOTES



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Right From the Start

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

In Second Corinthians, Paul outlines three key ingredients that must be present at the beginning of a marriage in order for the marriage to be all that God wants it to be. The Scripture says:

- I. We Must Be Surrendered to the Same Lord
- II. We Must Be Energized with the Same Life
- III. We Must Be Motivated by the Same Love

If you are an unmarried believer, understand that every date is a potential mate, so look to date only believers. If you are married already but your spouse is an unbeliever, take heart! There is always hope for your spouse. Let your unbelieving spouse see the difference that Jesus makes in your life. Finally, if you are married to a believer, give thanks to God for you both share in the same love and the same hope that is only available through Jesus.

NOTES



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His Needs, Her Needs

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Marriage, from a biblical perspective, is designed for two people to be spiritually joined and physically joined. One of the supreme ways a man and woman express their love to one another in marriage is through sexual intimacy. Having the right perspective on sex in marriage is important. Here are three things to know:

- I. We Consummate Marriage with the Sexual Act
- II. We Celebrate Marriage with Sexual Passion
- III. We Consecrate Marriage in Sexual Expression

Marriage was not designed by God to have sexual lust satisfied; it was designed to allow for the full expression of your love through sex. After you say, "I Do," continue to show your spouse the affection and attention you gave while you were dating. Make a commitment today to your spouse to fulfill his or her needs, and in doing so, you will experience the most intimate relationship you will ever have this side of heaven.

NOTES



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Premarital Counseling

1 Corinthians 7:25-40

If you are single, know someone who is single, or are raising someone who is single, this message is for you. Know this...the single life is not a sub-par life, and the married life is not the supreme life. Both are good, and both are godly. Here is some biblical advice for singles.

- I. We Should Appreciate Singleness as a Proper Life
- II. We Should Celebrate Singleness as a Productive Life
- III. We Should Demonstrate Singleness as a Pure Life

If you are single, you must never forget the only reason that everyone on this planet can spend eternity with God is because the greatest single who ever lived dies on a cross and came back from the grave so that we might be together with God forever.

NOTES



Don't Make Me Come Back There!

Fatherly Advice

Ephesians 6:4

In one sentence in Ephesians, God tells us the number one and greatest responsibility for the parent of a child. From this verse, we have four things we are to give our children that are more important than education, food, and clothing. The four things are:

- I. Give Your Children Tender Affection
- II. Give Your Children Wise Direction
- III. Give Your Children Encouraging Correction
- IV. Give Your Children Godly Protection

Here is some advice for all parents...you may not be able to provide your children with the nicest home, the finest home, or the largest home, but you can provide your children with a godly home.

NOTES



Don't Make Me Come Back There!

P.G. Parenting

Ephesians 6:1-3

God desires all children to be raised in a home where parental guidance is not suggested but required. From God's point of view, parents should desire three things for their children:

- I. Live Rightly
- II. Live Respectfully
- III. Live Reverently

Someone once said, "Children are a great help in your old age—and they help you reach it a lot faster too!" That may be true. Raising children is the toughest job in the world, and there are no guarantees children raised correctly will grow into responsible, godly adults. However, becoming a "PG Parent" and working to do everything you can to help your children know Jesus personally will provide your children with the best possible chance to live a godly life.

NOTES



Don't Make Me Come Back There!

Basic Training

Proverbs 22:6

King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wrote a proverb that said all children should go through basic training. He provided parents with three things every parent should give their child from a very early age, which are the three key elements of the training.

- I. Train Your Children with Personal Affection
- II. Train Your Children through Careful Correction
- III. Train Your Children by Spiritual Direction

The whole book of proverbs is about wisdom, and wisdom is knowing God, loving God, and finding God's will and doing it. But know this...a proverb is a principle, not a promise. If training is done properly and consistently, it usually will bring positive results. However, some will read this verse and find it to be a sledge-hammer of guilt because you have a prodigal child. If you did your best and did all you could do to model God for your child, then you should always hope the basic training will take root and grow through God's infinite grace.

NOTES



Don't Make Me Come Back There!

It's All About Relationships

Proverbs 12:26

Proverbs describes three types of peoples—friends, foes, and fools. Your children will encounter all three types as they grow and develop. Teaching your children how to deal with these types of people is of paramount importance. Here are the key life lessons we must teach our children:

- I. Be Loyal to Friends
- II. Be Loving to Foes
- III. Be Leary with Fools

Teaching our children to identify and relate to all three types of people described in Proverbs is crucial not just for earth, but for eternity. The first thing we must teach our children is to have the most important relationship they will ever have, which is a relationship with Jesus. After this, knowing how to relate to foes, and fools will serve them well and help them grow in the faith.

NOTES



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Touching Lives is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with the Fetal Care Center of Dallas along with the non-profit Dallas Fetal Foundation. The Fetal Care Center provides state-of-the-art medical care, including fetal surgery, to babies while they are still in the womb, and the Dallas Fetal Foundation provides funding to families who need this specialized care but lack the resources to cover travel and other out-of-pocket expenses.

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