

# **Husbands and Wives**

## **Building Up Your Spouse**

### **I. A truly successful marriage is successful according to God's economy:**

- A. God's economy is that He could grow in us to be our life and everything to us, so that we could become His expression both individually and especially corporately as the church (Eph. 3:10-11).
- B. A marriage relationship is an excellent environment for us to gain more of the Lord in our daily living.
- C. If we are cultivating our marriage relationship by learning to deny ourselves and apply Christ, we not only will be gaining the Lord, we also will by doing our part to bring Christ into our family and to make our marriage successful.
- D. This will make our family a blessing to the church for the advancement of God's economy.

### **II. A successful marriage does not just happen, it must be cultivated:**

- A. Many husbands and wives have never thought about their marriage in terms of success or failure, so they are careless about their marriage and do not exercise to make it a success.
- B. This results in their marriage being full of problems both for their family and for the church.
- C. If we want our family to be a successful family, we need to cherish it as a job and spend time with it; we need to do our best to make it work.

### **III. Characteristics of a successful versus a failed marriage:**

**Successful**

**Failed**

### **IV. Taking care of your attitude toward your spouse:**

- A. Closing one's eyes to the other party's weaknesses:
  - 1. When God puts two people together as husband and wife, His intention is that there be submission and love between the two.
  - 2. He has no intention for them to discover each other's faults or to correct each other.
  - 3. There is no need to look at the faults and weaknesses of others and try to change them; a motive of trying to change the other party is basically wrong.
  - 4. Love, the expression of the life of God, covers sins (1 Cor. 13:7; 1 Pet. 4:8).
  - 5. One of the ways in which Satan attacks us is by his accusations (Rev. 12:10), not only before God, but also in our hearts.

6. Accusing and condemning our spouse does not help them; it tears them down just as Satan tries to do with his accusations.
- B. Learning to accommodate:
1. No matter how compatible the characters of a husband and wife are, sooner or later they will discover many differences between them.
  2. The meaning of accommodation is to meet someone halfway; in other words, after two people are married, both must change at least half of everything that they do.
  3. Accommodating others means sympathizing with the other person's limitations.
  4. As Christians we should learn to deny ourselves (Matt. 16:24); self-denial makes one an accommodating person.
  5. This is the discipline God gives to us in the family.
  6. We must learn to put our views aside and accept the views of others; we should not try to convince the others to always accept our views and do things our way.
- C. Learning to appreciate the virtues of the other person:
1. Once we are married, we must learn to discover and appreciate the virtues, goodness, and beauty of our spouse.
  2. Whenever the opportunity arises, we must publicly acknowledge the virtues of our spouse.
  3. The thought that one has married the wrong person has destroyed many families.
  4. Negative speaking to or about our spouse will likely cause them to actually become like we speak to them or about them to others.
  5. Whether or not one has a happy family life depends not only on closing our eyes to the other's weaknesses, but also on finding out the other party's virtues and appreciating them.

## **Just as I am**

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
- 2 Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot;  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt;  
Fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;  
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
- 6 Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

## **Tal como soy, sin más decir**

- 1 Tal como soy, sin más decir  
Que en Tu sangre yo creí,  
Ya que me invitas vengo así,  
Cordero de Dios, vengó a Ti.
- 2 Tal como soy, sin demorar  
Para quitarme mi maldad;  
Mi ser Tu sangre limpiará,  
Cordero de Dios, vengó a Ti.
- 3 Tal como soy, en confusión,  
Conflicto, duda y tentación,  
Aunque con luchas y temor,  
Cordero de Dios, vengó a Ti.
- 4 Tal como soy, pobre infeliz,  
Por mi carencia a Ti acudí,  
Salud y gozo halló aquí,  
Cordero de Dios, vengó a Ti.
- 5 Tal como soy, me aceptarás,  
Dando el perdón, con vida y paz;  
Pues Tu promesa yo creí,  
Cordero de Dios, vengó a Ti.
- 6 Tal como soy, Tu gran amor  
Ya mis barreras derribó;  
Soy todo Tuyo, mi Señor,  
Cordero de Dios, vengó a Ti.

### ***Further Reading:***

1. *Husbands and Wives* - CWWN, Set Three, vol. 49, "Messages for Building Up New Believers (2)", pp. 501-506)
2. Genesis 37:5-9 and footnote 5<sup>1</sup>