

Courtship, Betrothal and the Lordship of Jesus Christ

By

Neville Salvetti

The following prophecy was given to me as I was writing this book and contains God's promise to those who follow Him in these relationships of betrothal and marriage:

I have given you a partner for life.

Love them as I love them, as I have commanded you to love

Serve Me by serving them as I do

Out of love for them

Listen to My Holy Spirit

As He guides you in this relationship

So that I can Bless it

Because it follows Mt Will

And I can use it to serve Me

To bring healing to others and further My Kingdom

If both seek me in this relationship

You will have the fulfilment I desire for you in this relationship

And it will reflect My Glory and purposes in all it does

Neville Salvetti (22 April 2007)

From before creation your life was known to God and planned by Him. In that plan was a person to marry. God knew who it was and planted in your heart an image of that person so that your spirit would recognise them and 'jump for joy' when you met them.

This book hopes to help you recognise this person and inform you how to behave in the betrothal stage of this precious relationship God has planned for you.

May it bless you as it has blessed me in the writing of it.

Neville Salvetti

A woman gives up a great deal when she marries:

Career

Security

Family

Friends

Her Local Church fellowship.

She needs to see that her future husband will step into the space left in her life through her giving up these things.

In the betrothal period the future husband must give her the confidence that what she has given up to marry him he will replace with equal or better.

The way you relate in the betrothal period may make or break the marriage.

If both follow God's principle, for the relationship and the husband builds up the future wife's security, so she trusts in him, the marriage will begin on a secure footing.

To do this, deliverance of one or both of the betrothed may be necessary to remove things from the past Satan may use against them in the marriage.

The betrothal period is the foundation for the marriage and will only be as successful to the degree both are willing to work at it on a Godly way. You will reap what you sow and what sown into the betrothal will be reaped in the marriage

Sow wisely and you will reap a happy marriage. Sow unwisely and you may better off not being married.

Definitions used in this book

Courtship

This is Satan's way of having couples come together and decide who to marry as they seek the person who is their ideal spouse, usually at the expense of the one God wants them to have. God is not usually consulted until after the decision is made.

'court' = to pay attention with the aim of obtaining favour

'-ship' = behaviour

So courtship is the behaviour of seeking favour of another with the objective of marrying them (getting their attention).

Betrothal

This is God's way where He puts a desire for the other person in your heart and brings you together to get married.

'be' = belong too

'-trothed' = truth (its original meaning)

So betrothed people truthfully belong to each other (as God has put them together).

Marriage

This really refers to the act of marriage and not married life. Matrimony correctly refers to that. I use marriage in this booklet as matrimony is not a word used these days to describe the married state.

'mar' = one who mars

'-age' = that which belongs or is a function related to

So the marriage act is the act of marring something. It is the act that removes the virginity of a man and woman and mars it. It culminates the betrothal period which is the period of preparation for marriage and signifies that marriage has occurred.

Matrimony

This is really the word to describe the married state.

'Matri' = mother

'-mony' = occurring only in

Only in marriage is a natural birth mother found showing how important they are to a marriage that even the word used to describe marriage (matrimony) is derived from the word for mother. This is why Satan does so much to destroy women as destroying them destroys the household.

It is so different to most other relationships because: God initiates it, puts you both together, trains you in the betrothal period for the act of marriage and matrimony and then blesses the union for His sake and of course, your best. It is up to you to do your part in this process as God can only do His side of the Work He is doing in you.

This book is about betrothal and matrimony: God's way of bringing people together for matrimony (marriage) using the betrothal period as a period of preparation for the marriage act and matrimony.

Romance

The proper definition of this has nothing to do with marriage but refers to a period in literature and music that deals usually with imaginative and fictional subjects which are not real. Romantic means to have the quality of romance in form or content.

As romance is Satan's idea of courtship it can see how true this description is of what Satan offers in place of Jesus. Romance only applies to courtship (Satan's way of getting a wife). In romance a person does things to win a person's affections. In God's way He brings you your future spouse and says "marry her and love her as I do" so that courtship does not occur and the basics of the marriage can then be formed without the need to determine if the person is the best one for you to marry.

This also means you accept the person as they look physically and are character wise as you trust God for who they are and not what the world says they should be.

What the world calls romantic should be really an outflow and result of the love of betrothed people for each other and not a cause to try and get the other to love them.

God says “Here she is! Show your worthy of her love and respect her!”. Satan says: “Impress her with your possessions and personality and show your worthwhile as a catch”.

Betrothal and The Kingdom of God

The betrothal period is one of the most important periods in the life of a person. It is the preparatory time for marriage in which the attitudes and habits are formed in regard to the future spouse that you will take into your marriage and which will be built on by God during the marriage, providing you let The Holy Spirit lead you in the preparation of the marriage. Most marriages fail before they start as this preparatory time is not approached properly and so the marriage starts on a wrong foundation, at times for the wrong reasons and ends up falling apart. This is especially so if the marriage has been based on romance and emotion for the purposes of self-gratification and not because it is a betrothal by God for the purposes of The Kingdom of God.

If the betrothal period is correctly lived as God wants it to be, then the only differences between that and matrimony is that you now live together, share everything and can have sex.

This booklet aims to give you an understanding of this period of betrothal so that the foundation for the marriage will be correctly formed so you will have a firm basis on which to continue to build on in the marriage

Guidelines for using this book

It is suggested this book be read together by a betrothed couple so they can discuss any problems they have in regard to what it suggests they do. It may also be suitable for class discussion. Use it as The Holy Spirit says to. After all He is your teacher (Job 32:8)

I give you the following suggestions

Ask The Holy Spirit to give you understanding of what you read in this book

Put into practice what you read or else your effort reading this book will be wasted

Always do what The Holy Spirit says and not what man writes or says.

The following prayer may be useful

Lord, we give you our betrothal and ask you Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us what we need to know to prepare for marriage. We ask you to show how we should relate to you and to each other in this betrothal relationship so that we bring You Honour and Glory as we learn what we need to know to prepare ourselves for marriage. Lord Jesus we give you the whole betrothal situation to be Lord of.

Satan you have no right to work in these areas now as it belongs to Jesus so in Jesus Name go to the Throne of Grace and be judged and take with you all you have done and are doing. We ask you Holy Spirit take his place please.

Thank you Father, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit.

The rules of The Kingdom apply to a betrothal'

The basic rule of The Kingdom is to love others as God Loves you and them and there are no exceptions provided by God regarding this command.

Jesus is Lord and you serve Him with what you do including who you marry and how you relate to them so you need to determine whom He wants you to marry and not do what the world says you should do to find a wife.

You must not be unequally yoked spiritually 2 Cor 6:14 in otherwords a Christian should not marry a non-Christian. This is because spiritually they serve different lords (Jesus or Satan) and have different purposes relating to the kingdom they belong too: that of Jesus or Satan.

You belong to a different Kingdom to that of the world with different values and purposes Being unequally yoked will stop the relationship walking in unity of Spirit (Amos 3:3) because your spirits belong to different kings and cannot ever be one and there is also the danger of spirits transferring from the non-Christian to the Christian in sex when the two souls become united as one.

You can be unequally yoked if you are both Christians and you are guided by The Holy Spirit and your betrothed refuses to be personally guided or believe you can be led by The Holy Spirit. There can be a unity in the common spirit but not as God desires it as you are both not guided by The Spirit to be able to hear what He desires you both to do for Him in the marriage.

You can be unequally yoked if one believes in deliverance and the other does not. The one not believing in deliverance will rely on man's methods (such as psychology and psychiatry) and will not follow the Spirit in this and other things. The other cannot believe in man's methods as they are guided by The Holy Spirit.

Usually this occurs because one spouse does not believe in the ministry of Jesus and the miracles or deliverance that accompany it. They may also believe the gifts of The Holy Spirit are not for today so follow traditional church methods. Unless they change the marriage will end in disaster and will not do what Jesus wants it to be. I know as this happened to me.

We have kept our vows and have not divorced but it is not a marriage as God desires it to be.

It must be God's Will for the couple

You must be Spirit led in choosing spouse so you will know the one God desires for you

You must know how to discern The Will of God

You must be certain you are to marry them before you start the betrothal period

The purposes of The King overrides all other purposes if only because they are best for you and if these purposes are followed in the betrothal period then you will be blessed in a special way in your marriage.

Love and The Fruit of The Spirit

The attitudes a betrothed person should have in betrothal and subsequent marriage is love, the same quality of Love God has for each of us.

In the pre-betrothal, betrothal and matrimony stages, the only difference should be the degree of intimacy. The quality of love you have for each other should not change in any of these stages. Only the way God allows you to express it changes. The only real difference should be that you are able to have sex without sinning once you are married.

While love to your spouse will be a natural expression of how you feel toward them it will require will power and effort at times to carry out what our love desires to do for them.

This will be because:

Satan is trying to stop your expressing your love to our spouse

You do not know how to express it properly

(Separated by distance) need to give up or change something in your lifestyle to be able to express your love to them correctly. This is often the biggest reason for love not being expressed. (Deliverance may be necessary for this to be possible)

Fear of exposure (self-protection as you still do not yet fully trust the love of your betrothed).

Satan will try to turn your love into lust and harm the relationship and only true self-disciplined love for our betrothed will prevent this.

How should your love your betrothed?

You are to love your betrothed as Jesus loves them!

We should rejoice that God has given you a betrothed and all that goes with it that are signs of His blessings towards you, and be should thankful to Him for these.

In the peace you have with your betrothed because of the unity in The Spirit you have with your betrothed and all you can do together because of your love for each other.

In the patience you express to your betrothed as you seek to serve them and train them in the way God desires them trained

Tenderness in the way you relate to your spouse and any children they have out of your love for them

Seeking the best for your betrothed because you love them

Trusting God for all that happens to you in the marriage relationship

In humility serving your betrothed as God serves them in all He does for you and them

Moderation in all you do so that you can provide for your betrothed and not corrupt them through immoderation.

Love for your betrothed is the motivation for all you do for them

The way of the person who expresses God's Love to their Spouse

A person who loves their betrothed will be patient with and tolerant of any problems they have as you work with God and them to help their future spouse overcome any weaknesses they have.

They are gentle and compassionate and do only what helps them grow closer to Jesus and The Father as well as mature into what God desires them to mature into

They do not envy what God has allowed others to do and help them in any way they can as they serve Jesus out of love for Him and not for the purposes of self-esteem. They do not use the successes of their betrothed for purposes of their own self-esteem

They do not promote their own abilities in the relationship when it will cause others to feel inadequate or worthless

They do not embarrass their betrothed through inappropriate behavior either to them, their future spouse or others

They do not promote themselves if it means their spouse or family will be brought into disrepute or emotionally damaged in any way

They are not upset by things their betrothed does to them and serves them in spite of what their betrothed does to them just as God serves you in spite of your rejection of Him

They do not look for evil in their betrothed or denigrate them in any way or think wrong things about them but accept them as they are, build on that and help them be the person God desires their future spouse to be

They rejoice in the good their betrothed does and in the character and strength of God in their betrothed

They do not complain when their betrothed wrongs them but seek God for how to help their betrothed overcome their weaknesses

They look always positive at their betrothed and their relationship with God, helping them to overcome any weaknesses you or they have.

They seek what benefits (is good for) their betrothed as good stewards of them and help them become more intimate (closer to God)

Their relationship with God enables them to relate to their betrothed in a correct manner.

If there is any fear of your betrothed or of the coming marriage then one or both of you need deliverance and should have it as soon as you can so Satan cannot use any weakness in the marriage.

There should be no fear in love. You should never put fear in your betrothed in any way or at any time as it will slowly kill the love they have for you.

Love covers (overlooks) the sins (failings/weaknesses) of your betrothed and will help them with deliverance from these weaknesses and will support them as they try and deal with the weaknesses or failings.

Not wanting to give up what you have to change by holding onto past things you enjoy is probably the biggest hindrance to a person expressing their love (in the way God desires them to express it) to their betrothed (Luke 9:62). There may also be a fear of exposure of who you are because you still do not fully trust the love their betrothed has for you.

Self-protection's also destroys a marriage very quickly.

All of these things show a need for deliverance which is why I recommend betrothed people go through deliverance before they are married to remove problems Satan can use to attack the marriage.

You cannot express God's Love when you cannot express Jesus in your life as His love is expressed as a natural outflow of The Holy Spirit working in and through your life.

If you cannot express God's love in an area then Jesus is not Lord of that area and deliverance or Lordship commitment will be needed to deal with this inability to express God's Love to others in that area. You may need deliverance in that area to be able to love your betrothed as Jesus desires you to love them.

What are you willing to give up to show your love to your betrothed as Jesus Loves her? Jesus gave up all to show His Love to His Bride (The Body) which includes you.

People who love as Jesus loves cannot willingly hurt another or be harsh with them. This term 'gentleness' portrays this. It is kindness and compassion to others out of love for them. It is the attitude Jesus has with sinners and the unlovely that the world discards and that many have difficulty relating too. It is an expression of the Love Jesus has too all.

The betrothed should be a gentle man in all he does with and for his future spouse both during the betrothal period and in the marriage. She is a gift from God and should be treated as such.

He should never raise his voice, shout at, abuse her or intimidate her in any way. These will cause her to doubt his love to her or put fear in her. Love is gentle and this should be showed in all he does for or with her. When he talks it should edify her in some way or praise her to others.

It should always be sound speech seasoned with grace.

The husband who is gentle too, considerate of and appreciate of his wife, showing love in all he does in relationship to her will be rewarded by her increased desire and love for him, both physically and spiritually as well as the loving service she will give to him.

Love given will have a response of love reciprocated from the person you show this love too. This is the key to a marriage, for the husband to love his wife as Jesus love her so that she feels sufficiently secure in the relationship to love him back with the same type of love and to emotionally and physically express herself freely and lovingly towards him. This type of Love is matured in the betrothal period and reaches its fulfilment in the act of marriage.

As you show God's Love to your betrothed you will fulfil God's requirements of you and relate to your betrothed as God desires you too.

Remember the nature of love is that of a servant so to show your spouse love means to serve them as Jesus would serve them.

The above attitudes and way of thinking are designed to remove worry and fear from your minds as these cloud your thinking and make it hard for you to hear God and be guided by The Holy Spirit. You also need to ensure you have the correct attitudes and habits to be a good citizen of The Kingdom of Heaven and to be able fearlessly to do the work of The Kingdom.

Part of the work of The Kingdom is the stewardship of your betrothed and marriage. The family is the basic unit of worship on earth and so these stewardships are important

Worry and fear are attitudes Satan tries to make you have so you doubt God's Love for you and control over your circumstances and so you will be more hesitant to serve Him and trust His Will, Plans, Purpose and Control. You will be protecting yourself rather than relating as God desires you too.

A Christian should always be positive about what God allows to happen to them. To be otherwise is to call God's love into disrepute and imply He has made a mistake in what is happening.

God is in complete control and His nature is Love so whatever happens is for your best as God is using it to conform you both to the image of Jesus.

The Bible tells you to be positive (Rom 8:28, Gen 50:20)

Job 3:25 (NCV) For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me and what I dreaded has happened to me.

If you are afraid or believe something will happen to you it may happen (the example of Job (Job 3:25)). Satan is always happy to fulfil it if it is against the Will of Jesus and thus help Christians be harmed. If your trust through faith in God's providence and control of all your will not be concerned about anything that happens to you or which God asks you to do as it is best for you (Rom 8:28). God's Love is being expressed through what is happening to you so it is best for you.

The Christian life is a life of positives based on trust in God's Love! Not on negatives or fear that takes away hope and binds the person in ritual and legalism (2 Tim 1:7).

This positive attitude of faith needs to be cultivated through the Will of the person affirming God's positives in regard to all negative situations. This is expressed through total obedience to Jesus believing all will work out for your best (Rom 8:28).

On Betrothal

Dating

Dating to find a marriage partner is not God's way of doing things

It allows Satan to find a partner for you

It shows you do not trust God to provide a partner for you

Going out as a group is not dating but socialising

Dating cannot be an indication you are to marry if God has brought you together and you are now getting to know one another in preparation for possible formal engagement and marriage.

Dating is just another name for socialising and you must do that within the parameters God sets for you and not those of Satan. Satan has made it what it is today but it was never intended to be that way in God's scheme of things.

You should only start dating after you both agree you are to marry (in the betrothal period). This is why you are to ask God about a person if you are to marry them before going out with them or it may lead to unexpected consequences that divert you from the one God desires you to marry.

Romancing should now occur in the dating period not to win her heart but to show you appreciate her for who she is and desire her because God has given her to you to marry.

Formal engagement cements the betrothal period and marks the time to begin setting up the marriage household (if you have not done so already). Relational problems should have been sorted out early in the betrothal period before formal engagement occurred.

Deliverance may be needed to do this.

Remember, the moment God informs you both that you are to marry you are betrothed in His eyes.

God provides a wife

Prov 18:12 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

How do you find your wife? God puts you together and brings you to each other. You will know in your hearts they are the one and God will give you signs and peace about them.

Matt 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Before God can bless you, it requires you to be in a relationship with Him that allows Him to bless you. You must be doing what He requires you to do for Him. He will not bring a godly wife to an ungodly man (and vice versa) but Satan will. This is why you need to be guided by The Holy Spirit to discern who has brought this person to you to marry.

To find a godly wife focus on your relationship with Jesus and He will bring one to you without you having to search for her or worry about ever being married. It will be on the path He has for you, in His timing and not yours (Matt 6:33 applies).

A Christian will find a partner using Satan's methods but usually there will be heartache that results and it usually will not be the one God wants them to find. Through this wrong marriage partner Satan minimizes any effectiveness of ministry they would do for God as a couple compared to what would have been achieved if they had married the right person.

God can still use the marriage but not as He desired too originally.

So wait for God to bring you the one He desires you to marry and be guided by The Holy Spirit in the relationship showing God's love to the other person in all the ways you relate to them and you will have a relationship that will be admired and desired by all who do not have this Godly type of marriage relationship.

Remember that Satan will try and bring his wife for you before God does so that dating may result in marrying his wife and not the perfect one God has picked out for you.

Gimmicks and romance

If Jesus has betrothed you then you do not need the gimmicks that Satan promotes through the media He controls. He tries to suggest you need these gimmicks to attract a spouse (so you will not find God's one for you) but these are not necessary to attract and keep a spouse as God knows who you are to marry and will bring you too each other.

Satan also suggests you need makeup, perfume, modern clothes etc., to be beautiful in direct contrast to what God recommends in 1 Pet 3:3-4.

Expressions of love (flowers, chocolate etc.), even though not needed, should be an expression of your love and not attempt to cause another to be attracted to you.

A man needs to show love and respect and dress modestly in a way that pleases his future wife. He must also learn how to be a gentleman and show her manners and consideration appropriate to the relationship.

A woman must dress modestly as she does not need to reveal her flesh to attract her spouse. Too much exposed flesh may cause desire that will result in sin. She is to hide her body and keep it for her betrothed alone for when they are married. She needs to know how to behave as a lady in a way appropriate to his gentlemanly manners towards her.

The lives of both are examples for people to see Jesus and should show His love and desired behaviour in all the things they do. This will turn their betrothed period and marriage into an act of worship to Him and bring Him Glory.

The Stages of Betrothal

The Introductory Stage

You know in your inner spirit (and heart) that you are bought together by God and commence to learn about each other. Satan will try and pollute the love you are learning for each other with sensuality. God will reveal enough of the other person's character so you will love

them for who they are. There is respect for each other and respect will grow into love if nurtured properly. The betrothal; is entered into out of obedience to God and if you are fortunate love for each other.

The Excitement Stage

This stage is where you delight to be with each other and do things together and their presence excites you. Satan will try and turn this to lust so you will have sex or similar. This expression of lust is designed by Satan to make you feel guilty and to drive the future spouse away as they do not feel appreciated for who they are but only for their body.

The Sober Stage

In this stage you are more sober in your desire for each other and start to look at the practicalities of marriage and the preparation for it but there is still a strong desire to be with each other.

The Final Stage

This is the stage in which you are ready for marriage. Emotion and feelings are not the reason you marry as your love is deeper than anything these can be. In your heart is the knowledge and affirmation that it is God's Will for you to marry and that all the promises God has made for you in marriage both as a couple and individually will occur. It is God's Will that you marry and so you work at preparing for the marriage knowing that not too is disobedience and bad stewardship. Besides you love the person and desire to do this.

Jesus is then Lord of the marriage as the marriage is out of obedience to Him as God. He is first in all the things they do individually and as a couple. The marriage then becomes an act of continual worship even if only by the fact that they stay married because God has bought them together.

In This level love is pure and the desire for fulfilment through sex is not that important in the relationship. You are not clouded by the desires of the flesh so that you can clearly hear what God wants you to do to prepare for marriage. This is the stage you should be at when you marry.

When you reach the highest level of a betrothal relationship sensuality is not a problem as you do not need it to cement the relationship and show your love and appreciation for the other person's body.

Your Love is a knowing love. It knows the depths of the other person's love for you and because it is not clouded by emotion or feeling you can clearly hear The Holy Spirit and what He desires you to do for your betrothed. This should be the state you enter marriage with or at least try to achieve in marriage.

The expression of this type of love is no longer sensual but purer and unpolluted by passion so that sex becomes a true expression of your love for your spouse as you seek to give them pleasure before your own and do so even if you do not obtain any. This selfless expression of love will cause a response in the spouse and they will do the same to you and love you without lust or a desire to obtain pleasure themselves.

If you know God has brought you together then divorce is disobedience. Besides, your love for each other should prevent problems arising that will lead to separation or divorce.

Deliverance may help with problems in the marriage.

Intimacy

Intimacy is not sex or heavy petting (as Satan would have you believe). It is the sharing of the deep things of the heart that you would not dare tell others.

There are no secrets between you and God so it is the deepest intimacy you can have if you so desire it.

With betrothed (and married couples), from the first meeting onwards there should be no secrets between them and nothing that causes fear in either of them. The past is only needed to be looked at for the purposes of deliverance and then usually only areas or weakness and not specific events (sins and failings) and even then, these should not be dwelt on (Luke 9:62).

Your sins are remitted at the Cross (as if they had never happened and not just forgiven) and so no longer are of relevance unless they need to be referred to only for the purposes of working our root causes or weaknesses so that these can be dealt with through deliverance. Any other purpose is ungodly and will not be honoured by God.

Weaknesses and problems areas should be discussed but only for the purposes of deliverance and encouragement (Luke 9:62 applies). The couple that has no secrets are an intimate one. The past is gone and only needs to be referred to for the purposes of deliverance or for the purposes of teaching others how God has dealt with a situation.

You must learn to love your spouse for who they are spiritually and not be influenced by the physical in any way, then you will have a good foundation for the marriage and if this is developed further in the marriage, you will also have a good foundation for the relationship in eternity.

Focus in Courtship

The focus in the betrothal period is the same as in the marriage period.

God

Family (the betrothed is now part of your family and you of hers)

Work

Ministry

The Lordship of Jesus and His Will is our primary focus

The needs of your family or betrothed are next

Then you must focus on the task you have at work

Finally, the needs of those outside work and the family can be met.

Remember! If you do not provide for the needs of your own family God says you are worse than an unbeliever and will not provide others for you to minister with. But Satan will!

In regard to ministry. If you cannot care for in a responsible way and love your wife and family (or betrothed) that God has given you how can He trust you to service the needs of others in His Body!

Unless you have the first three categories correct in your life, (or at least trying to get them correct so He can help you with them), how can He trust you with anything else of His? Especially His People?

Remember that all you do should be motivated by love for Jesus and the people He asks you to serve and care for on His behalf. If ministry is for any other reason such as acceptance, recognition or to obtain self-esteem, God can use it but it is mainly wasted as He cannot bless it as it is done for your purposes and not His purposes.

Adequacy

Are you ready for marriage?

Do you feel adequate to fulfil the roles you will be called to carry out when married?

If God has called together to be married you will be at the stage of Christian maturity He expects you to be at and will work through the betrothal period to prepare you both for marriage.

If God has called you together then Satan will work to break up the betrothal or stop you being prepared by God for marriage so that you and go into marriage with problems he can use to try and destroy the marriage.

Satan will try and place on you negative emotions and attitudes that will either hinder your learning what God desires you to learn or will break up the betrothal (engagement) so the marriage does not occur.

Satan will try and make you doubt you are to marry the person. This is why you must be sure God wants you to be married to that person so can fight the doubt Satan places on you with the truth that God wants you to both be married to each other

If Satan cannot blind you to the weaknesses in your character that will hinder the betrothal and subsequent marriage then he will try and use them to cause you doubt about your adequacy to marry or your being acceptable to your future spouse

This is where you will need deliverance to deal with these weaknesses so that Satan cannot use them against you.

You are adequate for marriage because God has called you for it so has prepared you for it.

If you were not adequate why would Satan try and make believe that you are not adequate. He only attacks What you have, not what you do not have!

You are adequate in Jesus because in your relating to Him He prepares what you need to be to do what He asks you to do

You are only required to love as Jesus Loves. If you cannot then deliverance will be necessary. You will fail in obedience to Jesus but all that God asks you to do is to wholeheartedly repent and to keep on trying to do His Will for you each day. God only asks you to do this and to leave the future to Him (Matt 6:33).

As you do this you are being matured to what He desires you to be at each stage of the betrothal period in preparation for marriage.

All you need for any aspect of your life will be on the path He has prepared for You to walk in before creation began (Eph 2:10).

If you doubt your adequacy and abilities you are saying God has made a mistake with you and at that point of time you are not what you should be for what He has called you too. If you are not trying to obey Him then you are not where you should be because of your disobedience and because you are not following the path of Mat 6:33 you are reaping what you have sown (Gal 6:7-8)

If your self-worth is based on Jesus and not on your idea of a what you should be you will trust Him for how He has made you adequate for betrothal and then marriage. Self-worth, self-esteem and your abilities will not be a problem as they will be based on His value of you and not from your own reason which Satan will try and influence so that you will have a wrong opinion of yourself.

Whenever relating to your betrothed or your spouse never argue, assume, react or reason things but ask The Holy Spirit if what they said is correct as well as how to respond to what they have said. This also applies to thoughts that come into your mind whose source could be The Holy Spirit, Satan or yourself.

If you take all to Jesus through the Holy spirit you will never have problems in regard to adequacy and ability as The Holy spirit will tell what you need to do in the situation you are in and will strengthen you and guide you to work through the situation you are in.

Trusting people

You must trust or respect a person before you can accept them or what they say or you will be too busy defending yourself or seeing how you are affected by what they say. If you cannot trust a person you want to love then you need deliverance so you will be free and know your adequacy in Jesus and what He has done for, in and through you.

Breathing Space

Everyone requires space at times, either mental, emotional or physical, and you need to know when you are to allow them this space. The reason they need it may not be important but the fact they need it is and if you love them you will grant them this space, step back and wait until you are allowed to enter it again.

How you know it is the right person to marry?

May 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

God and Satan organize marriages.

When God does it:

God does something in your hearts and you know you are to marry

There is no infatuation or lust, only a desire to be with the person and serve them

When you are apart there is no fear of losing them

You love them with true love so that problems and fears are sorted out and you can talk to each other about anything.

You love the sound of their voice and being in their presence. When you are together time has no meaning.

Their appearance does not matter as it is who they are inside as a person that matters to you.

The past does not matter as it is what they are at that moment that attracts you. God does not bring up the past, except for instruction so why should you? They are God's workmanship or He would not have brought them to you to marry. To complain about the person is to deny God's perfect workmanship and is rebellion. This does not mean they may not need deliverance but that they are the perfect one for you for God to begin to further mould you to His image individually and as a couple.

Everything you do as a couple is centred on Jesus and you both put His Kingdom and its Purposes before your own. So that when differences arise, you do not argue or negotiate but ask Jesus what to do.

You do not cause each other to sin. You cannot as Love does no harm to another. If there are problems with love in any area then you help each other through deliverance to remove them.

You are unable to hurt them or bring the relationship with them into disrepute as you love them so much.

You have peace about them being your partner and everything you both do in the relationship.

There will be purpose and direction because of the unity of The Holy Spirit. In the marriage they will also be as one through soul ties resulting from sex. In a sense it is like the trinity: one in heart, one in soul and one in spirit through The Holy Spirit but two separate people.

Circumstances just seem to fall into place in the marriage preparation and you have peace about them and every area and activity you have in the relationship with them and if anything does cause problems it is quickly sorted out and removed.

Satan will try to destroy the betrothal and engagement and will try to drive you apart. This shows it is not a marriage he wants to occur.

You desire to be together, not only because of being with each other, but also to serve Jesus in the marriage.:

Be fruitful and multiply

You will share Christ to others as a couple by life (example as individuals and a married couple), and word (through teaching and preaching) and by this demonstrate The Kingdom of God to them

To show how beautiful marriage is when Jesus is central to all of it

To share ministry as a couple, united by The Holy Spirit demonstrating the Power and Leading of The Holy Spirit, bringing Glory to The Father and Jesus.

It is only as The Holy Spirit leads in this preparation time and in the subsequent marriage can these things occur.

A couple whose heart is knit by God walk in love and their love for each other influences all they do and overflows to all around them. Only as Jesus is Lord of the marriage can this occur. For a marriage of love to occur Jesus must be the Lord of each partner and they should both be led by The Holy Spirit in all their relationships and activities with each other and to those around them. There will be no lust in the relationship as they seek to serve the other partner before themselves.

Lust serves itself first. Love serves the need of the other first. It is especially important in sex that you give your partner pleasure before your own need for it. They will respond and give you pleasure. This is why a female must be prepared to accept the male emotionally before sex is started and during the first part of sex.

If you love the spouse you will desire to give them pleasure before your own and will have pleasure from the pleasure you give them. This will be in everything and not just sex. This attitude of service to your spouse is matured through the betrothal period in preparation for its fulfillment in sex and marriage.

When your spouse is the one God has chosen for you, sex is not important. You desire their presence and to be one with them in heart and spirit and this is more important than anything else. You encourage each other just by the joy of being together and hearing each other's voice with their words of love towards you and also because of the anticipation of the coming marriage and life together that will result.

The unity of purpose that they have, because they are led by The Holy Spirit, also encourages each other as they see the purpose Jesus has for them in the marriage and embrace these out of love and joy for Him.

You will just know in your heart they are the one and all that happens in the relationship will confirm it.

This type of love can grow and mature and become more intimate as there is no fear or walls to stop communication and intimacy from developing. They are not concerned about rejection because they have offended their spouse as love accepts people as they are and does not judge, shame or condemn people when they fail but helps them overcome problems and weaknesses regardless of the cost to themselves (James 5:16).

There is a difference between evaluating a person's actions so you can help them and judging a person to help them. Judgment always has a content of criticism and criticism has a legalistic element even if love is the motivation for the judgment.

As you pursue true love for your partner it grows deeper and there is more peace, joy and intimacy in the relationship. You also will not offend them and in all interactions with them you will show God's Love (The Fruit of The Holy Spirit) in all you do. You will be: gentle, kind, considerate, patient, unselfish, undemanding in things and will put their needs before your own in all you do with them.

If a person truly loves another as Jesus loves that person, they will not try to draw that person into sin, sexual or other. Jesus will provide an activity to replace the sexual temptations that are more in keeping with what He wants them to do.

The desire for your spouse should not only be for the anticipated joy of sex but for the pleasure of always being with them serving them and doing things together. The joy of sex will result from the response of your future spouse because you have this attitude of love towards them.

This self-denial will make the relationship stronger as the other partner sees your love for them as their future spouse and that they consider your needs above their own needs and desires.

Love in marriage is more than just smooching, cuddling, sex, having a good time etc., (as Satan implies in the media). It is in the everyday things in which you show your love in service to your future spouse:

The wife:

- Washing clothes
- Keeping the house clean
- Keeping people fed and healthy
- Submitting domestically etc.

The Husband

- Maintaining the house and land
- Supplying the needs of the family
- Nurturing and loving his wife and family in sickness and health.
- Providing good headship and guidance for the family etc.
- Together serving each other as is necessary for their best.
- Washing the dishes
- Shopping
- Helping each other as needed.
- The pleasure of just being with them etc.

You do these because you love your spouse and want to help and serve them. God is Love and we are to desire to be like Him and the nature of love is selfless service.

If this is not what you desire now for each other then do not marry until it is.

Always remember that love does not do for another what they need to or should be doing for themselves but helps them when it is necessary. Love, however, will serve another in the things that it is not necessary for the other to do and which either of them can do.

An example is driving children somewhere. There is no specific role in either gender for this so the husband can show love to the wife and do it to save her having to do it. Where the activity belongs to one or the other's roles then permission is needed to take over from the other spouse and show love through doing it for them.

This service is not done to be appreciated or for the purposes of self-esteem. The love of your spouse for you should give you worth and esteem and they should also appreciate you for who you are and not for just what you do. Service to the spouse should be a response of your love for them and their appreciation of you.

In the betrothal period all these attitudes need to be developed and matured, after all this period is the training ground for matrimony and any mistakes here are harder to fix up in the marriage. The bonding must be in the spiritual so that hearts and spirit are knit as one in unity and purpose. This is how union is in heaven between future husband or wife and is outworked in the spiritual on earth as loving service and in the physical it is further expressed in marriage as sex.

Remember that everything begins in the spiritual in the relationship between each spouse and Jesus and is reflected subsequently in some way in the physical.

There should be no sex in the betrothal period. Sex is the act of marriage and immediately turns the betrothal into a marriage state so that in the eyes of God you are married. If you are engaged (betrothed) and you have sex with each other, then in the eyes of God you are married. If you live together as husband and wife and have sex with each other than in the eyes of God you are married.

Apart from these situation premarital sex is sin.

The betrothal stage is when you learn how to meet the emotional needs and hurts of your betrothed so these can be dealt with before the marriage. This is necessary so that the marriage (of which sex is one expression) will not be hindered by emotional needs and hurts that have not been dealt with.

The classic example is in regard to people who have been raped or sexually molested. Unless they are delivered of the spiritual consequences of these acts, they will always have problems with sex. This is because of the subconscious fears they have which are associated with the abuse and hurts they had from the rape or molestation.

If you cannot love your betrothed sufficiently to meet their emotional needs before you are living together as husband and wife you should not marry as things will only get worse in the marriage. Marriage does not solve problems. It creates them. This is why you need to go

through deliverance and be led by The Holy Spirit in the relationship so you can be shown by Him how to solve problems in the relationship as well as to develop the relationship in the betrothal period.

It is better to meet their emotional needs and hurts now and see if you can do this than find after you are married you cannot meet them. Deliverance is important for this meeting of needs and should occur before marriage so that these hurts are not taken into the marriage and cause problems. This is another reason for dealing with these needs and hurts before marriage.

Love your betrothed because they are a very intimate person to you but let the full expression of this love in any sexual sense be kept for the marriage. The woman will appreciate that your love for her is pure and is for who she is having no sexual overtones or lust and when the time is come for its full expression, she will be able to give herself to you guilt free. The desire should be for each other not for each other's body.

The man needs to control his sex urges so he can love with a pure love and not with lust desiring sexual gratification. While sex may be an expression of their love in marriage, in the betrothal period this is not an option and they are to learn to love each other without this as they are preparing for eternity where sex is no longer practiced and only pure love remains. Sex is a result of this type of love and not a cause of it. It is also not a necessary expression of their love but it is a lot of fun and if carried out properly gives each partner great pleasure.

Pure love desires just to be with the person and seeks to express itself to the spouse in any Godly way it can and does not ask anything in return having its joy in the service of someone they love.

God is Love and to have a happy betrothal period it is necessary to love your future spouse as He does. To have a happy marriage also requires the same quality of love.

There should be no difference between the love you have for each other in the betrothed period and in the marriage. The only difference is that marriage allows more scope for the expression of this love.

If you love a person it is very hard to do anything to hurt them or to cheapen your love for them.

You will find anything that cheapens your deep pure love for them is almost impossible to do because your love is such that you want to protect them from sin and harm and anything that would cheapen your love for each other.

Your love for them is deep and all consuming. you cannot show shallow love to them. It is the love Jesus places in us and is shown to the spouse because He is our Lord. It accepts the spouse as they are and desires to be one with them as they are and not as you desire them to be. Sex is a result of their acceptance and not a cause of it.

The Holy Spirit must rule in all and The Spirit does not express Himself in sensuality but in deep, selfless, serving love which you cannot have unless He rules. Without His guidance

you may approach this standard of love at times but it will not be a way of life, betrothal and marriage.

When you accept that the marriage will definitely occur you enter a different stage of the relationship where the joy of being with the person replaces the constant desire to be with them. There is no longer a fear of losing them. You can be separated from them but not constantly desiring them with the same intensity you did earlier. The desire to be with them is there but it does not consume you anymore. Your desire for them comes from deep within your spirit and is no longer from the emotions or feelings and so is no longer controlled by them.

There is no longer a fear of losing them and a patient waiting takes over as you prepare for the marriage and living together.

In your spirit is joy and love that patiently waits to see the other and rejoices to be together but this desire no longer controls you so that you can get on with doing what is necessary in life and preparation for marriage without being clouded by 'love' and 'desire' for the other.

This becomes an attitude you now work in (as guided by The Holy Spirit) to prepare yourselves rationally for the marriage as well as prepare the marriage ceremony, honeymoon, marriage home and any necessary legal and financial work necessary for these marriage arrangements to be brought to fruition in the way God desires them to be carried out.

You are able to prepare the everyday details for these things without excitement and sensuality getting in the road and also avoid the trap of Satan to always concentrate on the sensual side at the expense of the practical side. Satan tries to get you to focus on feelings and emotion rather than on Jesus and His Will for you. Satan seeks to throw your plans into disarray through lack of preparation and through lust expressed as sex so as to bring Jesus into disrepute, even if only in the spiritual realm as he tries to get you to ignore what Jesus wants you to do so that you end up in the disorder Satan promotes in his people.

The background intensity of the love and joy you feel gives you the hope and strength to go on in daily living as well as prepare for the marriage. The knowledge that it is God's Will for you and thus is best for you strengthens your resolve to do all that is necessary to prepare for your marriage. The sexual side is not important as the focus is on the preparing of the marriage so it will please Jesus. This means you put His desires before your own knowing that His desires are best for your relationship and will be used by Him to further His Kingdom.

You must remember intimacy is not sex but the sharing of hearts in a pure love so you become as one in heart and mind as you each are one with Jesus and will be one with each other as a result.

As you develop your relationship with Jesus your love will mature for Him and each other so the key to this betrothal period is to press into Jesus so He is more and more Lord of your life. He will then be more and more Lord of your betrothal, preparation for marriage and marriage and it will be as He desires it to be, being led by The Holy Spirit in the direction Jesus desires it to be.

This is a period to work out any fears or concerns you have for or about each other. Often the fear will be from a past relationship and will be transferred to the betrothal and subsequent marriage if they are not dealt with through deliverance. These fears must be dealt with and given to Jesus or they will poison the relationship and may even destroy it.

It is also a time to obtain deliverance from past hurts and pain so that these will not be brought into the marriage and eventually destroy it.

When you have found the person God desires you to marry you will feel incomplete without them. Marriage then becomes a desire to be with them as only then will you be complete as a person. It is not a desire for sex but a desire to become one with them in Jesus spiritually as the physical unity flows on from that as an expression of that unity.

Do not have any preconceived ideas in regard to the man or woman God desires you to marry. God knows the perfect match for you. Regardless of what culture they are from they will have what will compliment you as a person and the complimentary giftings to help you minister as a couple in unity for Jesus.

Only as a husband-and-wife minister together is the full character of God shown!

This unity occurs providing you help each other to grow in Jesus and mature into the marriage it needs to be for Him to use. If this maturation occurs then He will use you as He desires too and you will be blessed by Him in ways He cannot otherwise bless you in and which He believes is best for you.

The relationship

Your relationship with Jesus is the foundation of any betrothal and marriage

Jesus must be more important to the betrothed people than their future spouse

The Will of Jesus must be in charge of the betrothal period

They must trust God's Love Control Purposes and Plans no matter whatever happens

The relationship must be guided by The Holy Spirit

They must Learn how to live as a couple guided by The Holy Spirit

This is preparation for marriage and ministry through marriage and they should treat each other respectfully out of love for each other (Eph 5:21)

The Love of Jesus toward the future spouse must be the type of Love they have for each other

You need to help each other work through hurts or other problems that would hinder relationship with the spouse as well as with others in this betrothal period so that the marriage starts with each partner able to relate to each other as they should. Deliverance may be necessary for this to occur.

Marriage is a special relationship.

While all relationships should express the Love of Christ in them, they do so in different ways because of the restrictions placed on the relationship by God.

Only in the marriage relationship is sex or anything that is a part of it, such things as: passionate kissing, foreplay, fondling of the breasts etc., allowed. In all other relationships these are not allowed.

Only in the family relationship is a wife to submit domestically to anyone (her husband). To another she is not to submit domestically. God may place the wife under the authority of another for legal reasons but submission to another for legal purposes is not the same as submission to her husband.

The submission that over rides all is that to Jesus, who is Lord of all. It is He who we serve as we pursue the various roles and relationships we have in this world and later in heaven.

Outside the authority lines of marriage all authority lines are a result of the laws of the land and which, if correctly drafted, will not interfere with the authority lines or roles in the family but will seek to preserve the family as well as the safety of its citizens.

I do not discuss spiritual authority over another except to say this belongs only to Jesus (1 Pet 2:25). At times you may place yourself under the mentorship (not authority) of another so that they can help you in your spiritual life but they cannot take spiritual authority over you as that removes Jesus as your head and authority over you if you accept their spiritual authority.

Jesus did not delegate spiritual authority over another but only over the works of Satan and his demons. Unless Jesus specifically delegated spiritual authority over another it cannot be implied from the interpretation of passages of scriptures because a delegation must be actually spoken or written by Jesus and not be implied from what others have written.

Reality of Marriage

A single person or a betrothed couple cannot imagine what marriage is really like. You live with a person 24 hours a day every day of the year and you see them at their best and worst.

You are completely exposed to them in every area of your life and can really hide nothing from them as it breaks the communication in the marriage. Besides if you love them you will not do anything that you have to hide from them (except surprises for birthdays or special celebrations).

You wake, eat, sleep and work with them at home and unless you are put together by God and are one in His Spirit you will have difficulty in the marriage relationship. This is where it is so important that you are one in spirit with The Holy Spirit and remove all the problems and hurts that will hinder the relationship with each other and the marriage.

Reality occurs the morning following the wedding when you wake up and see each other after a nights sleep and start to explore what to do each morning.

The relationship

Your relationship with Jesus is the foundation of any betrothal and marriage

Jesus must be more important to the betrothed people than their future spouse

The will of Jesus must be in charge of the betrothal period

They must trust God's Love Control Purposes and Plans no matter whatever happens

The relationship must be guided by The Holy Spirit

They must Learn how to live as a couple guided by The Holy Spirit (This is preparation for marriage and ministry through marriage)

They should treat each other respectfully out of love for them Eph 5:21

The Love of Jesus toward the future spouse must be the type of Love they have for each other

You need to help each other work through hurts or other problems that would hinder relationship with each other as well as with others in this betrothal period so that the marriage starts with each partner able to relate to each other and their new families as they should.

There are two ways to get to know a person

Theoretically: such as from documents, letters or articles written by or about the person

Personally: through having a practical relationship with them and sharing with them about themselves to you.

A relationship can only be as deep as one side allows it to be. According to how you value the relationship and how deep you desire it to be will be the effort you put into it.

Betrothal needs to be worked at as does marriage and in the betrothal period you obtain the practice you need to continue in the marriage period at working at the relationship you will then have with your spouse. If you love your spouse you will work at the relationship with them to your fullest ability and it will seem little effort as your love for them will encourage you and remove the hardship that may be with it.

Standards for a relationship

Be careful what standards you apply when going into a relationship as there are three types of standards in relationships:

Spiritual: The moral standards God expects you to keep

Legal: The standard the laws of the land expect you to keep

Cultural: Acceptable social standards either set up by Satan or God or a mixture.

All standards of culture must conform with God's standards than those of the land or you cannot observe them.

There are also the experiences you have had in relationships which may affect the way you approach them. For example, prior to meeting your betrothed you could have been hurt by someone close so you can no longer trust people or have another wrong attitude towards them. This will be transferred to other relationships you have such as to God or your betrothed. This attitude results in your never expecting anything good from God or others, including your betrothed.

Deliverance is needed to remove these fears so you can trust others and relate to them as God desires you too.

The love of your spouse can help you work through this problem.

Prior to Betrothal

The period prior to God betrothing you to someone is a time of getting to know other people, learning to relate to and serve people in preparation for the deepening of the eventual betrothal relationship. It is in this pre-betrothal period that you learn the self-control towards the opposite sex, the skills and independence necessary for the betrothal period. Lust or any other type of negative emotion should not be a part of this time as you should be using the principles of God's kingdom as you learn to relate to others and learn about the opposite sex and their emotional and temperamental differences to you as well as their strengths and weaknesses.

It is in this period you also learn to relate as culture dictates you are too and as this varies from race or geographic area there can be no hard and fast rules for this type of relationship except it must not contravene the moral laws of God and any legal requirements of the land!

The role of parents in learning how to relate properly is very important and how you related to your parents influences how you relate to others. This means you may need to relearn how to relate to others if your parents abused you in any way

The only standard you can rely on that crosses all cultures and regions are those of God.

Men are to treat girls as sisters 1 Tim 5:1-2

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

Remember you are to relate in love and not lust. The only commandment of The Kingdom of God and from which all the others flow is Jn 13:34-35:

Remember also, that The Father has adopted you so that you are part of His spiritual family so spiritually they are also family members.

Jn 13:3-354 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

This means no sex or heavy petting with anyone until you are married. If you love your betrothed as Jesus does you will not do this to them and cause them emotional problems as well as possible pregnancy with all the shame it has.

If you love your betrothed as Jesus does you will help each other and serve each other in love and support each other in their weaknesses and trials. You will enjoy them for who they are as a person:

Someone for whom Jesus died

A mind and personality

A Christian to fellowship with

A part of The Family of God you belong too

A spiritual Step Brother or Step Sister to Jesus (Matt12:50) and thus also to you

A child of The Father by adoption Rom 8:14

God's Temple in which His presence is

Singles Socializing

When you socialize before betrothal you should not be looking at people evaluating them as possible marriage partners or asking God if they are the one. Lists, that you cross each possible name out one at a time, are definitely out. You are to focus on your relationship with God and how He wants it expressed towards others and He will prepare you for marriage and bring your future betrothed to you. (Mat 6:33 applies).

While you make lists and evaluate people as a possible betrothed Satan will give you all the help he can so you will look at the wrong person, possibly miss the right one and marry someone God does not want you to marry.

You do not need to seek a spouse as God will bring them to you as part of the promises of Mat 6:33. He has promised to supply all your need in every area of your life as long as you seek the furtherance of His kingdom and develop the relationship you have with Him. God will guide you to your partner:

They will be the perfect partner for you

They will have the gifts you do not have that will complement yours in ministry so you will need to learn to minister together as a couple

They will complete you as a person

They will complete each other for ministry (gifts, temperament)

In all areas the relationship will be as God desires it to be (Jesus will be their Lord and The Holy Spirit will always be their guide)

Previously married people

Where one or both of the betrothed couple have been married previously then there will be hurts and often children belonging to one or both of the betrothed persons from a previous marriage or relationship.

There are dangers in this new relationship:

The betrothal is not God-ordained and is a compensation (for a marriage that has ended) in the belief it will remove hurts and/or other problems one or both of the betrothed couple has.

Do not enter a relationship soon after the divorce or death of a partner or a break-up with another until you are 100% sure the marriage is of God. The old saying "marry in haste repent at leisure" is so true and you could spend many years repenting for your hasty choice.

The children could be overlooked by one or more of the betrothed people as the couple cement their betrothal relationship.

The hurts that caused the divorce, or resulted from the cessation of the marriage through divorce or death of a spouse, may not have been dealt with through deliverance so that person will bring problems into the marriage which will cause further problems.

The hurts of the children are overlooked so they go into the marriage scarred and have trouble coping.

Romance the mother in the betrothal period but be sure to let the children know that you love them as well and by this you will win both them and the mother.

The new future spouse must earn the respect of the children of the other betrothed person as respect is a necessary part of a person trusting themselves to love another. If the children do not respect the introduced spouse then they will never trust or love them.

If the mother thinks the future spouse will not love or care properly for her children, then she will not marry him.

The betrothed couple have become stewards of each other and the children they both have and not just of their own children so as good stewards they need to look after what God has given them even though it means denying themselves in various ways. If they cannot be good stewards of what God has trusted them with before marriage (the children) it will be harder afterwards when there are more problems and interactions to resolve and new things to be steward of than there was prior to and during the betrothal period.

All deliverance that is possible should be done of the betrothed and their children before any marriage so that problems from the past do not need to be dealt with after marriage and cause stress or friction in the relationships in the future family.

If you cannot relate properly to any person involved in these relationships (betrothed, your children, their children) before marriage you will have little chance afterwards unless there is deliverance or you earn their respect so they can trust you to be loved by them.

Complications such as having two houses and two sets of furniture etc. should be taken to God as no fast rules can be made for these. You are stewards of them on His behalf so you need to ask what He may want done with them.

Sometimes the house has so many bad memories so that you will need to sell it and move into a new one with your betrothed unless they need to keep the house for some reason.

Where possible you should not ask a new spouse to live in a house Satan used to try and destroy your previous spouse. It is not fair to the new spouse to have to clean up the mess of a previous marriage. Exorcising the house will help and you should ask God how the new spouse is to approach the mess left behind.

Usually, the house is run down needing lots of renovation or cleaning. It is not fair to ask a new spouse to either do it or pay for this. God may have her clean the mess but it will be in His timetable and not yours so it may take a year to clean up and this should be understood before the marriage.

A new marriage is a chance to start afresh and put into the marriage the things God desires in it as well as the order He wants to be in it from the start of the relationship. God's principles should be in all that happens during the betrothal period and afterwards in the marriage.

Whatever happens, ensure it is in accordance with The Will of God as revealed to you by The Holy Spirit.

As in all things you need to walk with one ear constantly open to The Holy Spirit so the relationships (between each member of the family) will progress as Jesus desires them to be developed and matured.

Do not seek a wife

If you seek a wife Satan may end up guiding you to the one he wants you to marry. If you marry his choice for you:

There will be strife all the marriage

Love in the marriage will grow cold and legalism will take over

Jesus will not be central to the marriage

There will not be unity in the marriage

Jesus will not be able to use it as He would like too

You may grow lukewarm to the things God wants you to do and may even lose your salvation through continued disobedience in an area (Rev 3:5)

The relationship with your spouse is the second most important relationship you have. The most important relationship is with Jesus.

Until your relationship with Jesus is in place and:

He is Lord of all your life

He alone is your strength and help and all your hopes, purposes and dreams for future happiness are found in Him alone

You live Matt 6:33

He will not give you a spouse as they will get between you and He!

When the spouse will not be a distraction of any type then he can trust you with one.

Until then it is no use looking for a one as Satan will gladly provide his spouse for you. This is why it is so important to let God bring the person to you and not follow the ways of the world which Satan promotes in his media.

Until Jesus is your lord so that nothing, including a relationship with a spouse, will affect the relationship with Him, He will not usually give you a spouse.

Why should Jesus give you someone who could come between you and He and who may ultimately cause you to lose your salvation.

Satan promotes His way of courtship in the Media

It is the opposite of what God wants

It is based on Lust not Love

It is designed to promote love = sex

It is designed to form shallow relationships

It is built on sex, appearance, wealth and mutual attraction

It promotes sleeping or living with different people to test out partners and seeing if you relate to each other in a reasonable way

It promotes living together rather than marriage

It does not promote the long-term commitment that marriage has

It allows changing partners without any legal complications

It allows sex experimentation outside the relationship without worrying about legal problems

It destroys marriage and the family as a structure

Remember that God will bring your wife to you so do not make a list of what you want in a wife then go and look for a woman that matches that list. It will invariably be different to the list of what God desires in your wife. You will be looking for the wrong woman and may miss the one He wants you to have because of this.

God's basic unit is marriage

God's provision for children is found in the stable marriage relationship

It is the basic unit of worship

It was created by God for the benefit of each spouse

It was created by God so that its ministry would be a reflection of how God ministers.

It was created to be the spiritual training ground for children where they would also learn the life skills needed to live as The Father desires them to live later in life.

Children need a mother and father to find their true identity as a person. Where there is only one parent or both are of the same sex this usually does not occur. You must give the needs you cannot fulfil in a child to Jesus and trust Him to deal with them.

Steward of your betrothed

When a man takes his betrothed out, He should remember that he is a steward of her and must look after her properly to ensure her needs are met before his own. This attitude carries on into the marriage so you need to ensure you develop this stewardship in the betrothal period so it becomes second nature in your lifestyle now and later in the marriage.

The Man is responsible for all her needs to the degree she will let him meet them but this lack of acceptance does not mean he can stop trying to meet them until God says to stop trying. Even if the person does not respond you still have to work at your side of the relationship.

Stewardship is not control. It is serving the needs of others by protecting them and meeting their needs.

Women need to remember that their future husband is doing his best to be a good steward of them and love them as Jesus does. Women need to cooperate and practice submitting domestically to their future spouse. Going out is a domestic arrangement and it is good practice for them to practice headship and submission for the future marriage. What woman does not want to be waited on and served by her future spouse!

Headship is not servitude but accepting the order God has placed in a marriage where both are equal before God but the man has the final responsibility for the marriage. But then Jesus is head of the marriage and He should be consulted for all problems and differences causing problems.

Remember that it is only domestic headship and if Jesus is head of the marriage this will never need to be exercised as He will settle any problems occurring in the marriage where there is a difference of opinion.

The future husband should behave as a gentleman so that the woman feels appreciated and loved. This will help her submit. Besides, if he truly loves her, he will serve her needs and she will submit so that he can serve her.

Submission just does not happen. It needs to be learned and the betrothal period is a good time for the future wife to learn this and practice it, especially in a day where Satan cries out in the media that all are equal domestically.

The betrothal and subsequent engagement period allow the future husband to learn how to love and serve his future wife so that she will respond and desire to submit to his love for her.

The man will not be judged on how his spouse dealt with headship but with what they did with it. There is no loophole in regard to obedience to Jesus. It is all or nothing. You are either obeying or you are not. There is no half-obedience or 'way out' of the requirement to obey Jesus in headship and submission.

Appreciation of your betrothed spouse

One of the keys to marriage is the proper appreciation of your betrothed:

Appreciation of who they are as a person

Appreciation of what they do for you

Never take for granted anything they do for you. When you stop appreciating them, they stop being someone special in your eyes. When this happens, they may doubt your love for them as well as their worth to you.

When you appreciate them for who they are and what they do to you, you show your love for them as well as their worth to you. Appreciate your partner and they will respond to this. Do not show appreciation and they will gradually withdraw. Love appreciates people for who they are and not necessarily what they do so appreciation will need to be made regardless of mistakes made by your betrothed.

When your betrothed see they do not have to be perfect and can make mistakes without being rejected then they will be free to be themselves and express themselves to you and become the person Jesus wants them to be! They will be free to try new things and expand their abilities as they do not fear rejection.

Words

When you speak words of love to your betrothed, they must be words of truth that can be performed either in the betrothal period or in the marriage. If you promise her the earth make certain you can give her the earth.

It is not what you say at Times that is important but how you say it.

It is no use speaking words of love in a way that shows you are not sincere or you do not really mean what you say.

When you talk to your spouse, mean what you say and she will be secure in the relationship with you knowing That there is no hidden agenda towards her that you are covering through hypocritical speech.

There is nothing worse than false words of love. Your future spouse will be devastated and all trust between you and them will be shaken to such a degree you may even find God removes your betrothed from you and gives them to someone more worthy.

If God has joined you together then your love will be true and pure and false words will never deliberately occur between you and your spouse. You will also work at the future marriage because not to is disobedience to Jesus.

Expression of love

When a man and a woman love each other deeply they do not need to speak words of love to each other. Their love can be seen in the way they touch, look at each other, show consideration for each other or serve each other. As they put the needs of their spouse before their own needs, they show their love for their spouse.

Their love is apparent in the way they relate to each other and speak to each other without it actually having to be stated as being there.

Manners

One of the problems in the western world is that many people are not taught manners (which is how to behave as gentleman or gentlewoman). Through the control of the media Satan has managed to remove manners, appreciation and consideration of others so that generations have grown up not showing respect or consideration to others because self-interest and pleasure are now the driving force in many societies. As the principles of how God desires us to relate are abandoned so has been the consideration and respect we are to show others.

To be a gentlewoman or gentleman requires thinking of others and showing them respect as well as being self-disciplined to control yourself to be able to do this. Satan does not want these things in people so has removed these attitudes as much as he can, from society and the media he controls.

If you love your spouse or betrothed you will learn how to behave towards them as a gentle person would.

You are a citizen of The Kingdom of God and should show His manners and behaviour to all others, let alone the person you are going to marry or are married too.

If you have God's Love you will learn to be the gentlewoman or gentleman God requires you to be as a representative of His. If you love your betrothed or spouse you will learn how to be gentle to them, show them manners and treat them as a loved person.

Betrothal and Marriage require effort

The Betrothal and the marriage are hard work at times as you have to change habits and attitudes to love another as Jesus loves them as well as to do what is necessary for the betrothal or marriage to be as God wants it to be.

It just does not happen by itself!

Your love for your spouse and the desire to serve them and give them joy and happiness is the encouragement driving you to make the effort to change. When that desire declines the marriage declines and may eventually die.

If you believe God has put you together as a betrothed couple then not to work at the relationship is disobedience to Jesus and later will result in the breaking of the marriage vows to love each other. It is also bad stewardship of the love and the relationship He has given you with your spouse.

God cannot and will not bless a marriage that is in rebellion to him. He will bless any faithful individuals in the marriage but the marriage cannot be used or blessed by Him as He wants to use it and bless it.

After the marriage occurs it is easy to get complacent in the relationship so that you no longer show your love for your spouse either in word or deed and sex becomes a formality. The initial excitement being lost, the woman often feels when having sex, used, or like prostitute and she starts to die as a person and becomes resentful to her husband as he does not love her as he should.

To stop this complacency also requires effort so that your attitude of love to and desire to be with your spouse stays with you all the marriage. The easiest way to stop this decline in feelings for your spouse is to thank God each day for them and for who they are (His gift to you) and to never stop appreciating them and telling them of your love for them for who they are and to also express this love in thought, word and deed (loving service).

It always helps to speak positively (Phil. 4:8) of your spouse and of what they do, showing appreciation of and gratitude for their loving service of you. There will opportunities to show your love and support as well as your desire to help them be the person they have the potential to be so use these wisely. Judgment, perfectionistic standards and negative criticism quickly kill a marriage.

Serving your betrothed

In heaven people willingly serve others. There is no thought for themselves or protecting hurts or emotions as these are no longer a problem in heaven

If you have problems loving others or serving them then you need to deal with the hurts that causes this in you. Deliverance may be necessary

When you naturally have an attitude of loving service to others so that you do not consider your own needs but consider the needs of others then you have the attitude you need to prepare for life in heaven

This is the natural altitude you should have to your betrothed as well as to others

Betrothal is the time to prepare for Matrimony (a Recap)

Preparation for all aspects of marriage but without the sex

Develop the attitudes as husband and wife should have to each other

Learning to walk in unity of purpose as guided by The Holy Spirit

Same servant attitude to each other as God has to them

A chance to put into practice attitudes needed in the marriage

A chance to learn what needs to be dealt with

The same love for each that Jesus has for them

There is no marriage so headship is not relevant theoretically

It is a chance to practice headship roles and to find out what problems each have with it.

A chance to develop the skill of being a gentleman and serving His future wife's needs

They must learn to trust Jesus for the domestic roles they are to have in marriage and prepare themselves for them. (Headship is domestic not spiritual)

They are spiritually equal before and after the marriage only in domestic arrangement does headship apply so this spiritual equality needs to be developed

They both need to learn submission (resulting from their love to each other) to the needs of each other as they will have in marriage.

Remember. We serve Jesus and as directed others so when serving our spouse, it will be what Jesus tells us to do for them or has shown in His Bible or in the past we need to do for them. Even so it is good to check with The Holy Spirit at times as having done something one way does not mean we are to do it the same way next time.

Domestic submission is for order in the marriage

God will require a husband to give account of his headship

God will require a wife to give an account of her submission to the husband's headship

The betrothal period is a chance to practice how you will relate to each other in preparation for marriage

You will not ask for anyone you love to sin

Sex

Heavy Petting

Anything against God's laws

All you do will be out of pure love for them

A time of getting to know each other spiritually

Physical appearance not important

Looks deceive and will fade away

Sex corrupts the relationship (does he want me or my body?)

God has chosen future spouse so it does not matter what they look like

Love looks at the heart and their spirit and desires them for who they are and not because of their body or abilities as the world does and as Satan promotes. Marriage is a spiritual thing so that the physical should not be determinative in the relationship.

A time of joining to each other through finding out

What you have in common

What you need to adjust for what you do not have in common

What you need to remove from your life for a successful marriage

Whether any deliverance is needed to remove problems in the relationship

You need to be led by The Holy Spirit when interacting and resolving problems

Where forgiveness is needed learn to forgive or apologise and ask for forgiveness

Where you have offended another learn to go to them for forgiveness

Where there are differences of opinion you need to learn as a couple to consult The Holy Spirit and do the Will of Jesus that He reveals to you.

Where there is any lack of trust in the spouse you need to find out why and deal with it through deliverance.

Encourage each other's masculinity or femininity

The future husband must encourage the femininity and development of the roles that his future wife will have

The Future wife must encourage the masculinity and the development of the roles her future husband will have

Demands should not be made on the other that are not in the job description God has made for Christians in regard to their sexuality or roles as a betrothed and later married couple.

There is nothing stopping you helping your spouse if they ask you for help in an area they have authority in.

Pray for your betrothed

You need to pray for each other

Ask their permission to pray for them and give them permission to pray for you.

Pray for each other's spiritual growth and maturity

Do any deliverance you need for each other

Pray for marriage preparations and honeymoon

Cultural conventions should be observed where possible

As God has chosen the couple the parents' permission to marry is not necessary unless the laws of the land require it (underage or under a legal disability but then God will not ask what cannot be done).

God is a higher authority than parents

Parents, if Christians, will accept the partner of their child if God has chosen this partner for their child Remember! Because Satan controls the world media, he has been able to promote his way of finding a wife and subsequent behaviour during the betrothal period and by this hides God's values and ways in these matters. Through his control of the media Satan has effectively negated the knowledge of God's plans in these matters so that even the church does not know how God wants the betrothal period to be lived as Jesus desires it lived.

Praying together

Praying together should also be a common practice as should sharing the blessings of the day and the reading the bible after the evening meal. There should also be times of praying for each other and encouraging each other as well as discussing with each other how to help them with any problems they have.

Betrothed Couples and spiritual warfare

Betrothed couples need to give each other authority to conduct spiritual warfare for each other. This puts Satan on notice that each has the authority to conduct spiritual warfare for the other and seems to make the warfare more effective for some reason (Matt 28:20).

They need to learn how to do this effectively. Prayer is not effective spiritual warfare usually! You need to command in the Name of Jesus!

Decision making in the betrothal period

Jesus must be Lord of it

If Jesus is your Lord all you decide will be in accordance with His Will. So:

Where the Bible is obvious in the choices you must make you do what it says.

Where it is not clear, you ask The Holy Spirit as He will tell you what God wants you to know and/or do

If God says nothing then put it aside and ask later as He does not want you to know unless sin or a demon is blockading you hearing The Holy Spirit.

If a demon is blocking you cast Him to the throne of Judgment in Jesus' Name and ask The Holy Spirit to take its place.

Where sin is involved repentance is needed (The Five Steps will help with this)

Seeking God's Will stops you making decision for selfish purposes as you only make them then for the sake of The Kingdom when you make them in accordance with God's Will.

Unity in the spirit

If there is unity in the spirit you will know in your mind what the other person is thinking at times as you are both walking in unity in The Spirit and as a result along a similar path so He will tell you similar things at the same time. It is not the reading of the mind of another but of the both hearing at the same or similar time what The Holy Spirit desires you both to do for Jesus.

Each of you have your own path to walk in but both also have a path as a married or betrothed couple and this path is common to both. When your objective is to solely do the will of God all three paths closely align with each other and all three paths may even merge as one.

You will say some things and it will be what your spouse is thinking at the time or wanted to say. If you disagree then The Spirit is to be consulted so He can explain what He needs to so that unity is obtained again.

Decisions

I reinforce that all major decisions, especially involving finances should be made together. However small amounts can be spent without consulting the other spouse. You need to ask The Holy Spirit what this small amount is as well as what He wants any of these small amounts spent on. This will facilitate purchase of groceries, petrol etc., when the need arises and not later after consultation with each other.

If you are both united in The Spirit you will already know what the Will of God is so it will be like rubber stamping any decision or request the other spouse makes.

The Holy Spirit is always there to guide you and explain what you need to know.

Problem Resolution

A dispute settlement system is needed for when there are problems or disagreements. If you walk in the unity of The Holy Spirit these should never arise. It is suggested the following be observed:

Do not assume anything (so Satan cannot guide your thinking)

Do not react (so Satan cannot use the habits of the past to guide you)

Remember, disagreement is not rejection so do not reject a person because you disagree with them so do not argue about something

Ask The Holy Spirit for Guidance as well as how to show God's Love in the situation.

Observe delegated authority lines.

Dispute Reconciliation

The marriage that stays together is one that resolves problems in a Godly way and these mechanisms should be set up before matrimony so they are in place for the state of matrimony (living together as husband and wife).

To expose who you are to someone you must trust their love for you, that they accept you as you are, warts and all and not as you think you should be. This means they can help you with the warts and will understand better and help deal with any problems you have that may have help cause the situation you are reconciling over.

Wrong attitudes to your future spouse turns them inwards and stops communication outwards and will build up walls if not dealt with. The focus turns from Jesus to themselves and their inadequateness so they feel unacceptable to themselves and the person they must face.

One or both spouses may need to deal with self-rejection, self-hatred, low self-esteem, false guilt, shame or condemnation or fear of the other persons love being not true or what it should be toward them. Deliverance may be needed before reconciliation can start.

Deliverance is needed as is the realisation they were forgiven at Calvary and all they need to do is repent, and that all shame guilt and condemnation were dealt with at Calvary and all that you feel of these is a result of Satan placing these on you and are not from God.

Forgiveness

God is a forgiving God, so should betrothed people be with each other.

Love forgives. Love may hate what the person does but forgives the person and helps them to overcome any problems they have as they appreciate who the person is in Jesus.

Love as God Loves and you will have a marriage people will envy and God can bless.

Note that unforgiveness not repented of will destroy the marriage and lead to loss of your salvation

Exposing yourself to your betrothed or spouse

A woman needs the security of being loved for whom she is and if a man starts wanting to look at her body and not who she is as a person she loses a sense of security and wonders whether he likes her for whom she is or her body.

She will expose herself to her husband in the marriage act after the wedding and treasure the complete giving of herself to him. Expose her before this precious time and she will not feel as special as she should as she has lost some of her specialness through previous exposure of her body.

Anything that mars this special time on the wedding eve will mar the specialness of the event in her heart.

Keep your betrothed's body till the act of marriage and focus on the relationship and who she is as a person and you will reap dividends your whole married life.

Remember that a woman's body, displayed wholly or partly naked, should only be seen by her husband or doctor. or nurse. The husband: when they have sex, she is changing her

clothes or bathing or they are conducting heavy petting or similar, and the doctor for medical purposes and then even they are to expose only what they need to see. This stops a woman being the subject of lust, lewdness or pornographic displays, all which demean women.

Likewise, a man should also only be seen naked for the same reasons a woman can be seen naked.

If a person loves their betrothed the physical is not important. It is the mere fact that you want to see your spouse's body and not who they are that causes the problems, especially with women exposing any part of themselves except in time of intimacy such as sex and heavy petting where it is appropriate to be so exposed in part of whole.

Note, being naked with your spouse is not God's definition of intimacy. It is Satan's.

True intimacy involves the sharing of the whole person and not just the physical side of the person.

Expansion of the above

A woman who loves Jesus does not want a man to focus on her body but on who she is as a person and does not want to expose herself to him until they are married. This results in the spiritual being built up and not the physical. It also means the commitment of marriage is there so that she can freely expose herself to her husband in the marriage act and afterwards as she desires for the sake of giving each other pleasure.

A woman who follows the worldly ways of Satan is told to reveal her beauty and use it to attract men so she shows off her body and is willing to expose it and offer it for her boyfriend to use sexually. She has been taught sex = love and it is not necessary to be married to have sex so she has it when she wants it or when he asks her for it so she can 'keep' her future spouse or boyfriend as well as express her 'love' for him through sex and heavy petting. The spiritual is neglected and the physical pleasure is the focus of the relationship. This type of relationship lasts as long as the woman's beauty or they tire of the physical relationship unless they both become Christians.

Inside people is a need to be appreciated for who they are and not what they look like although this is important to women. Men who desire women for their looks leave a part of the woman unfulfilled and this will affect the relationship.

A man should love his wife for who she is as a person and not what she looks like but he should appreciate what she looks like and love her how she is. When she exposes her body to him in marriage, he should appreciate it and tell her so but also reinforce that sex is the result of the love have they for each other and not a cause of it.

Always look at the eyes of your spouse and let them see the love in it for them. In their eyes will be a reflection of how much you love them.

The intimate act of love was designed by God to seal marriage and the commitment of the husband and wife to become 'one flesh' and this is both spiritual as well as physical. (The physical is always the result of a spiritual decision of some kind, even if only of obedience to God). When Adam and Eve fell into sin as a result of their choice to defy God, they saw

their nakedness and were ashamed. Not because they were naked but because they had sinned.

When a woman is asked to reveal her body to another for sexual or other reasons it implies there is a depth of relationship only seen in marriage and that it is their spouse asking to see their nakedness for the purposes of cementing the marriage further. This also has spiritual implications. This exposure before marriage is against the act of marriage (sex) and the unity this act results in and therefore invites demonic spiritual interference and counterfeit of the marriage act (premarital sex).

A woman needs the assurance and safety of the covenant of marriage to have the correct sense of relationship and commitment so that she feels protected and secure within the sexual boundaries set by God. Otherwise, there is a sense of being used or defiled at a spiritual level because they are not in a correct relationship with the person spiritually so that sex in the physical feels wrong and the woman feels used or like a prostitute. This happens especially when a woman allows a spouse to see her body for the purposes of keeping him or getting self-esteem from what he says or does to it.

Many women, Christian or otherwise, cannot explain why they feel 'used and abused' when they are asked or enticed to expose themselves outside the safe place of the marriage covenant. Even in the marriage if the husband does not have the right spiritual intent or reason to be intimate with his spouse, she will also feel this sense of defilement.

This is why it is so important to be spiritually and emotionally right with your spouse before you have sex because the spiritual must be in place or the physical will not be satisfactory and fulfilling and the spouse will feel used.

Sex begins when you wake up and the preparation continues through the love and appreciation you show of your spouse throughout the day. You do not just jump into bed and have sex unless you have no emotions in which case you need deliverance.

Any man who truly loves his wife for who she is will not ask her to expose her nakedness to him or have sex with her before marriage. If either desire to show the other their nakedness or have sex before marriage then they need deliverance so that the relationship can be as God intended it to be.

Another aspect of exposing yourself before marriage

There are two aspects to marriage: the spiritual (God controls) and the physical (controlled by God's laws of how the marriage is to be expressed). Ideally the physical is an expression of the spiritual. The expression of the marriage (nakedness and exposure of yourself to your spouse can only occur in marriage.

The betrothal period is a period of spiritual interaction where the spiritual side of the marriage is developed to later be expressed in the physical. To express the physical before the marriage proper is to sin as it is not in the order God made things to be. Only as you are in a position to express the physical (married or conducting the 'act of marriage) can you correctly express the physical in a relationship. To do so otherwise is sin.

The Wedding Vows in Brief

The type of marriage vows you are to make to God are outlined in Ephesians Chapter 5.

The Wife is to vow to submit domestically (and not spiritually) to her husband and respect him (not necessarily love him). This is especially so in arranged marriages where the couples are bought together by God or parents.

The husband is to vow to love his wife as Jesus loves both he and she.

All wedding vows should be based on these requirements of God.

Over all this is the love they should have for each other as Christians which is greater than what the wife is asked to vow.

Any wedding vows that do not have these aspects of love and service in them do not reflect what God respects from a marriage.

If a husband loves his wife with the same type of love that Jesus loves her with, she will gladly submit as he will only ever do what is best for her when he asks her to submit to him. But then, if they both walk with The Holy Spirit this will not even be necessary as both will know what is to be done and will serve Jesus in the matter and in doing so will serve the other spouse and do only what is best for them.

In Conclusion

You will only get out of your betrothal and marriage what you put into it:

Love your betrothed (future spouse) as Jesus Loves them and show them respect and courtesy and appreciation of who they are

Do not lead them into sexual sin or similar and load them with guilt

Prepare each other for marriage through serving and helping each other with problems and weaknesses as well as removing all fear in the relationship (deliverance may be necessary).

Concentrate on preparing, as a couple, the things needed for wedding ceremony, honeymoon and living together as a married couple

Learn to serve each other in the daily things of life

Learn to express love to your partner without the need for petting and/or sex

Be guided by The Holy Spirit in all you do individually and as a married couple.

In all things keep Jesus central and the focus of each of you and the betrothal and marriage will be as He desires it to be and He will be able to bless it in the way he desires to bless it with children and service to The Kingdom of God.