

Salem Full Gospel Church - Healthy Marriage Series

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Marriage and Provision

Financial considerations are one of the most important aspects to having a healthy relationship, family, and marriage. It is often one of the least thought about, and consequently one of the greatest causes for marital stress and breakdown. God's Word has some important insights to consider in this regard. Many times people erroneously believe that these issues will somehow just take care of themselves, if they could "just get married". What is actually true, is that we are much better off praying, thinking, and talking about these things beforehand, and develop a plan for how we are going to make it work.

Below are several different versions of the same scripture:

Pr 24:27 (KJV) Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

Pr 24:27 (ASV) Prepare thy work without, And make it ready for thee in the field; And afterwards build thy house.

Pr 24:27 (BBE) Put your work in order outside, and make it ready in the field; and after that, see to the building of your house.

Pr 24:27 (DBY) Prepare thy work without, and put thy field in order, and afterwards build thy house.

Pr 24:27 (MKJV) Prepare your work outside, and make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterwards build your house.

Pr 24:27 (NKJV) Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

Pr 24:27 (RSV) Prepare your work outside, get everything ready for you in the field; and after that build your house.

Pr 24:27 (WEB) Prepare your work outside, and get your fields ready. Afterwards, build your house.

No matter which version you choose, the conclusion is clear: we need to have a way to make a living and provide for our families and ourselves before we enter a marriage and begin building a home. We encourage you to acquire some education and training in life that will help you in the lifelong process of providing for yourselves and your family. The more proficient you become in any field of endeavor, the more secure will be the future for you and your family.

The Bible also speaks about provision in the New Testament:

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

The phrase "his own", is a Greek word "idios", and according to Strong's Greek

Dictionary means (next page):

2398. idiov idios, id'-ee-os

of uncertain affinity; pertaining to self, i.e. one's own; by implication, private or separate:--X his acquaintance, when they were alone, apart, aside, due, **his** (own, proper, several), home, (**her, our**, thine, your) own (business), private(-ly), proper, severally, their (own).

Notice that this pertains to not only the man, but also the woman. There may be times when bad things happen, such as layoffs, business cutting back, etc, but you both need to have a plan, and be working together to take care of your family. You need to discuss how each of you will be helping to make a life together; as there is more to provision than just money. Many things that make life worthwhile require time and effort, in addition to money.

The plan for provision should already be in place and working before the marriage takes place. Heartaches turn to disasters when empty promises about future efforts never materialize. Ladies, if he won't provide for himself before marrying you, he probably won't provide for you and your family either. Guys, if she is fundamentally lazy before marriage, that is a possible indicator of her future plans as well. Even when staying home, raising children and/or making a home takes a great effort, and should not be entered into lightly by either party. Making a satisfying life together will require effort from both of you, and will require teamwork in making and handling finances, and in providing a pleasant living experience at home. Do your best to make sure your potential spouse is up to these challenges of life beforehand, to a degree that you can be happy with. Love does cover a multitude of sins, but it does not buy food, clothes, or pay the electric bill. These items of life require the willingness to work to earn it, and the knowledge and discipline to manage it. Do yourselves a favor, and address these things beforehand to help lay the groundwork for a happy and fulfilling life together.