

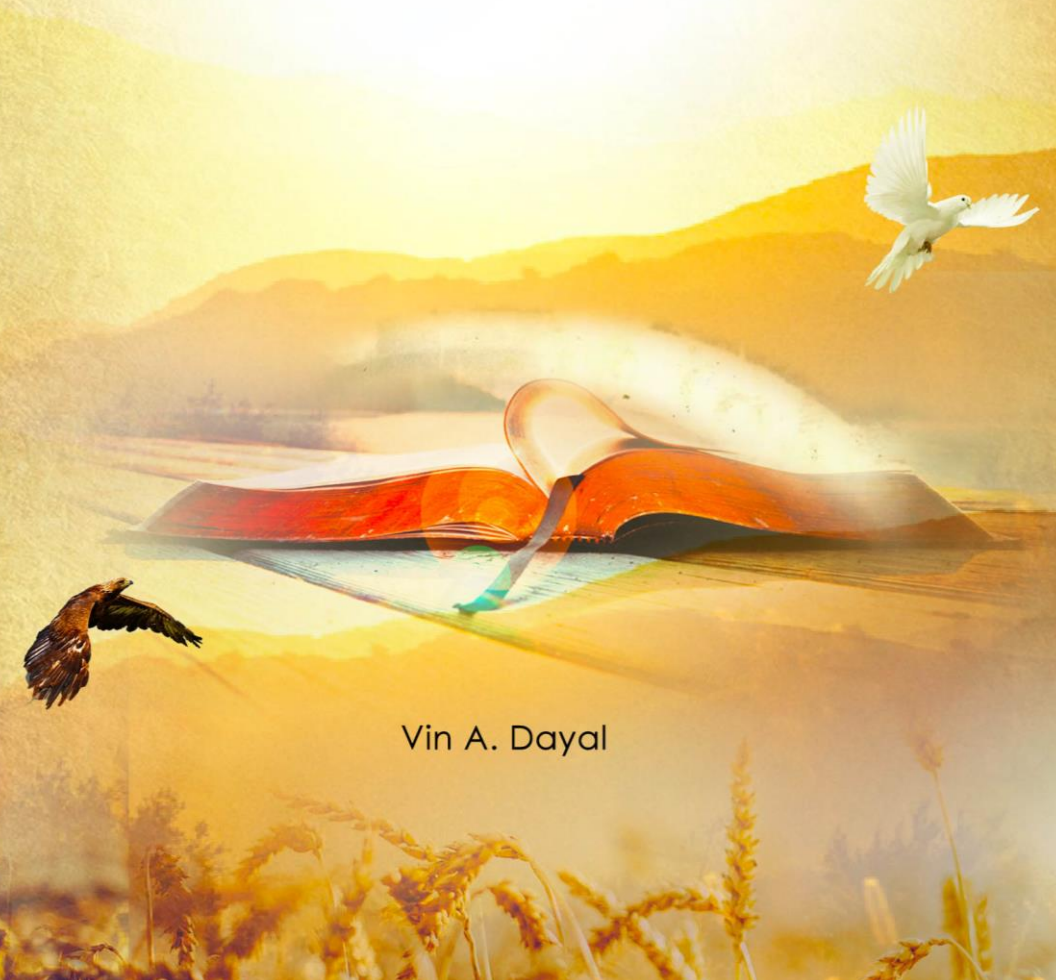
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Third Exodus Assembly

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# Responsibility That Goes With Marriage

29<sup>th</sup> March 1995



Vin A. Dayal



## RESPONSIBILITY THAT GOES WITH MARRIAGE

29<sup>th</sup> March 1995  
TRINIDAD



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TRINIDAD  
WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1995

**BRO. VIN A. DAYAL**

[#623 He Is My Reason - Songs That Live -Ed.]

*He is the King of all kings,  
Jesus, my only possession,  
Jesus, my everything.*

Thank You, Lord. Let's bow our heads as we look to Him in prayer tonight. Our gracious heavenly Father, Lord, we are so thankful tonight to be in Your Presence, to know dear God that You have made such a way for us to come, the assurance and the peace that we can come with; to know all the judgment that was due to us, You took them upon Your Own self. We don't have to come, Lord, afraid we are going to be condemned but Lord, You gave us an invitation to come and to come with boldness; to come with boldness, Lord, to come with confidence because of how secure that You have made it. That we could come and we could stand in Your Presence and enjoy restored fellowship; even to make our petitions known unto You; even, dear God, to ask anything. To think that You didn't even put a limit on what we can ask, but we could ask that our joys would be full.

And so, we come tonight, Father, realizing Lord, as the day advances and as we come time and time again, Lord, that You have made this such a valuable and most precious privilege for us. How Lord, it should affect our lives and our attitude the way we treat it and the way that it would influence us to try to live, Lord, pleasing unto You in all things, that in every thought, in every word, and every deed that would come forth from our

lives, Father, could be in consideration of You and for You, and our lives could be spent in Your service, showing forth Lord, our gratitude, showing forth, dear God, that we are truly appreciative of what You have done for us.

And as we come tonight Lord, we don't just take it for granted, nor just take it as a formality and we guard over it becoming a ritual. But Lord, we come as though it's the first time that we are coming, Lord. We are coming, Lord, just as You said we should. We believe You tonight. We trust You, we rely upon You, and we depend upon You. We take Your Word as Truth, Something we could stand upon, Something we could lay our lives upon, Lord, without any fear or doubt, knowing that Heaven and earth will pass away but that Word will never pass away. It's an Absolute that we tie our souls to. It's the anchor of our soul. It's the Rock upon which, Lord God, we are founded and established, Father. As David said, "Lord, You set us upon a rock that we shall not be moved."

I pray to God, tonight, that every heart here, Father, everyone that has come within our gates, everyone that is standing in Your Presence, Father, will be so desirous that they be established upon that Rock in these uncertain times that we live in, Lord, these perilous times, dear God, that we can truly live lives that would be overcoming lives in this Hour. That Lord, we would not live with fear and we would not live with uncertainty. But because of this great reality that You have brought our souls into, because of this great experience that You have made real within our hearts, that we can stand Lord, Jesus, knowing Lord, that we are accepted in the Beloved. We can stand Lord, knowing dear God, that we stand not in any merit of our own but we stand in the merits of what You have done. And because of that Lord, we can have expectations that these things that we are asking tonight, these things

that we have need of and we believe it's already provided and it's already made available.

And as we believe, the Holy Spirit stands here ready to minister it and give it unto us, because dear God, it's going to help us to be better representatives of Yours. It's going to help us Lord, to shine forth Your Light that others can see that there is a reality, Father, in serving You; that Lord in the midst of all the misrepresentations and make-belief of what real Christianity is, You stand ready to show that Your Word is still the Truth and that, dear God, even in this dark Hour that we live in, Father, Your Word is still unchanged. Your Word still produces what It says, dear God, and a believer can stand dear God, Father, original, can stand just the way that You've made them and just the way that they walked two thousand years ago when they walked in that first Age, Lord, they can still walk the same way tonight. May You grant it, Father.

May, as we stand here in Your Presence tonight believing these things, believing that our meeting here with You tonight, believing that our coming up into the house of God tonight, coming with an attitude to worship You, coming Lord, to hear from You, coming Lord to make ourselves more available unto You, coming Lord to find out Your will and Your purpose and then to walk in it after we have found it out, Lord, to carry it out obediently and sincerely that when we leave this place, Lord, we will leave closer drawn to You than when we came in.

Oh God, may it be that way in every heart tonight. May it not just be coming to pull for something temporal but Lord, to receive something eternal from You. Something that would make us more like You, Lord, to make us walk like You, to make us talk like You, to make us live like You, dear God, to make us, Lord God, in every way that You are, Father, that we two can become one in this Hour. Have Your own blessed way in the service tonight. Lord, lead us and direct us in all

the things that are ordained to be done tonight, Father. We report for duty and service.

We are so thankful, Lord, even to be back here. I pray, Lord, that You give me strength tonight and God, that You'll clear my mind and You'll keep me focused, dear God, that I could just carry out, Lord, the portion that is allotted out and required of me tonight. Bless each and every one that is gathered here in Your Presence. May You meet every need in the midst of Your people, tonight, Father.

God, we thank You for Your grace and we thank You for Your love. We thank You Lord Jesus, that Lord, You mean more to us with each passing day. And You have said, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you, but lo I'm with you."* And, *"I'll be in you, even until the end of the Age."* We'd find You that You are so true and You are so faithful in these things.

We commit everything into Your hands tonight, Lord, and we wait upon You now. Just get glory out of this service, unto Thy great Name, in the precious Name of Jesus Christ we pray and we ask these things. Amen.

Amen, let's just turn our Bibles tonight. The Book of Genesis I want to read. I welcome you all tonight in the house of God and I trust that everyone is feeling fine. Genesis Chapter 2.

We have a little betrothal tonight and I just thought I would speak around those things that I was speaking the last service I was here, about the family and the home and these things that are so necessary for all of us. Verse 18, Genesis Chapter 2:

*<sup>18</sup> And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

*<sup>19</sup> And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he will call them: and*

*whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

*<sup>20</sup> And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowls of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

*<sup>21</sup> And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

*<sup>22</sup> And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman and brought her unto the man.*

*<sup>23</sup> And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

*<sup>24</sup> Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

And Amos, Chapter 3, verse 3. There's a question here and it says,

*<sup>3</sup> Can two walk together, except they be agreed? [Can two walk together, except they be agreed?]*

That's a rhetorical question because it already furnishes you the answer. It is telling us indirectly, two cannot walk together unless they agree.

And 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians Chapter 6, verse 14:

*<sup>14</sup> Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*<sup>15</sup> And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part had he that believeth with an infidel?*

*<sup>16</sup> And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for you are the temple of the*

*living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and I will walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*<sup>17</sup> Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

*<sup>18</sup> And I will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

So there are five things here that St. Paul stresses, as he shows us why we cannot be unequally yoked. The first thing was *fellowship*: “*What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?*” And he is contrasting, showing you that righteousness and unrighteousness have no fellowship; and, “*What communion hath light with darkness? And what concord... and what part... and what agreement?*”

So, fellowship, communion, concord, part, agreement, these five things he’s showing us that there must be in a true relationship; that you cannot find it in any false union, you cannot find it when people are unequally yoked. And we just want to bow our heads again.

Gracious God, I pray Father, that You would just take these few thoughts tonight, in the way that You can present them to the heart and to the mind of Your people, that it might give us an insight of how we can grow and develop in our relationships, how we can come into a more complete understanding of Your will for us, Lord, of how we should be more responsible, more mature in establishing our homes and raising our families. And knowing, dear God, that You require these things of us, and what a great challenge it is and what a great victory it is for those who can receive the Word and walk in It. What a great testimony and what great glory it brings to Your Name.

Oh God, we realize there is no way that we can truly be a representative of Christ, no way we can truly claim to be a believer, Lord, to violate these principles and to fail to hold these Things sacred and then expect to become an instrument in Your hands. Because Lord, this is part of Your Word, and this is the great Thing that You have placed here in the Word that we can truly reflect that Mystery of Christ and His Church, which we are called unto in this Hour, knowing, Lord that You have laid these Things out in the Scriptures and Lord, how we see It being so attacked today.

The enemy is attacking the homes and attacking the families. And we realize the church is unable to even fulfill its commission as it should because of weak homes, because of broken down families, because of people being unable to have the victory and even take a hold of these principles that can lift our lives, and lift our homes to a higher standard. Dear God, we could see strong homes and then have a strong church; and then, dear God, see a people that can stand upon the face of the earth in this Hour that You could fulfill every Word. Grant it, Lord, tonight.

May You help us. May You meet every need. We believe that You will. And God, may You give us a heart to carry out Your Word and to mix it with faith that it might profit us much. Grant it, we pray for we ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen. God bless you. You may have your seat.

I'm feeling a little, kind of light-headed, so, just bear with me a little bit. Let me just take my time as I try to speak. I'm just trying to keep my mind focused a little bit. When you make a long journey like I have made and then not feeling too physically well, it is kind of hard to keep focus and to concentrate here on what you want to do.

You know, I came back and even forgot I had this betrothal. And then my sister called me up yesterday and she said, "I'm just calling to remind you of the

service tomorrow.” I was flat down in bed and I just couldn’t disappoint them. And I know that God is going to help us tonight.

And I just... you know, sometimes you go away and you come back and you may have people that come, they want to hear what happened on the trip and different things. But I have much to tell and you know, it’s just that you have to do what is profitable at the time that you are in. And right now the need is far greater to help in certain areas than for me to tell some personal experiences and different things. So, we always have time to talk and tell things but when you see there are far greater needs among the people, then we should try to focus on these things. It’s just something that I think that we need so greatly, not only in the world today and not only in the nation but in our very own lives, is to truly see that we can qualify, you know, in the things that the Word requires of us.

Sometimes we can judge ourselves as being a good Christian because we believe and we are walking in the Truth, we accept the Message, and we love the Lord, and that makes us believers, we are identified with Him. But then a believer is one who is always looking to see progress and improvement in their life, to see victory, to see areas where they are lacking, that they can be strengthened, they can be built up because no believer wants to be a misrepresentation of Jesus Christ. No believer, who loves the Lord and has an experience in realizing what He has gone through for us, what He means to us.

You know, there is a source of our strength as a Christian. There is something that makes us feel that we must stand, even when standing becomes difficult. There is something that makes us feel we must be in the house of God, when we feel there are many reasons why we could stay and we don’t have to be in the house of God. If we don’t have that, then the first thing that comes up, we will always resort to what *we* want to do

and we'll always try to please ourselves. But it's because we love the Lord and we are interested in pleasing Him more than our own self, is why, when something comes up, we are willing to deny ourselves because we don't want to forget what He has done for us.

You know, there is something about human nature that when you are in need and when you are in desperate need, you feel that you should be given all the attention, you feel that you know, there is nothing as important as your situation. And if in that time you see somebody who could help you and neglects you, it would make you feel very bad to think that somebody could help you in your situation and would not even look in your direction.

But then, it's worse that after someone would maybe be more interested in your need and will be touched with your infirmity and help you, and then afterward we become ungrateful and we forget that in our day of need and in our time of need, He Who didn't even have to come down to us, or had to go through what He had to go through that we could come out of the condition that we were in, and then, you know, fail to show our gratitude to Him, then, that would be far worse.

And that is why, what we do, we do it out of love for the Lord, Jesus Christ. And tonight, you know, seeing what the Word of God requires of us and what it is going to take to please God, sometimes we could complain and figure well, you know, it is so hard to live that life and why God this and why God that, and why God asks this and why God wants that? And it's only a person who is still taken up in their own self and all their attention and everything is focused within themselves, upon themselves, and all they are interested in is getting something for themselves, it's a person who talks that way.

But a person who realizes that they are nothing, and that it's only by grace, He let us call Him Father. It's only by grace that we could say we are His servants. It's

only by grace, we could enjoy the privilege that we have as Christian, the future we have to look forward to. And then we realize that He who has done these things for us, then, our life that is so short and is so finite, and is so insufficient in itself, is unable if God gave us a million years, a billion years to live, it will still be insufficient to live worthy enough, or to show back something in the form of works to say, "The debt is paid. We've paid You back Lord; we don't owe You anything anymore." If we had a million lives, they still wouldn't do it.

So, when you see people become disinterested in themselves, you know, disgusted and they find, well life is unfair to them or life is difficult for them, or maybe they're bound up and they can't enjoy themselves as they should, it's because they are still taken up with themselves. The devil still has control over them that makes them so interested in their own self and all what they're looking for as fulfillment, which is only onto a selfish end and which will never really glorify Jesus Christ because the only thing that could glorify Jesus Christ, is a life that will realize it doesn't belong to us but it belongs to Him. We are not our own, we are brought with a price; we belong to Him. And if we do something with a motive for ourselves and to enjoy ourselves, we already begin to misuse His property because that life should be spent for Him.

And, you know, to realize that the very things that we are interested in and are trying to get a hold of, God wants to give to us and has given to us because God knows what we have need of even before we even ask. But the thing is, it takes us being convinced to accept it. And sometimes when you try to reason with God in your carnal mind, that is where questions come. Because God doesn't want us to reason with Him, God wants us to believe Him; that we have to accept that He is interested in us in a way that we are not even interested in our own selves that way. And when God withholds something from you, it's because you don't

really need it at that time, it's not really profitable for you at that time, and it's not that He's not going to give it to you but when He is going to give it to you, it's going to be a blessing to you. And it's something that is not going to take you away from Him or something that is going to cause you to maybe take it and it becomes an idol in your life.

Because sometimes people, they desire so many things that when God would give it to them, they quickly forget Him because they are more interested in satisfying their desire than seeing God Who can give when they are in need, and God Who gives because He is interested that we should have. But what He wants to give to us, He wants to train us to be able to appreciate it and use it in a way that it could be a blessing not only to us but to others, and in so doing, it could bring glory to His Name. And many times, if the things that we are asking, we are not really asking those things for *that* kind of purpose, then we are still asking with the wrong motive.

So, you look around and you see the need for families to become more established, homes to become more established. You know, today you have sociologists, you have marriage counselors in this Age more than any other Age. You have more psychiatrists; the offices are filled. You have more books being written on marriage, you have more programs being conducted to help the family and keep the family together. Because it's something that is under so much pressure, it's so constantly being attacked that you find that the society is falling apart in such a way because more and more, you have more crime, you have more delinquents, you have more of the insane institutions being filled up, you have more youths being turned onto the streets, you have more marriages being broken up, you have more unfaithful living; until it seems people who are Christians, turning unto other religions to find

fulfillment because what they believed doesn't seem to bring fulfillment in their lives to face the challenges.

People don't just want a religion to say, "Well, I'm a Christian because Christians believe in Heaven. I don't believe in reincarnation. I don't believe in, you know, philosophy. I don't want to become an atheist because I believe there is a God." People don't just want religion just to say they have a form of belief. People want religion to face the challenges that they are faced with every day; something to help them to overcome, something to help them to hold their life together.

And when people have something, and the reason that today—even the Message that we claim and we talk about so much, to many people, they cannot seem to cooperate with the Word and yield to the Word that the Word could work through them. Because you realize having the Message in our possession, confessing that we believe the Message, still doesn't help you overcome the things you are faced with, because that was not designed to help you overcome it.

By you submitting to the Message, by you dying out to your thinking and letting the thoughts of God expressed in the Message become the Headship to govern and rule your life, is how God intended for the Word to work through you, and to cause you to overcome the things that you are faced with.

And that is why today, you see so many people, they are looking for the promises, they're looking for the things of God, and as a Minister, it's a difficult situation in trying to get people's minds and hold it in the channel where God wants them to relate to Him; where they will see God the way God wants them to see Him; how they must see Him in a way that they can see what He is, how He thinks, what He intends for them; how He wants them to grow and develop; why He leads them the way He leads them. Because, if we don't see Him right, if we don't understand Him right, we cannot relate to Him right. And that is why we misunderstand each other a

lot many times. Not you and me but I'm talking about human beings trying to relate to each other.

And some people don't like some people. And some people stay for some people, and some people can't even get along with some people. Why? Because to really please somebody and to relate to them, you have to know them, and misunderstanding them always brings a problem. And if you don't want to adjust and accept some people, that they are different and they can't be just the way you may want them to be, then you are going to find you will always get problems relating to them and getting along with them.

And it is the same way with God; God is even more complicated than your brother and your sister because God is on a higher level than you. You don't even see Him. And that is why He said, "If you say you love God and don't love one another who you see, and you relate to, and talk with, who is in the same condition like you, who goes through the same things like you, every day, who is faced with the same problems like you are faced with," He said, "how could you claim you love God and you can't get along with them?" [1st John 4:20 -Ed.]

So, it shows then, that for us to really relate to each other, we have to know each other. And so it is sometimes, we come into relationships, or we get introduced to people the wrong way. And sometimes you see a person, but you never see them and all that they stand for. You never understand why they are the way they are. And you never realize that maybe, the thing that you disagree with about them, is the very thing that God has put there to bless them, and it's causing them to stand the way they are standing and how valuable that is to the economy of God and the purpose of God. Because look how many people of this Age wanted the Messenger of the Age to compromise his stand, and to become more sociable and to become more ecumenical in his belief, and rejected him because he stood for the Word. Yet, that was the very thing to save anybody in

this Age and to fulfill the Word of God, because Paul said, "How could I be a servant of God and please men." And Jesus said, "The world hates Me because I testify against the evil of the world," He said, "you seek the honor of men." [St. John 7:7 -Ed.]

And then you realize then, that sometimes, things that you can't get along with people for, or you find is a fault, is not really a fault. But it's because of the shape that some people are in, and because some people don't have any convictions and don't share certain convictions about certain things because they don't see it as important. And what some people could compromise for in the morning, some people will give their life and influence others to give their life to stand for it because they believe it is a worthy cause when others could trample upon it, because they don't share the same values.

And so you realize that you have some people, they would tell somebody, "You are a fool, You're going to get married. Marriage? You're taking that chance with that man?" And somebody right away, some woman who may have gone through a bad experience in life, who may not even understand the first thing about marriage, who may have not been raised up in a way to believe God and to see that God keeps His Word, and God established that institution (it is the oldest institution in the Bible) and then they have something negative to say about it because they experienced unhappiness, and they have never analyzed their own self to realize the reason they are unhappy, is because they are approaching things the wrong way, or they might have to reap something for something in the past generation.

And so it is that you find that some people, they can't rejoice in some things. Sometimes somebody falls in love and boy it's the happiest thing, the fulfillment in life, it's God blessing them. And then somebody watching them would say, "The hour is late, yes. Look

how people are looking to go and get married and all these different things. People only on flesh. It's God and..." And then they're trying to make something sound spiritual to bring down something else; because they don't want somebody to enjoy what God's blessing them in. Well, if you can't rejoice in what God is blessing somebody with, then how could you expect God to bless you, to begin with.

You see... and that is where many times, people, things become very difficult for them. But the Word of God has always been and will always be, the expressed thoughts of God, the thoughts that cannot change: Heaven and earth will pass away but His Word will not pass away, the infallible Word. And every man who has to progress with God, would have to die to his own thinking and accept the Word.

For there is no way for a man to progress by trying to be self-opinionated, misrepresent the Word, project his own ideas, try to destroy the very Word that God put for him to live by, and then enjoy fellowship with God. Fellowship with God is the basis of the Word of God. Knowing God is to know His Word because God is being revealed in His Own Word. To have progress is to cooperate with the Word, [blank spot -Ed.] to be subjected to the Word. That's a great battle, a great battle in the Christian life. And the time comes and they get married, and their Christianity ends right there. Because, they come into marriage, they come into responsibility and it becomes difficult for them: they can't face this, they can't face that.

They wanted to escape from the loneliness, the disillusionment. They wanted to have a little freedom, a little liberty, they wanted to enjoy pleasure, have a relationship, but they were never ready for responsibility.

But God never intended marriage to be for babies. God never intended marriage to be for immature people. God never intended the sexual relationship to be for

people who are seeking just pleasure, people who take fire into their bosom because they've exposed themselves and opened themselves to all kinds of images in magazines and on the screens and everything else, and they see it, they get themselves aroused, they get their passions excited, they get their whole makeup out of control, and then, as a result of that they can't hold themselves together, so they crash and they fall in the flesh, or they end up, you know, into adultery or fornication or something. And after a while, you find that they begin to have problems they never realized. Because God never even intended sex to be on a pre-marital basis. And all these things are in the Bible.

Maybe we can just turn to a couple of Scriptures, while we take our time here. Exodus 22 verses 16 and 17. It said:

*<sup>16</sup> And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife.*

*<sup>17</sup> If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins.*

So, right away, we see that a man could use his influence, he could entice a young woman. She might not have stayed true to her virtue, she might not have conducted herself decently, she might have had her passions excited, she might have consented to have pre-marital sex, it doesn't end there, the Bible said, "...he shall surely endow her to be his wife."

The society is different today and that is why we have more problems today. Because God is saying if you want to be responsible, or you want to take up the responsibility to go and have that kind of relationship, be prepared to be married one time. See? And He puts the man under obligation to marry the woman, because God is not interested in people exploiting one another sexually. God is not interested in people... Because it is a violation of His will, it's a violation of His principle.

People are sinning against their own body. People are opening up themselves to all kinds of sicknesses and sin. People are bringing themselves into a place where they are destroying themselves, morally and spiritually. When they are thinking it's just a desire or it's just an urge that is being satisfied.

And look at it in the light that it is in the Bible. Now remember, it's God Who gave these laws, it's God Who designed the people, God Who put the organs in the people, God Who put the people and the passions, God Who put the people to be excited, God Who gave the people laws, how they should live clean, how they should raise their children, how they should establish their homes. That same God is the One Who is giving these laws.

Deuteronomy Chapter 22. Turn quickly because I'm going to read, even though you don't find the Scripture. And if we take our time, remember, I can't stand here too long to speak. Verses 28 to 29:

*28 If a man find a damsel who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found;*

*29 Then the man who lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father thirty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days.*

You don't go and do that and then say, "Well, I don't like you again. I see somebody else I like and I realized I made a mistake with you because I've found somebody else who's prettier than you, or has a better job, or I thought I couldn't get through with that person, only to find out now, that person, you know, wants to respond to me." You don't do that with God. And remember, that is not an Old Testament law because it's the same God Who doesn't change. In the Old Testament it's the same God in the New Testament. As a matter of fact, it is magnified.

What it is showing us, it is showing us that God associates sex and marriage together. You don't separate them. God says, if you're thinking about sex, you should think about marriage. God says, if you think about sex without marriage, prepare for problems and trouble and judgment.

Look at Genesis 38. I'll take a little story here to show you something.

Verse 1,

*<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren, and turn to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and he went in unto her.*

*<sup>3</sup> And she conceived and bore a son; and he called his name Er,*

*<sup>4</sup> And she conceived again, and bore a son; and she called his name Onan.*

*<sup>5</sup> And she yet again conceived, and bore a son; and called his name Shelah: and he was at Chezib, when she bore him.*

*<sup>6</sup> And Judah took a wife for Er, his firstborn, whose name was Tamar.*

*<sup>7</sup> And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord slew him.*

*<sup>8</sup> And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.*

And you know that was a law back in those days, so a man's name wouldn't be destroyed from the earth.

*<sup>9</sup> And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.*

*<sup>10</sup> And the thing which he did displeased the Lord: wherefore he slew him also.*

God killed him. See? Because he had a lot of reservations about raising up seed for his brother's name. His brother was wicked. He may have figured, "Man, I'm not raising up seed for that wicked man." And he might have felt justified in that his action, his behavior was right and God should see him in the way he is seeing the situation. Because, why should I raise up seed for this wicked man?

But the thing God was looking at is, why then, if you don't want to raise up seed for your brother's name with your brother's wife, why do you want to live with your brother's wife? Why would you want to look at the woman's body, let her body appeal to you, be attracted to her body, cohabit with her, exploit her sexually, enjoy yourself, gratify your desires, but yet you don't want the responsibility. Why do you only want to have pleasure with the woman and you don't want to raise children?

Sometimes God looks at things differently than the way we look at it. And a man, if he is looking through his desires, he will always want to see himself right. But you see, God intended the marriage relationship to be a responsible thing and sex wasn't to be carried about loosely and for people to indulge in because they're saying, "Well, I'm burning up and I can't control myself." See? Because some people think, "Well, if I can't control myself, if I burn, best I get a wife then." You don't get a wife for that. A woman doesn't chase a man for that either.

And that is where problems come because when you come into the things of God the wrong way, prepare for problems. Because God will not take His laws that He has ordained to function, to be a blessing, to be a preservation for the purity that He made us and intended us to be, who has made in the image and likeness of God to reflect that God, and then take His Word and pervert It because we are not willing to be

responsible enough, or seek God's help in areas where we are weak, or be humble enough to confess to Him that we are weak in certain areas and need His strength.

God will relate to you quicker if you say, "God, I'm weak in the flesh, I need strength. I mean, my soul comes from You but I inherit my body from my parents. I come highly passionate. I come mixed up with all kinds of blood in me or whatever it is, I've come and I'm not responsible for this body." Because you inherited your body. You inherited a diseased body. Your body is perverted, it's been hybridized down through six thousand years.

You serve God in your spirit, you serve God in your soul. You see? And instead of that, when people will try to pervert the Word to accommodate themselves, then the very Word that is put there to strengthen them and give them deliverance, and be a garrison to protect them, they destroy the very protection by trying to misuse and pervert the Word. As the Prophet said, "You don't fool with the Word."

Christianity is learning that life can only exist by the Word. To break one Word is death. Death is not living in sin out there, death is to pervert the Word. Once the Word is perverted, once you are not in accordance with the Word; you're already dead, you're already dying. It may not show itself today or tomorrow but it will come because one Word broken took them out of the Garden of Eden. One Word broken caused every graveyard, every hospital, every war, every sick person. One Word broken. One Word broken caused God to come in the flesh and die to redeem fallen man.

And there is no way to get back in outside of it being every Word. And that is not us trying in our flesh to live by every Word. That is us coming in submission to the Holy Spirit that is given. With the Holy Spirit, Who can live that Word, Who *is* that Word, can live His Life through us. See?

It takes having faith in what God says and relating to it the way God wants us to relate to it. Look at... I wonder if I should read That. Let me read It: Genesis 34, just to back up a little bit.

So what we are looking at is, the responsibility that goes with marriage and showing the disaster of people having pre-marital sex, people trying to relate to the things of God the wrong way. Every human being goes through biological changes. Everybody's body chemistry might be different, needing balance. Different people will go through different kinds of problems but God made provision for that. God understands that.

People don't have to be kind of embarrassed or ashamed or feel they can't approach God with that (see?) because one man's own might be in the flesh, one man's own might be in the spirit. Somebody might get trouble with their passion, somebody might have trouble with their pride. Both will bring man to a downfall. So whatever realm your sin is or your problem is, God made provision for it. But the thing is, God has laid out principles that we should live by. And the reason that so many are failing, so many find it difficult to fulfill the Word, so many feel intimidated when they think of what is required, what the standard is that we should be, they see themselves so unable, like to live there, and to them, they think well, "Nobody knows what I'm going through." Well, maybe I mightn't know and somebody else mightn't know but God knows.

And let me tell you, it's not that He knows and He couldn't do anything about it. He did something about it. That's what the Holy Spirit is given for. See? If It dwelleth, It will quicken your mortal body and bring it to obedience to the Word.

Watch, Genesis Chapter 34:

*<sup>1</sup> And Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she bore unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.*

*<sup>2</sup> And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her and defiled her.*

See that? She went out to see the daughters of the land. Some people just... They get a little restless sometimes: Come to church, that life seems too dull. Every time you're going somewhere, you're looking at somebody in the world and the devil's telling you, "You're not enjoying yourself. They're enjoying themselves more than you." So, after a while, you're trying to get interested in what they do to get them so happy. And you start to get convinced with *their* gospel, and you start to adopt *their* lifestyle, start to become influenced by *their* spirit. You don't want to give up God, but you want some of *that* kind of joy too.

Because it seems like God's only talking about the Rapture and the Resurrection and the Third Pull and the Spoken Word, and you're not getting enough about these things in your life and like you're lacking something, and these are the areas that you want some fulfillment. And everybody here seems so spiritual and angelic, that nobody is really interested in these other areas.

So, you find that kind of conversation comes more readily with people out there because they're not talking about any Rapture, they're not talking about any Resurrection. They're talking about what's in, and who's doing what, and who's getting away with what and who's enjoying this and what this one's doing. And then, after a while, you find that when you starve for that kind of conversation, and you get it in abundance, sometimes you can't control your appetite for consuming it. And sometimes you take in too much of every kind of thing and after a while it gets you sick too.

Sometimes you want to sneak books to read. You want to do this and you're taking things that pollute your own mind because you're trying to be naïve. You're trying to think, well, this is innocent. I'm going to not be

influenced by this or be influenced by that, and you know, there is no harm in reading a book. There might be more danger in reading the book than somebody talking to you. You might see the person's face and their expression, and hear their tone and how they are talking and that might turn you off, and you mightn't be influenced by what they were saying, and you might know something about them.

But you might read a book, and you don't know anything about the person who wrote it, don't know anything about the spirit that they have. Don't know about the subtle methods, how they're expressing it and how they're saying it and how they set you up in the previous chapters to receive that, and the next thing, you're taken hook, line and sinker because you thought that was being safe. See?

And that is why the Bible says you don't lean on your own understanding. [Proverbs 3:5 -Ed.] And there you have your parents to talk to, you have your minister to talk to, you have your doctor to talk to, you have people you can talk to. You have people who you respect who you can talk to that you shouldn't be ashamed. But because you are unable to deal with that first problem, to let that out, that somebody can see you're thinking that way and getting that problem, if you can't overcome that first one, then you won't be able to make another proper step.

Sometimes the deliverance you really need, you just have to be open about some of these things. Sometimes the reason it bothered you the way it bothered you is because you're secretive about it. And you're carrying a bomb inside of you. You're carrying something that is going to lead you to destruction.

Sometimes you make the mistake, you talk this to the wrong people too who would realize you are being troubled with certain things, you are weak for certain things, and they get you to indulge *beyond* the point in

that kind of conversation. And the next thing your spirit gets anointed with that kind of spirit.

God wants us to grow up. God wants us to mature. God wants us to be able to deal with things. A Christian is a person with a pure mind. A Christian is a person that is responsible. A Christian is a person who is not, you know, going to look down on a person and hold them in contempt because they expressed they have a fault or a weakness. Who's righteous that they don't have a fault or a weakness?

Any righteousness any of us has is because of what Jesus Christ did. And which one of us has control over that, to give it to some people and not to other people? We could say, "It's for me, it's for him, it's for him, but it's not for you." Which one of us has that control over Christ's righteousness? He gave to whomsoever He will. It's not who I like and prefer rather than this one.

Bro. Branham said, "Who would be a worse delinquent than me to say, 'God, You should choose this man or you shouldn't choose this man.'" That is sovereign.

God didn't even ask an angel for their advice, much more you and me, to ask us what we think about it. And because He didn't ask us, He doesn't even want our opinion. He's not going to consider it because if He felt it was going to be important and useful He would have asked us. If He felt we could have even given a worthy contribution, He might have honored us by asking us what we thought. But because He knows we are unable even to give a worthy contribution in the matter, He didn't even consider asking us. He just wants us to receive His already given instruction about these things and walk in it.

She went out to see the daughters of the land. She met the son of Hamor the Hivite. He saw her, he took her, he laid with her, he defiled her. You see how the Bible writes it? Progressive – He saw her, he took her,

he laid with her, he defiled her. It ended up, 'she was defiled.'

*<sup>3</sup> And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spoke kindly unto the damsel.*

*<sup>4</sup> And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel for my wife.*

You see, he loved her body, that's what he loved. He loved that he could have exploited her and had control over her, and maybe she looked up to him because he could have influenced her. Because if he really had loved her with respect and *godly* respect, he would have waited until they got married. He would have honored her as a daughter. He would have respected the family she came from. He would have respected the kind of upbringing she had. He would have known he was defiling her by trying to use her that way and making her cheap and making the marriage relationship... But he felt that he wouldn't go to get involved with her, or wanted to—how to relate to her, unless he got what he wanted first, because he was selfish.

No young woman should make themselves cheap or feel that they have to give in to somebody's 'sweet talk', somebody's persuasiveness, somebody who thinks that they are on top of the world, that the world can't get along without them. She should be quick to tell him, "I could get along here without you. You didn't die for me. You don't have any Heaven to put me in and God will take care of me. And right now, I'm not by the side of the road begging with no place to go. And if you're just seeing my body, that isn't all of me because you haven't really started to see me yet."

But you see, when your head is full of nonsense, when you can't control your own desire, when you're not honest with yourself, and when you want to indulge and when you want to call things love that is not real love, and yet, you knowingly want to call it that because

you want to be permissive, and you want to be indulgent. Well, when you're dishonest with your own self, you don't have far to go. When you could lie to your own self and try to influence yourself to go along with somebody else's lies, and make yourself an accomplice, well then you don't even need somebody else to destroy you, you already show you're capable of destroying your own self.

*<sup>4</sup> And Shechem spoke unto his father Hamor, Get me this damsel for my wife.*

*<sup>5</sup> And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come.*

*<sup>6</sup> And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it: and the men were grieved, and they were angry, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done.*

*<sup>8</sup> And Hamor spoke with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him as his wife.*

*<sup>9</sup> And make you marriages with us, and give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you.*

See? One man who couldn't control his passion wanted to alter all of God's laws now because he cannot—he becomes so possessive: he sees something, he's so lustful, he's so covetous, he wants it; that instead of him trying to get some discipline in his own life, he is willing to change and restructure everything, so he could have his own desire.

You know God says you can't be unequally yoked. He's a heathen. And when you've already forsaken your

very God, forsaken your very faith, what are your children going to be raised up as? You will have to deny what you believe in. For what? Sex? That is of your body, but your soul is where your faith is. That is the eternal part of you. Verse 10:

*<sup>10</sup> And you shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade you therein, and get you possessions therein.*

*<sup>11</sup> And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what you shall say unto me I will give.*

*<sup>12</sup> Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as you shall say unto me: but give me the damsel as my wife.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister:*

Every time the act is spoken of it is spoken as folly, it is spoken as a defilement. The Holy Spirit is consistent with identifying it as defilement, as folly. Because it is so God sees sex before marriage. And if you're starting to build on folly, you are starting to build on defilement, think of what it is going to be. And that is why when young men and young women think that they are being wise, then in their own folly of their minds, they'll say, "Well God will understand." And they'll make God somebody who they can influence. They, who can't even control their own passion, want a God that they can control and influence, to see their lack of self-control must be permissible and be tolerated. And they don't see a God Who could lift them up to live a little more honorable than that and above the reproach of sin, and relate to these things the right way.

It is the kind of thinking that comes out of a perverted mind. It is the kind of thinking that comes out of

somebody who is sensual. And that is the kind of wisdom that comes from beneath: it's earthly, it's sensual, it's devilish, it's not pure, it's not peaceable, it doesn't glorify God. That is why the Bible tells you marriage is honorable in all.

If two people, may not even be a Christian but will respect the marriage institution, the marriage covenant, and will marry and try to live with respect for each other, rather than indulge and be permissive, that is still honorable in the sight of God. It is honorable in *all* and the bed is undefiled. [Hebrews 13:4 -Ed.]

The Bible says, God respects those who respect Him, regardless what nation a man is from. God is no respecter of persons. A heathen can call upon God, respecting God and God will honor him. A Christian or one who professes Christianity, calls upon God and doesn't live according to the Word of God, God will not respect him. Do you know why? He *knows* the Truth and is more responsible before God for his actions. Read Romans 2, it tells you.

Well, you know I want to save a little time. You know what went on. It caused murder. The next one I wanted to read, which I wouldn't try to read, was 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 13 with Amnon. He thought he loved the girl so much and all he could think of was sex and she was trying to tell him, "No, ask my father. Ask my father. You see me, you like me, ask my father. Talk to my father. If he gives you my hand in marriage, then we could come into this thing the right way. Our love will be pure then, it will be true then, but don't work folly." She said, "Don't do that."

But his influence was coming from a wrong source; from a man who was full of guile and who could teach him the tricks of deceit, who could teach him the acts of seduction. And some people, they have to... They learn these things today. The Bible says, learning the abominations of the people of the land. [Deuteronomy 18:9 -

Ed.] They see it in films, they see it in books, they see it everywhere, all around them.

And when all these things are presented, people learn it and then they try to experiment with it. Because in their mind, they're thinking they're already influenced, and they feel that there is some satisfaction, there is some fulfillment, maybe, in the experimentation of these things. And so, they will go to such depths of degradation to their own self, trying to seek that kind of fulfillment, which is only in the imagination of their mind because they haven't come to realize that God intended for people—because real love is going to bring trust. It's going to bring confidence. It's going to bring submission. It's going to bring the right kind of leadership. It's something that is going to grow and progress and it's going to get deeper and deeper and deeper.

But if it is lust, if it is something just erotic, it's just going to get more sensual and more devilish, and will not produce anything that is godly. It will not produce anything that will bring real stability. It will not bring any influence that could establish a home. And you are going to find those lives always lacking real fulfillment.

And you see people adopt the policy, "Well, that is my private life. I'm serving God here." No, no. You have it all mixed-up. You're still in denomination. God owns your body, owns your spirit, and owns your soul. And when God's Holy Spirit comes in a person to dwell in them, they become the temples of the living God. And God sanctifies that person before He could even dwell in them. And God's Spirit in them will always control them to the Word.

You realize that God could come into the Prophet's bedroom, or his bed and take him beyond the curtain of time? He wasn't in the cave praying and fasting, you know. He was lying in his bedroom, on his bed with his wife. Because God intends that your private life in there be clean just like your public life out there; it's the same

life. He didn't live two lives. Two lives are double identity. That is pretend – That is Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Is that right?

We're just having a little family talk tonight, right? This is training up your children in the way they should go that when they get old they wouldn't depart from it.

Remember the church is only a collection of the homes; it's only the building that changed. What you are in church is exactly what you are home. You might put on a different suit of clothing, you might comb your hair differently, you might put on an image on your face but the man inside is still the same person.

And that is why the nation is passed redemption, that is why the social condition is what it is today, that is why the church is weak, because the institution of the home, it's right there the battle was lost and broken down. The battle was lost in the home in the garden of Eden, right where the marriage union was corrupted and defiled and broken; that is where it was lost. It was lost right there.

And the Word that has come to us in the last days, is to bring us back there. And before we go back to the physical Garden of Eden, we must come back there in spirit before we go back to the original place. Because if we don't come back there in spirit—that is why it says, if you don't have perfect love, how are you getting there to begin with? You have to be in spirit and nature of being in the physical place. Because it's a man fit and in condition to go there. And that is what the Word wants to cultivate in us to bring us to that place.

So, as we get ready to change a little bit, I thought I would speak on some of this, to try to bring to you and keep our hearts and our minds in realizing that there is a way for us to overcome and there is no area of our lives that we have to think we have trouble, or you know, like we're at a loss at what to do.

This Word that God has sent, is not just to indoctrinate us, or to try to educate us in theology but

it's to bring us to live, that as a young man, unmarried, yet he is a potential husband, he's a potential father, that when the time comes he will take a wife, he'll know how to choose a wife. And you can choose a wife because you have a vision of what a home should be. And you know what is required to bring forth a true family, to continue and to carry out the heritage that has been given unto us as sons of God who knows that this world is going to pass away and there is coming a Kingdom, that we and our off-spring will live in that World.

Because if you believe, you and your household shall be saved, and because that is our heritage and that is our reality; when we think of a wife, or we think of a family, it's not just something that circumstances bring about and we can't help ourselves and we want some fleshly gratification. It's something temporal and you want to—when you approach these things, if you have to choose the same partner at another time, in another world, in another life, you could still do it. And because the Seven Seals have been opened and because God already gave a glimpse of the afterlife, and because God already showed that those who serve with you here, and bring forth children for you here will be with you in the New World, continuing on... Is that the Message? When he went up the stair-case, Hope was There, Sis. Meda was There. They were going to the New World. That is the Message, friend. That is the Message.

Then, for us to live here, we realize why so many people are failing. I'll tell you. A lot of people are trying—they are looking for power for this, they are looking for a manifestation. They want to be vindicated. They want God to use them. And the very thing God is trying to train them and use them for to bring a testimony, to bring glory to His Name, to live with their wives, to raise their families, to establish their homes, proving that they are founded upon the principles of the Word, they understand the Mystery of the union with Christ, they

have come under His headship and His leadership so He can use them; it's the very thing that they failed in and misunderstood. They're looking for some power to come for God to use them with somebody, to see that they are a real believer and they miss the whole thing. They miss the whole thing. Because that is right where God wanted to use them. That is what God gave Adam right there in the Garden of Eden. 1

And do you know this? God said it is not good for the man to be alone. Was Adam alone in that beautiful paradise with all the animals around him, with everything that a man could have? But you see, he had a true nature. He was created with a true nature. He wasn't selfish: "I don't want anybody to come and share in this. All this is for me and me alone!"

See? He wasn't possessive. Though he was happy, he wasn't sad, he wasn't gloomy; he was happy. He was appreciative of what God gave him. But you know something, all that he had there wasn't part of him and there was still a place for real fellowship, there was still a void that only something that was part of him, could fulfill. So when God was going to bring the next creature into existence, it wasn't going to come out of some more dirt, because that was to fill the void. That was, the 'alone' he was alone, was that he would no longer be 'alone' because of the kind of companionship he needed.

You think God knows people that deeply? You think God knows when He gives a man a good job, good clothes, good food, good friends, good house, good land, good money, you think God knows that—good salvation firstly, you think God knows that man still needs something? You think God knows people that closely? You think God is so interested in people?

If people could accept that right there, they don't go fishing. They don't play the lottery. If people could accept that right there, but the reason they get themselves influenced in this, influenced in that,

influenced in that, it's because they haven't really realized that yet. So they still feel insecure and they still are capable of being influenced to take things into their own hands, rather than say, "God, there is still a need in my life that You can meet. I see it in the Bible, I see You do that. I see it is not wrong, I see that You are interested even in those areas of my life. And Lord, I can leave it entirely up to You because I know You are totally capable without any help from me, without any scheme I have to pull, without any trick, without any human influence, without me consulting the horoscopes and match-makers, trying to dream something and all these kinds of things."

How many want to trust God that far? [Congregation says, "Amen." -Ed.] Sure! You talk about perfect faith. When you talk about perfect faith what do you mean? Perfect faith without that? You are a super-duper. Perfect faith makes you rely on God for everything, makes you depend on God for everything, makes you trust God for everything. God knows the only kind of companionship that could fill that void, is one who is part of you. And the Bible says, God says, "It is not good that the man should be alone. *I will make him a help meet for him.*" Or fit for him, or the right kind of help for him. "*I will make the right kind of help for him. I will make a help meet for him.*"

I like that. God took it in His own hands. God didn't put it in the hands of angels; God took it in His own hands: "My son, I will make a help for him. I understand him. I made him. I designed him. I designed his personality. I brought him. I know what is going to get him happy. I know how to take care of him." Sure.

The Bible said, "*But for Adam, there wasn't found a help meet for him.*" And when God decided, "Well I am going to make him his help meet," look at the intelligence, the wisdom of God, moving God in meeting a need in the life of a son. God has one thing on His mind.

You mean to say there was a time when God only had one thing on His mind? Taken up with His son needing a wife, walking in the Garden up and down? And not just a wife because I see him lonely, that, you know, he needs some relationship or something. You think God was giving him to ease sexual tension? God wants somebody sharing his kingdom with him, being co-equal with him. Something that will be part of him, that would be an expression of him.

Why do people get in trouble? They go looking for all kinds of things. And they don't think in every way, of every need, of every situation. It takes people years to find out that God knew what was best for them all along.

Let me tell you, rest your mind. Let your pressure off tonight, open up your valve and bleed that line tonight. Let all that pressure come out. Put your hand in the Master's hand tonight.

And the Bible says, "And God took one of Adam's ribs." He had many ribs, he didn't only have one rib. God didn't take all the ribs he had. God took one of his ribs. The Bible didn't say God took a bone from his body. Like some people say, "That is the best bone in your body." God took one of his ribs. It was a special rib because when Adam saw her, he said, "This is bone of my bones." In other words, this is the choicest bone of all the bones I have. This is bone of my bones. This is flesh of my flesh. See?

You know, when you... I don't know much about it but I have a little idea. When you're cutting or killing an animal like a cow, in the abattoir, they'll have a big diagram of the cow. And to the butcher, it is not just meat. Every part of the cow is a different cut: there is sirloin, there is tenderloin, there is T-bone, there are all the different choice cuts of it.

Well, when Adam said, "This is flesh of my flesh, this is bone of my bone." Because God didn't just take from his feet, because God wasn't thinking about him trampling over his wife. And when some men's minds

get perverted, they'll just walk all over their women. They'll dominate her and try to make her the footstool. And they don't even know how to treat the best thing that God could have given them after Salvation. It shows they haven't even recognized Who the gift came from, what moved God to give them that particular gift, and they haven't even recognized the blessing that God has bestowed upon them.

And because they can't even relate to some of these blessings correctly, it's no wonder why they can't even progress further with God. Because if God gave them the best thing after Salvation and they can't even treat it right, it shows they haven't even salvation to begin with. And sometimes God wants to bring them into salvation so they could know how to treat their wife they have. Because some of them may have come into it the wrong way.

God forgives some people in the world. Some people get their wife in the world, before they know God. But they come to find out, even to reveal God's grace, that God was gracious to them, but God has a provided way and the right way will always serve God. And to show you how God is interested in keeping that union together, that God knows even though the husband or the wife may not serve God, they might be an unbeliever, God says if they are content to live with you, let them stay. [1st Corinthians 7:12-13 -Ed.] He said that the marriage is sanctified and the children are made holy even though their partner is an unbeliever. Because God is so interested in holding the home together. God can only tolerate and allow that because of His interest in holding the home together, you know, that His children will be able to benefit. If they cannot benefit from all of His grace, at least, part of His grace that they don't be further hurt. He will still let a blessing come to them.

When you see God so interested in keeping the home together much more you get a wife in Christ when you're

serving God. Tell me how you could be irresponsible. Tell me how God could bless you if you can't treat your wife right? See? Some people are yet to discover how deeply selfish and self-centered and self-opinionated they are. And how intolerant of others who need their help and their leadership and their guidance, that if they tried just to live by example and be more obedient to the Word that could let loose the Holy Spirit to work in the home and among the family, that God could do great things for them; rather than standing there without even being an example, but yet trying to order this and order that, and command this and command that, when God is expecting them to walk and live as an example and express their faith that they have in God Who gave that Word and to reflect that very God Who says, "Husbands, love your wives *as* Christ loved the Church and *gave* Himself for It."

And when He died for the Church, the Bible says, "While we were yet sinners, He died for us." It wasn't a glorious, spotless Church He died for, it was a Church fallen in sin to redeem and take out of the pawn shop, so that He could wash with the water of His Blood. Think of it.

See how Christ-like we can be? See how Christ-like some of us are? See the virtues we say we possess sometimes, that we're looking for the Power to come down upon? And every day God is trying to knock on the doors of some of our hearts to show us, look at our condition, look where we are, look how long we are in that one spot, we can't move out from there yet.

When Adam saw Eve, he said, "This is bone of my bones. This is flesh of my flesh. This was the help meet." The Word 'help meet', comes from two Hebrew words: one means *a help*, and the other one means *agreeing to him*. So it's *a help agreeing to him*. When God is giving a man a wife, he has no fear of spoil. When a man says God gave him a wife and every minute he's suspicious,

he's this, he's that, he's fearful, he's jealous; something is wrong with him. Something is wrong with him.

When Adam saw that, he said, "Therefore shall a man leave his father, leave his mother, and cleave unto his wife." Look, that was spoken in the Bible before they even had children, before a son could be married after that. Because, if somebody wants to take a wife and they're irresponsible and they haven't come to the place where they can go forth to establish their own home, and still want to expect their father and their mother to mind them and raise their children, they are not ready for what they want to go into yet. Because that is the very reason for the institution of the home; that they can grow-up right there and be prepared and ready, and when the time comes for them to take a wife, they are capable to go forth in faith in establishing a home because they had the right upbringing in preparing them for that stage of their life that they were going to go into.

If God is going to take us to a new civilization, He better prepare us here to take us There. Why do you think we have the Holy Ghost here? Why do you think we have the experiences here? Why do we have training and responsibility here? Why do you think St. Paul said if you can't even handle a matter right here, how are you going to judge angels? God trains you with all those things here because you're going There to take a responsibility. It's the same way when He deals with you in the natural. It's the same way.

Sometimes you see people, they love their car, boy, they love their house, they love their job, they love their personal possessions but they have problems every day with their wife or their husband. It's strange. When they talk about... I love my job, but I love my friends, and it seems like they love everything else so easily because sometimes when it is really called upon them to not think about their own but to live for someone else, to be sacrificial, to put someone else before them, to take the

responsibility and to become interested in someone else, it's so difficult.

And the Bible says, "Can two walk together except they agree." They have to agree in every part because God was going to join like with like. In the Old Testament, you couldn't yoke an ox and an ass together. You couldn't take one animal and hybrid it with another animal. God was against that.

And Paul takes the same natural law and brings it over in the spiritual realm and says, "A believer should never be unequally yoked with an unbeliever." There's no way it's going to work. It's somebody holding on to their understanding *more* than holding on to God's Word. And they're going to hold on that so strongly and determine that God should change His mind to accommodate them. They have gone as far as they are ever going to go with God if they can't let go of their thoughts to take God's Word, because God's Word could save them. God Word could heal them. All their own thoughts exalting above God's Word could only bring death to them. That is what brought death to begin with. That is a spirit that cannot be submissive to the Word of God. That is a spirit who wants their own desire more than God's will.

When it comes to those things, we have no thoughts coming, we have no reason coming. We ask God for obedience. We ask God to purge us of a rebellious spirit, a compromising spirit, a spirit that will reason with God's Word. We ask God to free us from that. Because if you don't see that as a bondage, if you don't see that as a handicap or as something that is going to retard you and shut you out of the economy of God, and you're trying to keep it and make provision for it, you're doing yourself more harm. If you are sowing to the wind, you're going to reap a whirlwind. [Hosea 8:7 -Ed.]

You're going to find when the day of trouble comes and the things that you put before God can't help you and you call upon God, God is going to let you know you

were using Him for convenience all along. He would say, "The thing you put before Me, let that save you. Let that heal you. Let that put you in Heaven. All that you have put before Me. For thou shall have no other God before Me." *Anything* above God is a god in your life. Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen." -Ed.]

I just want to make sure we get that across. You see, the same God that makes a command upon your life gives you the ability to fulfill what He asks of you. God is not unreasonable. God doesn't ask of you anything that He hasn't made provision for you to fulfill. And that is why, when you judge yourself and say, "I can't do that."

God says, "Yes, sure you can't do that. I can do it. But I want to do it through you. Submit to Me and it will be done. That is how I intended for it to be done." And right there you are going to find out how much you love Him and how much you are willing to submit to Him.

Paul says there are five things: *fellowship, communion, concord, part and agreement*. He says, "What could righteousness have with unrighteousness? What could light have with darkness? What could the temple of God have with idols?" And he made five contrasts and he shows us in the Scriptures here. *Fellowship* is sharing. Participation means *sharing your lives with each other*. God expects people to come into a relationship to be able to share themselves with each other in real interpersonal relationships. But some people, they don't mind if they give you all that they have as far as their possession goes, as long as they have in abundance and could share and it wouldn't hurt them or deprive them. But when it comes that they have to give up themselves, it's right there you find out how selfish they are.

*Communion* is always translated as fellowship too. He says, "What communion could light have with darkness?" But communion here, is a more personal word than fellowship. So he changes the word from

fellowship to communion. It means *having the same thing in common, partnership, mutual association, close relationship, intimate interaction*. Not just to be sociable, not just to be diplomatic with each other, not just to kind of respect each other's views to a point until it becomes offensive. It's more personal. It means *sharing yourselves personally*.

Then he says, "What *concord* could Christ have with Belila?" That word means... It literally means *to blend voices together* (like a choir, like a symphony). The English word *symphony* comes from that word, *concord*. It is a root from that – To blend voices together, which speaks of harmony. The opposite to that is disharmony and discord.

A real relationship for two to be together, for two to be walking together, when God gives you the right kind of help, it's going to be something that a man could fellowship with. Not just to gratify sexual desires, not just because you're burning up, not just because you can't contain, not just because you're feeling that you're getting old, no. God never used one of those things as a requirement for marriage.

What *part* hath a believer with an infidel. Part means *a share or portion*. Like two parties in agreement, they each have a part of the contract, like the two parts of the Chinese ticket. They have the potential for full harmony. They have the potential for total union.

Adam and Eve were being reunited because he was incomplete without her. She was part of him. They were two halves of one whole. God took from a certain part of the man; a choice part. He didn't take from the man's head because He didn't want the woman to rule the man. He took from his side, close to his heart. He took the rib right next to his heart; one of his ribs He took because He wanted to design the right kind of help for him, so he would have no fear of spoil.

Could you see that is what Christ is to us tonight; the kind of wife we have to be to Him? The reason

denomination is not in the picture, they are not part of the Word; they are part of the system. But the Bride has to be part of the same Word. He doesn't want problems. And God is patient, He waited all these years, became the Ancient of Days. He could wait! That when He chose a wife, even in the most evil Age, when every church that are claiming they love Him, is unfaithful to Him and can't obey all of His Word, He's going to choose one who will obey every Word, who will deny herself completely to serve Him and He will be glorified in her.

So many times we come to times like this. And I've preached this here for you and especially for my brother and sister tonight that they could see that it's not just marriage, or somebody got through, or somebody's papers got stamped; it's God. He is still raising a standard. And the Word that we are called to fulfill, God equips sons of God with the character and they're going to live that Word to show they have the Holy Ghost. And they're going to prove that God keeps His Word and He's not guilty of a breach of promise. And that there'll be a people in this Age to cross over into that Civilization. Sure, that is how it's going to be, friend.

And until people can realize that many are looking at it carnally still, many are just trying to look at it socially, many are just still in a Hollywood boyfriend-and-girlfriend atmosphere, God wants to bring them into real love that has never changed, to know real love, to know the Lord, Jesus Christ, to know the real love that will bring real commitment in the lives of people, He says, "And what agreement..." Agreement means *to sound together, to be in one accord, to be covenanted, to be of the same nature.*

You look and see. Do you have *fellowship* with Christ? Do you have *communion* with Him? Is there *concord* between you and Him? Do you have *part* with Him? Are you in *agreement* with Him? You have to be in It first, before you could be with one another. Because only then, only then, can we truly fulfill His work.

This is the Age, the Marriage of the Lamb is come. What we reflect as marriage, is our concept of the relationship of God and His Bride. Do you realize what I'm saying? What we express as marriage, is our concept of the relationship of God and His Bride. And if what we express is perverted, it's because our revelation is perverted. Because a father is to reflect fatherhood into his home that his sons can see what a real father is and walk step by step into the vision, until they become a father. Real motherhood is a mother to stand there and live out that mystery of motherhood that a young girl growing up can see how to serve her husband, can see how to treat her children, can see how to guide the home, can see these things being expressed in the role of real motherhood before her.

That is why problems come, because God wants the children to know there is something real. God wants the unbelievers to know there is something real. God wants this generation to know that there is something real. It's not just in word, it's not just a philosophy; it's a reality. All that God says is being manifested. God's thoughts are being expressed. It's becoming a living manifestation as a witness that His creative Word is being materialized. It's here. It's not to be argued and debated upon. All argument and debate ceased. God says, "Here they are. Look at the people. Look at what I Have spoken out of My Word. Here is the fulfillment of it. There is no debate about it. They are written Epistles read of all men." [2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:2-3 -Ed.] Is that what the Bible says? See?

Think about when people get into, 'this church and that church, and this idea and that idea and this...' They miss the whole thing clean. Because God put us here to live this Word and God has revealed these Things so we might live this Word. Let's bow our heads.

Our gracious heavenly Father, we've come to the end of this service, this part of it, Lord, speaking this to the general assembly tonight, using this opportunity as we

approach You, to ask Your blessing upon a young man and a young woman whom You have drawn together, who are taking a new step in life and advancing on to a further stage of their walk with You, that You might reveal Yourself to them in a greater way and to show them that You Who began the work in them, will perform it even to the day of Jesus Christ. And that You have already made provision and supplied every need for every step of the journey that we would take and every circumstance and condition that we would be confronted with along life's pathway. And You who said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you, but lo, I'm with you always, even unto the end," You are here with us to help us through it all.

There is no reason why we cannot be overcomers in this Hour. There is no reason why we have to have defects. We might not be sick in our bodies, our marriage might be sick, our home might be sick. Our revelation might be perverted that is producing this sickness and the deformity in our lives, Lord.

But dear God, You are our Healer; not only in physical healing but healing of the soul, healing of the mind. When You are here, You can make every crooked thing straight. You, Who, dear God, can bring us to be really focused; You, Who, Lord, can renew our faith and bring us into a true relationship with You, that will grow from strength to strength with each passing day, causing You to be unveiled and see this great lovely Christ Whose image we are beholding, that we can be changed into that very image; that, when You look at us, You can say, "This is Life of My Life, this is Spirit of My Spirit. This is works of My works, this is Word of My Word, faith of My faith and virtue of My virtue"; to see the very feminine Spirit being revealed in another Body, Lord.

Gracious God, may as we would come to You now to ask Your blessing upon our brother and sister, Lord, may You touch them in a special way tonight, in their

hearts, that in the days to come, Lord, these words that were spoken tonight, would mean something to them, and it would reflect through them, that those whose lives they've crossed paths with and where You will have their light to shine, God, this Light would shine over the darkness, that people wouldn't have to be disillusioned and without hope. And many who are hungering and thirsting but are so confused with so many misrepresentations will know that there is a reality. And it would not just be another explanation, they would see it living in people, Lord. God, we desire to be that.

Heal the homes that are hurting tonight. Heal the relationships that are strained and all stressed out, and filled with tension, where homes that the enemy has attacked, Lord, where lives are being frustrated and people, oh God, are finding themselves unable to enjoy the peace and the blessing and the relationship and the harmony that You have given unto them, and they are being robbed of it by the enemy who has blinded them and is trying to mislead them, and make them try to live independent of each other, though they live under the same roof.

God, may tonight, Your Holy Spirit just move down in hearts. And may, oh God, as people would approach their homes tonight, they would go back home determined that they will not, Lord, allow their homes to continue on in anyway, or be governed by any spirit or influence that is not of You, that is trying to take them away from what You have called them unto. But in faith as they seek and humble themselves and submit to You, God, would You give them the key to unlock every door and lead them on from victory unto victory, that they could enjoy all of the blessings that You have given unto them through this Word. Grant it tonight, Father.

May Your Holy Spirit, Lord, touch Your people. Touch them, oh God, where they might be hurting. Lord, where there are those, Lord, who are looking for a way to get a

little deeper, they can see an entrance tonight, that they can enter in a little deeper, oh God, and see that reflection of Christ become more vivid, more real, more distinct, that the influence out of their lives can grow stronger; Lord, that their witness can be effective for You. Grant it tonight, Father.

Grant it we pray, that when we look across the Assembly, Lord, we can see homes, we can see men in their positions leading their homes into real stability, oh God, the right kind of leadership because You are the Head. Not them trying to take headship without You being their head, Father; or women who are failing to realize that You have given them a place that You might glorify them, might make them a help meet unto the man, and they will stay in that channel, and let You lead them, Lord, into a life of submission, where they could experience the liberty and the freedom, and not be afraid of being dominated. And even though God, some may have unsaved husbands. You said women with their chase conduct coupled with fear can even save their unsaved husbands.

Oh gracious God, let us see the power of this Word work, where it could find a bedding ground Lord, of rich faith to [No audio from 2:09:23 to the end -Ed.] their own understanding, their own reasoning, and pull down all these strongholds of imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God, have the readiness to avenge all disobedience, Lord, that Your obedience might be fulfilled. Grant it, Lord.

We thank You Father, for Your Truth. We thank You for the Light that You have sent. What darkness and what gross darkness we might have been in, that which covers the world now, had it not been for the grace that let Your Light shine into our hearts. You who commanded the Light to shine out of darkness to shine into our hearts, to give us the Light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May we ever keep this Treasure sealed up in our hearts, earthly

vestures that we will not sin against Thee, Lord. Grant it we pray, Father, in the Name of Jesus Christ, we ask it. Amen.

I wonder if Bro. Glaude [Bro. Anthony Glaude -Ed.] would come and sing this little song, *Many Waters Cannot Quench Love*. And Bro. Hayden Annisette and Sis. Claudia Alexander, come forward by God's grace. [Bro. Glaude sings, #513 Many Waters Cannot Quench Love - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Amen. Praise His wonderful Name. Amen. You see, I just wanted to know if their family were here. I know this is a very special time for them. Such a nice quiet feeling here tonight and I just want to say this. You see our precious sister here, she has obeyed me as her father. She has listened to me over these years, sitting under the ministry and tried to walk as obedient as she could walk. And when she had to be corrected on certain things, there was no retaliation or even rebellion because of the respect that she has had for the ministry and the way she conducted herself in the Assembly.

And I was just thinking tonight, you know, I don't know how obedient or faithful she is at home with her own family, but I am glad her parents are here tonight. I believe she is a true, true Christian girl. And you know, she doesn't talk much, she hardly ever speaks. I don't know if anybody here... If she even kind of let herself out, really. But you know, as a Minister, God lets you see things in people, see the way they are, that you could appreciate that kind of nature, and why people are that way. And you don't desire them to be maybe, like somebody else because you can see their own uniqueness in the way God has made them.

But I say this tonight because you, in the assembly sometimes, you don't know what a person is. Sometimes why it means something to a minister who's like even a father in the assembly to see one of the young girls coming to the place of being married. And you see a life who has been receiving the Word, being cultured by the Word, being cut by the Word and being

shaped by the Word. And when the time comes, it gives a sense of pride in your heart when you see one who walks in the home in obedience could have been independent, could have been relating to here as just a place to come to church and hear the Word and believe the Message but nobody would control my life and tell me how to live my life; you see someone who would take the Word as though It is the Word of God.

And yet, we have had such little conversation and spend such little time together in comparison to the amount of years she has been in the Assembly. But yet, in the little time that was spent, yet you know, there is no fear of taking her anywhere, of how she would conduct herself, of the standards, the ideals of the Assembly, and what you would like the public to see that you have any fear that it would be misrepresented for some selfish reason or something. And when you see an attitude like that, you see a character like that, it does something to you. It gives you hope and gives encouragement to stand and labor in the midst of all kinds of circumstances and conditions.

And to tell you the honest truth, I like to speak the truth. I had to be patient, had to even let go of some of my reservations for my precious brother here. And if it had not been to see his commitment to the work and his commitment to the Word here, and not just his attendance in service, but in times when he personally had to sacrifice and even labor so that the work here can go on and progress, especially in time of need when he is called upon. God let many of those circumstances show that there was something down inside of him that was real, that was genuine, that was unselfish because you have to see things.

I guess, well, you would have gone to speak to her father. You would have had to look him over, to talk with him, check him out, and check out his spirit. When he took her to the family there, they would have had to scrutinize her, look at her, see if it is what they expected

of the type of choice he should make. Talk to him and see how deep are his convictions about the type of responsibility he wants to take upon himself or if it's just something trivial, something on the surface.

And so, tonight, God has given us ways, as parents, as elders, as people who have walked this way before, to look at some of these things; that when we know, we know how God sees it and we know what God looks for in it. And when you see it, identify it, you know God approves it. That is why Eliezer could have said, "This thing proceeded forth from the Lord."

They didn't have to get any matchmaker, they didn't have anybody trying to create opportunities to meet each other. They didn't have to, you know, ask somebody to put in a good word for them or something. As a matter of fact, it was people who had had other opportunities, and doors that looked open, that God put obstacles and God had shut. That God let them see He wouldn't let them have their own way, when He had chosen for them and revealed to them what He had chosen for them. Those who could bring their will in submission to God's will, and they would begin to see that my being in obedience to the Holy Spirit, how God could bring something real. And that the Word is still true. Then your faith is in God. It's the same way you have faith for salvation, the same way you have faith for marriage. Because it's the same God provides both in order to en-rich a life that could please God and fulfill God's purpose.

So tonight, as we would ask God's blessing upon this relationship, giving our sanction we believe proceeded forth from the Lord as they come here tonight, even before witnesses in a formal way to have a formal betrothal.

The Bible speaks of betrothal. It means *to woo a virgin*. It's what it literally means: *to woo a virgin*. When the Word says, "I betroth you." It means somebody is wooing a virgin, come to carnal sense. Because the

carnal things always come off of the real thing. Satan can't create anything. He only perverts what God has created.

It is always nice when you see young men and young women, learn to stay with the Word, and realize it is only the beginning of a new stage of their life, of a new realm of experience that God wants to reveal Himself in a further way, in a different way, in another way to bring their revelation with Him more complete. That is why God came to Abraham in many different names. Because when He revealed Himself in one way, He revealed Himself by one name. And in order to reveal Himself by another name, He had to give Him a different kind of experience because of the covenant and the relationship that God wanted to establish in Abraham to bring Abraham to a place where he and God could be in real harmony and fellowship.

And so we see these Things mean something to us. It's not just church, it's not just religion, it's not just some way that we try to do to be different. But it's a way that we realize that in the beginning before the beginning there was a Truth, God existed; that God Who expressed His Word, has given us that Word to live by. It was lost for all these years but God promised to restore It in the last days. It has come back to us and has called us out from the world.

Now, God is teaching us and imparting It to us: how to live, what real life is, how to relate. Taking away all the deformities away from us, bringing us to an experience, that which He originally intended for us. And to Him, we give all praise tonight.

I know God blessed our brother with a real lovely wife. Gave our sister a husband that she could respect, that could rule over her, deal with her according to knowledge. And as they have come to have that formal betrothal tonight, make an open and public pledge of love to each other, which they have already made, and already have confessed their past to each other, and

have already done these things privately, which was not for us, that was privately for them.

Now they've come before witnesses, that they might be made known in the Assembly and publicly sanctioned. It was known that this young man and young woman have, in the sight of God, seeing the working of the Holy Spirit, bringing them to a place of union, that would be further consummated when the time of the marriage is appointed.

But in the Bible, a betrothal was just as binding as the marriage. To break the betrothal and to go into another relationship, was to be guilty of adultery. God saw it so. That's why the Angel told Joseph, "Take Mary thy wife," even though they were just espoused to each other. In God's sight, when a man makes a vow to a woman and she accepts that in good faith, in the sight of God, that is binding in Heaven. It is not a license to go and live together as man and wife. That is a curse to become involved in such practice before marriage. That is honorable and is right in the eyes of God in the marriage covenant, when the two become one flesh.

So God richly bless you all tonight. As we would just read a little portion of the Word here for them. Hold your right hands, right there.

[Hosea 2:19-20 -Ed.]

*<sup>19</sup> I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I would betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in justice, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.*

*<sup>20</sup> I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.*

[Ruth 1:16-17 -Ed.]

*[<sup>16</sup> ...For where thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: [and] thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:*

*17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will  
I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more  
also, if ought but death part thee and me.*

Amen. I would just like to pray with them. The working of Your Holy Spirit, that You, Who in the beginning said that it was not good that man should be alone. You said, "I will make a help meet for him." You who took one of his ribs, dear God, fashioned a bride and sent her unto him, dear God, that he could express with confidence, "This is bone of my bone, this is flesh of my flesh."

You taught us that You are the unchanging God, that You are the same yesterday, today and forever. When we look, Lord, in Your Word and see You dealt with one son of God in a certain situation, we could have confidence that whenever that situation would confront itself again to another son of God, he can place himself in the Scriptures and believe, that You are still the same, and does the same, and have confidence to believe You and expect from You, Lord, that You would meet the need in his life the same way, by the same standards, Lord.

So dear God, we believe You have worked in the hearts of our Bro. Hayden and our Sis. Claudia. How we love them, Lord. How we've seen a desire in their hearts to live for You and to serve You. How we've seen the efforts that they have made in Your service. How we have seen the effort that they have made, Lord, to conduct themselves righteously, honorably, be examples, Lord, to walk, dear God, in this Word of Truth that You have sent. Submitting to it, dear God, that they might become that very Word.

We thank You for them today, as they stand in this stage of their journey in their Christian experience, this junction in their lives, dear God, coming here tonight to have this formal betrothal, knowing they have already, in Your Presence, made their vows to each other, and

now, here before your people, oh God, before many witnesses.

Dear God, we believe this relationship proceedeth forth from You. We stand here together with them, Lord. We ask Your blessing upon them tonight, over that pledge of love that they have made and the commitment that they have made to each other, here tonight.

Gracious God, let it be pleasing. Let it be acceptable in Your sight to such an extent, oh God, that they would see Your great hands leading them Lord and working with them, Lord, in a closer way Lord, in a deeper way that they can walk with greater confidence, to see You lead them down through life's journey, one stage unto the next, Lord. And dear God, as they have their plans to go forth, to make preparations, Lord, for their weddings, for their home, dear God, that You would lead them, that You would guide them, that You would provide and supply their every need. That Your great Presence, oh God, would cause their hearts to beat as one.

Lord, give them understanding that they could relate to each other, Lord. Lord, in a conscious way Lord, in an unselfish way, dear God, that Your love would cause their hearts to be so knitted, Lord, that they will be so filled with joy and gladness, and experience this great rich blessing that goes with a real union, Lord, a real relationship, a real marriage.

Almighty God, strengthen them in their life of service for You. Dear God, may You so inspire them that they would look into the Scriptures, that they would get a hold of the principles and the requirements and what it would take. Fortify them and equip them as they brace themselves to prepare to fulfill this responsibility, Lord, this great obligation that they have undertaken.

Grant it tonight. Keep them faithful. Keep them true. Keep them unspotted and unblemished, in the things of the flesh. May Your Holy love, Lord, govern their lives. May, Dear God, when the time comes, the day would be

set, they would return dear God, Father for the wedding ceremony, that they would stand with even greater convictions.

They stand here tonight Lord, with great faith and confidence that You who began this work, would perform it and bring it to its completion, in its fullness. Grant it, Lord. May they find real fulfillment in their relationship. May they find a revelation of You in a deeper way, Father, that would cause their life to be more rooted and grounded, and become more effective in Your service and each one influencing the other to live for You and to serve You, that their lives would be an example, be an influence and would show forth the beauty and the purity of a true Christian relationship in this dark, evil and perverted generation that we live in. Young men and young women walking in direction will not have any fear. But by seeing godly examples, they can approach with confidence all these things that You have promised. Grant it tonight, Lord. We ask these blessings upon them, for Your honor and for Your glory, in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

They have a little engagement ring here, a very nice, lovely ring. It's very nice to see young ladies wearing this ring. And I guess when she goes out to work maybe tomorrow, everybody is going to notice at work, notice something new about her. Maybe she might have a lot of questions she may want answered. Maybe she might draw attraction from different quarters but it's going to show that she already belongs to somebody, and is already betrothed to someone. And this is a good sign, even to keep a lot of people off. Amen.





