**A Rock-Solid Marriage**

# The Law of Priority

Father and Mother Relationship

Before Marriage

Most important human relationship bond

After marriage

For this cause leave father and mother

Cleave to spouse (Genesis 2:24)

Leave **does not** mean:

Abandon

Despise

Abuse

Dishonor

Leave **does** mean:

Relinquish the highest **position** of commitment and devotion

Giving that **position** to spouse

Parents placed in a lower **priority** position

Spouse takes **first** place

The Law of Priority states:

God has a Divine Order (I Corinthians 14:33, 40)

Marriage in any position of priority other than God’s, doesn’t work!

Time, energy, resources rightfully belonging in marriage—given by spouse to someone or something else, significantly and consistently:

Causes spouse to **feel** violated

**Experience** legitimate jealousy (Exodus 34:14)

Decent Order (3 Things)

**Set** my **Priorities** (I Corinthians 14:40)

God (Relationship and Walk)

Spouse (First priority-human relationship)

Children

Church (Matthew 6:33)

Extended family and special friends

Work and Career

Hobbies and other interests (recreation)

**Prove** my **Priorities** (John 14:15)

Go beyond words of affirmation

Put action to your words

Invest time, energy, and resources in spouse

**Protect** my **Priorities**

From legitimate and good things

Competing demand (talking on phone for two hours)

Example: Like Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Mary hath chosen

How to do it. . .

Budgeting resources, time, energy

If choice is between playing golf, fishing, etc. and spouse, choose spouse

# The Law of Pursuit

Shall ***CLEAVE*** (Genesis 2:24)

Cleave means:

To follow hard after

To **pursue** with great **energy** and **diligence**

Pursue

Chase

Communicate with each other on a regular basis

Spend quality time together

Energy

Work at trying to impress each other

Careful about appearance

Sensitive with words

Buying and doing little things for each other

Diligence

Constant

Consistent

Continue

(Showing kindness and expressing goodness—not just for birthdays and special days.)

Secrets of Staying in Love

**Work** at having a **good marriage**

(In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. *Proverbs 14:23 NAS*)

2. **Sow** what you desire to **Reap**

(Be not deceived, God is not mocked. [Galatians 6:7])

3. Don’t take each other for **granted**

**Reinforce** your love (Your love with either live or die)

Show **affirmation**

Show **compassion**

**Compliment** each other

Spend **time** doing things you both enjoy

Be **sensitive**

**Don’t** be **judgmental**

Spend time **together**

A Word from the Lord

If married couples did before. . .what they’re doing now, they would have never gotten married.

Keys to Renewal (Revelations 2:5)

Recall former actions during your dating days

Repent (to turn around) of all negative words and behavior

Do the deeds done at first

Act like you did when first dating/first in love

What you give attention to, you will desire (feelings return)

# The Law of Agreement (Genesis 2:24)

Definition of Agreement (Acts 2:1)

Be in accord

Can live in same house, eat from same table, sleep in the same bed, and not be in agreement.

Harmonize

Make a symphony

Imagine an orchestra with different players and instruments all in harmony

Flow together

Quarterback and Receiver

Point Guard and Center

Pitcher and Catcher

Husband and Wife

United (Being in Agreement)

Marriage is a Team Sport (Mark 10:6-8)

Example: Tennis

Singles = competition, rivalry, jealousy, contention

Doubles = working together, one win. . .both win

 C. Importance and Power of Agreement

 (Deuteronomy 32:30; Psalm 133, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Matthew 18:19-20)

D. Greatest Hindrance to Agreement (Amos 3:3)

Being unequally yoked (Deuteronomy 22:10, II Corinthians 6:14)

Possible to be in love with the wrong person

Equally yoked

Be spiritually compatible

Both born again

Entire belief system (standards, convictions)

Appreciation for God’s Word

Tithes and Offerings

Speaking with Tongues

Healing

Church background (legalistic)

Church affiliation and attendance

Need to eat from the same spiritual table

Not God’s will for one to be in one place. . .one in another

Church Membership: Should woman follow the man? Only if he is:

Spiritually mature and informed?

Spiritually sensitive?

Man of prayer?

Spirit-led? (II Corinthians 12:18)

If not—could be committing spiritual suicide

Natural Agreement

(Couple should discuss expectations and goals **prior** to marriage)

Premarital Counseling

A **“must”**

If fiancé doesn’t want it—**RED FLAG**

(Proverbs 8:39) All they that hate me, love death

Warning Signs

Hitting

Cursing you

Undisciplined in spending

Arguing all the time

Jealousy

Lack of trust

Four Keys to Agreement in Marriage

Key #1 ***Understanding*** (I Peter 3:7)

1. Your decision **will** affect your spouse
2. Lack of agreement hinders your prayers
3. No unilateral decisions
4. Heirs together. . . good/bad

 Key #2 ***Communication*** (Genesis 11:1-7)

 (Goals/plans should always be discussed)

 Key #3 ***Mutual Respect*** (I Corinthians 1:10)

1. You don’t have to have complete uniformity
2. You do have to have unity
3. Paul advocates unity in diversity
4. Example of lock and key
5. Uniqueness and acceptance
6. Your partner is not you
7. Created in God’s image not yours
8. Your partner has a right to be other and treated or respected as other
9. Likes and dislikes should be respected

 Key #4 ***Pray to know the mind of the Spirit*** (Ephesians 4:2-3)

# The Law of Possession (Genesis 2:24)

1. God’s Intent
2. Marriage to be total sharing of life between two people
3. The Law of Possession states:
4. Marriage is a complete union
5. **“All”** things previously owned and managed separately are now owned and managed jointly.
6. Must be partners in the decision-making process
7. Protects from selfishness
8. Domination
9. Control
10. Disrespect
11. Anything in marriage not mutually owned
12. Leads to division
13. Problems
14. Produces legitimate jealousy
15. Trust is the Foundation
16. Question before marriage:
17. ***“Can I trust this person completely with every area of my life?”*** (I Corinthians 7:3-4)
18. Those who marry (I Corinthians 7:4 Living Bible)
19. No longer have full right to his or her own body
20. Husband/wife have right to your body too
21. Change (in marriage) in the management of our bodies
22. From sole-personal ownership and control
23. To shared ownership and control with our spouse
24. Law of possession covers every area of couple’s lives
25. Body
26. Finances
27. Property and material wealth
28. Children (even from previous marriage[s])
29. Vocabulary of Single Life
30. Me
31. Mine
32. You
33. Yours
34. Vocabulary of the Married Life
35. Ours
36. Us
37. We
38. Pre-marital Agreement

Legal documents signed before marriage in order to prohibit one spouse access to the other spouse’s wealth is a violation of the law of possession.

1. Special circumstances to separate resources
2. Trust repeatedly violated
3. Addiction (drugs, alcohol, gambling)
4. Fool
5. Selfish
6. Self-centered spouse
7. Understanding the law of possession
8. Marriage is not just a legal contract
9. Marriage is a **“Blood Covenant”** relationship
10. Read Malachi 2:14-15 (Amplified Bible)
11. Mariage – A Blood Covenant Relationship
12. Contract/Agreement between two people or parties whereby everything owned is equally shared
13. Assets, debts, benefits, liabilities, talents
14. Two lives become one. All is mutually shared.
15. No longer “I” now “We”
16. **Five Steps Instituting Blood Covenant (Marriage)**
17. **Exchange Garments (coats)**
18. All my possession
19. All my wealth
20. All my belongings are yours—available to you
21. **Exchange of Weapons**
22. All my strength
23. Power
24. War ability is available to you
25. I commit to fight for and defend you
26. Your enemy. . .is my enemy
27. **Exchange of Names**
28. Power of Attorney is given
29. Legal right to use my name as I would
30. **Shedding of Blood**
31. Covenant—to cut until blood flows
32. At wedding ceremony—spirits are mingled
33. Wedding night—first act of sexual intercourse. Physical—external sign of internal spiritual work. . .water baptism
34. When the hymen of the bride’s vagina is penetrated, blood flows over the man’s penis. Sign before God a covenant has been entered into
35. **Covenant Meal**
36. Fellowship, friendship, companionship, and the sharing of lives together

# The Law of Transparency (Genesis 2:25)

A. **Transparency Defined:**

1. Naked—both the one, as well as the other (husband/wife)
2. Completely exposed
3. Nothing hidden before God. . .before one another

God designed nakedness of marriage

1. To include every area of life
2. Physical (body)
3. Mental (what’s on your mind?)
4. Emotional (feelings)
5. Spiritually (what’s going on with you?)
6. Socially (friends and relationships)

Man and his Wife

1. God created us with a need for nakedness
2. God understand you **cannot** and **should not** open up and reveal yourself to just any person in just any place
3. Marriage was created by God to be the only place where one may fulfill the need for total nakedness
4. We get in trouble when we reveal to the wrong person in the wrong place
5. Get hurt
6. God’s intent **was** that a man and his wife not be ashamed, embarrassed or disappointed in being naked with each other

Three Keys to Honoring the Law of Transparency

1. Purity (moral)
2. Honesty
3. Thoughts
4. Feelings
5. Habits
6. Likes/dislikes
7. Personal history
8. Daily activities
9. Plans for the future
10. An environment for openness
11. Can share freely
12. Without fear of rejection
13. Free from anger
14. Free from criticism
15. Free from embarrassment