



Adjusting In The First Year of Marriage

By: Rhonda Simpson

Ah . . . marriage! It is the goal which most singles are working their way to. Sometimes it's a woman daydreaming about that "knight in shining armor" or even that man in search of the "Proverbs 31 woman." We have all seen relationships romanticized in movies and have read about it in novels. The feeling of gazing longingly into each other's eyes and whispering sweet nothings into each other's ears as you ride off into the sunset to live happily ever after. If you're reading this article, most likely you know that real life doesn't work quite that way! In fact, relationships in general, whether with family, friends, or co-workers, have their ups and downs – marriage is no different.

The first year of marriage can be quite challenging if you are not prepared. Two single people from differing backgrounds and experiences come together in the sight of God and loved ones, committing their lives to one another. You are in love. Everything is blissfully wonderful. You have had a beautiful wedding, an enchanting honeymoon, now it's time to start your new lives together. Then one day he leaves his socks on the living room floor or she takes three hours to get ready . . . just to go to Six Flags. There must be an adjustment. After all, you are no longer just separate individuals, but you are now husband and wife, one together in marriage.

If you read the book, *Song of Solomon* in your Bible, you will get a glimpse that love between a man and a woman in marriage hasn't changed much over the course of time, even though our culture has. However, when you do meet that right person and get married, you must always remain level headed and realize that one must not confuse fantasy with reality.

Put God First

This is certainly a given for any Christian. If Christ is the number one priority in your life, things will go a lot smoother. Submitting your new marriage to the leadership of our LORD and Savior is a must in order for your union to be truly successful. It is paramount that you and your mate are equally

yoked. In *II Corinthians 6:14*, the Bible states, 'Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?' (NIV) Hopefully, this is something you will have discussed with each other prior to getting married.

Allow God to make your marriage what He desires for it to be. In order to know His purpose, you must spend time regularly in prayer and studying His word, together as a couple, and individually. In the early stages, it's easy to get so engrossed in the newness of your relationship that you neglect to spend time with the LORD. Remember that the reason you are with this amazing person in the first place is because He brought you two together. Also, it is always helpful to seek godly counsel from a couple in a healthy relationship that has been married longer than you. Find a couple that you trust, can confide in, who will pray for you and with you when you need it, and who will hold you accountable to the word of God in your new union. The wisdom they have to share is priceless and can help you in adjusting to your new life together.

Know Your Role

Ephesians 5:22-33 and *1 Peter 3:1-7* explains this so vividly. Wives are to be submitted to and respect their husbands. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. A principle so simple yet can get complicated as we bring our personalities and past experiences into a marriage relationship. In a day and age where women can be too independent and men can be too insensitive, we need to revisit the basic Christian principles of a healthy marriage.

Maybe you're a single parent and have been running your household for years without the help of a partner. Or you already have established your career, bought a house, and you are quite accomplished and settled into the life you have conquered without a mate. Whatever the case, assuming the proper role of husband or wife may be difficult and frustrating, but it is absolutely necessary in order for your new marriage to work. Men and women are different, but both genders have traits and qualities



that compliment one another. Your God-given role in marriage is for your good and it's designed so that your marriage experience is a joyful and happy one. A wife won't mind submitting to a loving husband and she will respect him for being kind and considerate. It also makes it easier for a husband to love and respect a wife who is willing to trust him as he leads her under the submission of the LORD.

Be Flexible

It's not just about you anymore! In singleness, the common words are: me, myself, and I. That should soon change once you begin to date and get engaged, even before you say "I do." You must realize that your agenda is no longer the most important thing. Now you must include your spouse's plans and consider them as well. No two people are exactly alike. Obviously if you're married, you have many things in common, but you also have differences as well. Be prepared to watch a movie you don't want to see or go to a restaurant that you may not particularly care for if it pleases your counterpart.

Understand that your mate has needs and interests that differ from your own. Appreciate those differences even if it frustrates you at times. How boring would a relationship be if they had nothing new to introduce? In fact, you might find yourself enjoying something that your spouse likes that you probably weren't interested in at first. It's all about compromise. If both of you have the same mindset in this area, many unnecessary conflicts will be avoided.

Be Realistic

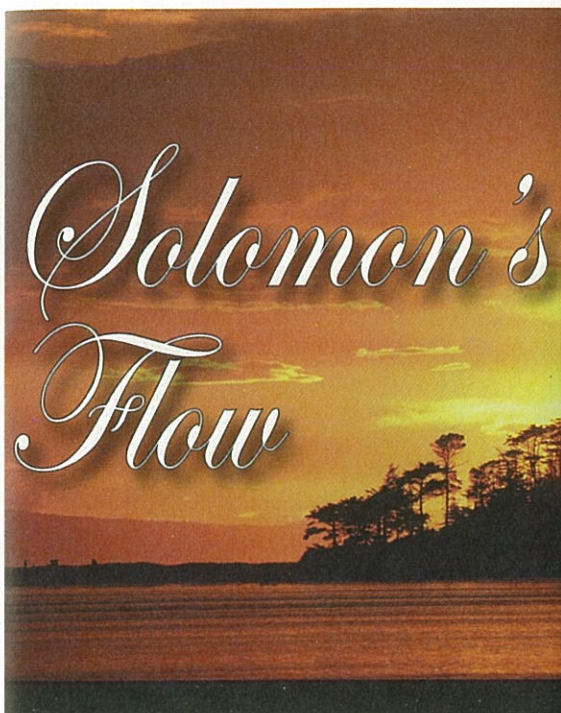
Give each other space! Yes of course, you're newlyweds and you want to spend every waking moment together. But you also don't want to completely shut yourselves off from the outside world. Go hang out with your family or friends every now and then. Spend time with other married couples you can relate to. It will keep the marriage fresh. Try not to completely lose your identity in one another. You became attracted to each other in the first place

because of your individual uniqueness. Don't cast your dreams aside because now you're married. In fact, marriage should be like having a built in support system in which you help each other accomplish the purpose and dreams that God had in mind for you before the foundations of the world.

As stated before, you are two different people, and that means there will be disagreements. However that is not a negative thing. Communicate your feelings to your partner respectfully and hear what they have to say as well. Sometimes you will come to an agreement, sometimes you won't. There will be times when you will have to agree to disagree on a subject. You must choose your battles wisely and many times it's best to just let things go. It does not make sense to argue or make a big issue over every little thing. Going to bed mad because your significant other didn't wash the dishes is not worth disturbing the peace in your home. Remember you are two flawed but forgiven people attempting to build a life together. Give your husband or wife room to be human. It's called grace and God extends it to us all the time.

Marriage requires work. This work should be a rewarding learning experience that brings you closer to the LORD, to your new mate, and you should learn more about yourself. The first year will bring new responsibilities and challenges. No marriage is perfect and there will be good days as well as bad days. Remember to whom much is given, much is also required. Thorough pre-marital counseling and prayer are just some of the things one should do before joining yourself with another in holy matrimony. If you go into your union with an open mind, a positive attitude, and reasonable outlook, adjusting to your spouse and married life will be a lot easier. By following God's word and guidance, along with practical relationship principles, the possibilities of a successful and lasting marriage are limitless.





*T*his section is named for the wisest man that ever lived. King Solomon wrote many proverbs and songs, sharing the wisdom that God gave him with the world. Much like the namesake, this is the place where poets can share the gift that God has given them. Poems that encourage, uplift, educate, edify, and glorify God are welcome. We also embrace poems that express our unique journeys in this walk with Christ, such as testimonies, lessons learned, and struggles, because we all can learn from one another. If you would like to share your work, send your submissions to Rhonda Simpson at

r_smith143@hotmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Thirsty

By Rhonda Simpson

Dehydrated
Emaciated
So complicated
In agony from spiritual thirst
I put Christ first
But what am I worth
In these desert places
Looking for traces
Of a heavenly oasis
If this is a test, I must ace this
But can I face this?
Can I embrace this?
If I can just get a drop
Of The Living Water
Will it all go away?
Or did God predestine this day
For a delay
So that he could show me
That he makes a way out of no way
Dry as a raisin
Infinitely cravin'
Tired of waitin'
For an end to this abyss
In the valley of this wilderness
Reaching out, yet feeling dismissed
Longing for the bliss
To be quenched
And drenched
In the Holy Spirit
Oh but just one sip
Or can I take a dip
In the everlasting fountain
To satisfy my hunger
And move this mountain
Of which I cannot climb
Keep falling behind
Wasting time
Yet if I seek long enough
I know I will find
An end to emptiness

Filled to my chest
Surrounded in God's rest
No longer oppressed
But completely obsessed
With the One who knows best
May I suggest
That you also prepare for the test
For no one is exempt
Wrestling with God
Leaves you with a limp
Don't be a wimp
Or let the enemy be your pimp
I can't let eagerness blind me
Nor let fear confine me
Circumstances don't define me
My thirst reminds me
Of how He constantly refines me
In the fire
To ignite my desire
For more
My desolation
Merely breeds desperation
For more of His sweet emancipation
And much needed consecration
Though I may feel deprived
I'm very much alive
Being purified
And transformed from the inside
A process from which I cannot hide
I realize
Though stuck in this barren land
He will not put more on me
Than I can withstand
This canyon may be grand
But greater is His hand
That protects me
Supplying my needs
While I'm on my knees
Seeking a drink of Him

Table of Contents

2	.....	Pastoral Pre-Anniversary By Konnie Hamilton
3	.....	This Is The Big One Or...You Won't Die In The Wilderness By Emma Davis
5	.....	A Call to Service By Cynthia Diggs
6	.....	A.C.C.E.S.S. GRANTED By Emma Davis
7	.....	Spotlight On History – August Wilson
8	.....	David's Room By Sylvia Brown
11	.....	Power Points For Everyday Living By Sonja R. Jones
12	.....	Women's Day Breakfast By Emalie Walker
14	.....	My Tribute to First Lady Rev. Wanda Bolton-Davis By Cynthia Diggs
16	.....	The Man And The Vision By Frankie D. Lloyd
21	.....	15th Pastoral Anniversary By Emma Davis
23	.....	Adjusting In The First Year Of Marriage By Rhonda Simpson
25	.....	Pastor's Corner
26	.....	Abuse In The Kingdom By DA "Sunshine" Gibson
27	.....	Parking Lot Etiquette By Timothy Pruitt
28	.....	What Pastor Davis Means To Me By Kim Colwell
30	.....	Change The World By Nikki Walker
31	.....	Solomon's Flow By Rhonda Simpson
32	.....	Stewardship Corner and Youth's Spotlight

KOINONIA



St. John Baptist Church Magazine

St. John Baptist Church
One Church Three Locations

In Celebration Of Our
One-Year Anniversary,
The Koinonia Is **ALL** New!!!

*Celebrating 15 Years Of Pastoral Leadership
The Man And The Vision*

*Adjusting In The First
Year of Marriage*

David's Room

Women's Day Breakfast

Abuse In The Kingdom

"Tribute To Rev. Wanda Bolton-Davis"