

garment with violence," says the Lord of Hosts. Also in **Hebrews 13:4** *4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.* You see, when a couple decides to get married and make wedding vows before men and most of all before God, this is a serious commitment you are making. Make sure this person is the one that you really want to marry; to be with the rest of your life. Remember that it is not the preacher that is uniting you in marriage, but our Almighty God who is joining you together. God has said that what He "*joined together, let no man put asunder.*" (**Matthew 19:6**) You see, a wise couple will be diligent in building, developing, and nurturing their relationship and their bond as husband and wife. "Happily ever after" doesn't just happen over night. It takes diligence, selfless love, and effort to build a strong, loving, lasting relationship in marriage. If a couple truly wants their marriage to be the very best they can dream of, then God will have to be in the marriage. God and His Word will be at the center of the daily choices made by both the husband and the wife. God will be first in their lives, with one another second. The very best marriages are ones in which the husband and wife walk

together in the Lord, always serving Him together in His kingdom, praying to Him together, studying His Word together, seeking Him together. There are many blessings in marriage and with these blessings come responsibilities. The vows you make on your wedding day are binding until the day death parts you; never to be broken. Even if some do not take these vows seriously, please remember that our God does take these vows which you have made very seriously. God expects us to remain faithful to our vows. **Eccl. 5:4-5** *4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed. 5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.* Are you cherishing the mate God has blessed you with? Are you encouraging one another daily to serve the Lord?

By Bill Davis

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
 10:20 a.m.
 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
 Charles Kelley
 Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
 Eddie Cook
 Bill Davis
 Pat Goguen
 Neil Ledbetter
 Jeff Nunn
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 Rusty Scott

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Making a Godly Marriage

About four weeks ago, I this groom be a godly had the honor to walk my husband and let God be first little girl down the aisle to be in his life and marriage so he wedded to a young man she can make wise and just had grown up with. The bride decisions for himself and his to be had her pretty white wife? Will the bride be a dress with all the glitter and wise, godly wife who puts glamour that most brides God first in her marriage and wear on their wedding day. in her life so she can be the The groom had a nice black wife that God intended her to tuxedo on and was dressed be? Will she walk in such a well for this special occasion. way as to let God's Word All of the family members direct her in making godly from both sides were there, decisions by putting her including their close friends family first? Will she be whom they grew up with. As unselfish, gentle, and always, during the wedding a hospitable to those she a lot of pictures were taken and greets? Will she be humble a lot of food was eaten. Most and kind? God introduced the of all, the wedding cake was act of marriage between a cut so all of those there man and a woman. God's would get to share in this plan for marriage is the union special occasion. But as I of one man and one woman watched I sat and pondered, for life. (**Matt. 19:3-9**) God is God going to be the major intended for the two to part of this marriage? Is He become one. The woman was going to be the glue that will to be a help mate to the man hold this marriage together all the days of their marriage. when times get tough? Will **Genesis 2:18-24** *18 And the*

Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 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." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

In our society, the divorce rate is out of control, especially in the Lord's Church. When we stand before God and a preacher to say our vows, do we really mean what we say? Are we just saying these vows to hurry up the wedding so we can get out of the church building and go about our lives? Are we telling our mates the truth when we stand there and look one another in the eye as we say these precious words? Are we putting God first in our marriage when we get married by being honest with each other, or are

we just going through the motions? There will be some who will say, "Why do I want God to be part of my marriage?" Take an honest look around and you will see the many marriages that end up in court due to one or the other not taking their marriage vows seriously. In this country, our mind set in marriage is a throw away attitude; if I don't like who I married I can just throw that person away and start over again. When both parties are Christians they are united as one with God. Those who are truly one with God have unity and peace in their marriage. When times get tough, such as financial difficulties or illness, this couple can cope with with these heartaches better than the non-believers. When a man is strong in the Lord he is not afraid of what this old has to offer or throw at him. When times get tough, the godly man will fall to his knees before God asking for strength, guidance, and courage to keep him going. A godly man will seek to know God's Word and will take the responsibility as the leader in the home; the head of his wife. **(Eph. 5:23)** He will be a spiritual leader in the home. **(Joshua 24:14)** As a godly man he will treat his beloved wife as the weaker vessel with tender love and give her the honor and respect she deserves. As a godly man with his wife, he will try to please her in all that he does with her on his mind all the time. As godly man he will always look at his wife as his help-mate, his lover and his best friend. When God is part of this marriage they will always be as one, "flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone." They

will always be as one, they will never use the word "Me," it will always be "We." A godly man will take care of his wife as one one who takes care of his own body and takes care of her no matter the cost, till death do us part. Yes, when God is part of any marriage a godly man is a blessing from God to his beloved wife. He will always stand by his wife. When a wife is a godly woman she is a blessing fro God Himself, She is like the fragrance of a rosethat all will want to be around. A godly wife will seek God and His ways for her life. She will submit to her husband. **(Eph. 5:22-33)** Proverbs 31:10-31 best describes the character of a godly wife toward her husband when God is part of their marriage. A wife of noble character is worth far more than rubies; her worth you cannot put a price on. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value; she is full of wisdom and her life shows it. She is like a merchant ship bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark, she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it, out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. Yes, a godly wife knows how to manage the home and care for her family, always tending to their needs. She is always aware of the needs of her family and is there to see that they are well kept. A godly wife has her heart centered upon seeking first the kingdom of God and those things which are above. **(Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-2)** A godly wife shows her love and respect for her husband through her words, deeds, and her re-

sponse to his leadership in the home. The heart of her husband can safely trust in her. Her strength and dignity do not come from her amazing achievements; they are the result of her reverence toward God Himself. In this country, the physical appearance counts for so much of a woman. This is sad because so many will miss the honor given to them by the husband in marriage. Her attractiveness comes entirely from her character and heart. **Proverbs 31:30** *Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

Marriages today have about a seventy-five percent chance of failing. This is sad because God never intended for marriage to be so difficult for two people to live together as one. Many couples do not take their wedding vows seriously. It is as if they do not intend to be true in their marriage for the long haul. **Malachi 2:13-16** *13 And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and crying; so He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the Lord has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's*