

# **The Remodeling of Your Home**

Ephesians 5:25-33

While remodeling a house has become a favorite American pastime, we are more apt to remodel the place we live than we are to change the way we live. Yet changing the way we live would prove to be a much more profitable venture than remodeling a kitchen, moving a wall, adding a porch, or enlarging the family room.

## **1. The biblical model is the only adequate model for the family.**

Each of us enters marriage with an idea already in mind of what marriage and family is all about. That idea is our "model," or pattern, for marriage. Where did you learn marriage? Parents? Television? Social Media?

In Genesis 2:18-25 we read that a man is to leave his father and mother in order that he may be completely devoted to his wife. She is to be his helper. The aim of marriage is clearly to provide a context in which the man and woman can be fruitful and multiply. They are also to be equal partners in the dominion over the earth.

## **2. Make God the Lord of your life and the Lord of your marriage.**

Paul made it clear that in the Christian community, "there is neither male nor female ... for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). It is difficult to conceive of a more definitive statement of equality. Paul affirms the equal worth of males and females as persons. Both come equally to Christ and both equally put on Christ in their act of faith and baptism.

## **3. Love is the essential ingredient of marriage.**

**Paul commanded husbands:** "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25). He is to express caring love for his wife (Ephesians 5:28-30). The wife is also to love her husband (Titus 2:4). The word "love" is the strongest word Paul could use. It is the same word which describes God's gift to the world of his only Son so He could redeem the world. It is the same word which describes the essential nature of the relationship between Christ and his church, which is the model for the marriage relationship.

**Conclusion:** Marriage is a mutual commitment based on sacrificial love. The only appropriate model for marriage is the relationship of Jesus Christ to His bride, the church. Do you sincerely care for your marriage as much as Christ cares for His church? Any strong family is based upon a healthy relationship between husband and wife.