

## **Salem Full Gospel Church - Healthy Marriage Series**

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### **Spiritual Issues of Marriage**

One of the first steps to having an enjoyable married life for a Christian, is to build close relationships only with other believers. Marriage is certainly designed to be a "close relationship". Many times, spiritual considerations are given last place in priority. This often leads to a miserable life for those who choose this way. Jesus says that when we place Him first, He will help fill in all the other details of our lives/relationships:

Mt 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

As a Christian, scripture admonishes us to build close relationships only with other believers. I believe we are wise also to find someone as interested in the Lord as we are. Contrary to what many believe, most people do not change as a result of getting married. Whatever someone is before marriage, they are likely to remain. People can and do change, but only by them responding to the work of the Holy Spirit in their own life. Constant pressure or badgering from people (even a spouse) rarely brings about that change, and can leave both parties feeling very frustrated and unfulfilled.

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

The same can be said of our everyday relationships. To solidify our commitment to the Lord and to one another, find a Bible preaching/teaching church to get involved in. Everyone seems to have crazy schedules these days, but there are generally service times available that will work for anyone who is interested. You owe it to the Lord, to your family, and to yourself to be continually growing spiritually.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Marriage often involves children, which is another good reason to get involved in church. The Lord never intended the church to raise your children, but to help you do it more effectively. Children know what is really important to you not by what you say, but by what you do.

Pr 22:6 ¶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Notice the phrase "in the way"; this implies that you are already there; to train someone "in" something, assumes you are "in" it yourself.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

No one else can take your place as mother or father. To nurture and admonish children and see them grow spiritually, allow them to see you growing as well.