

Suitable Companions Genesis 2:18-25

God's Family plan is under attack

Success as Christians requires following God's Plan

World says family is not enough

God says family, physical & spiritual, is sufficient if we have Him!

No family can stand if husband & wife fail

Success requires we understand purpose

Purpose

World does not understand

Financial; Convenience - satisfy needs, Sex, Procreation

God reveals the why

We need one another - **Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18-21**

Woman given by God as suitable companion for life

Genesis 2:22-25; 1Corinthians 11:9; Proverbs 18:22; Proverbs 19:14; Proverbs 31:10

An intimate companionship like no other - **1Corinthians 7:5**

Love

Marriage requires love - **Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:4-5**

Caring love (charity)

Will last through the ages. It will not be affected by anger or hurt. Allows one to forgive and get past any hurt caused

Caring love should always grow, becoming stronger day by day. It always seeks welfare of person loved. Not contingent on goodness, beauty, or charm of the person loved - **1Corinthians 13:4-7**

Caring love is proven by action. - **2Corinthians 8:8; 2Corinthians 8:24; 1John 3:16-18**

Caring love is measured by sacrifice - **John 3:16; John 15:12-13; Romans 5:8**

Affectionate love (friendship, warmth, attraction, closeness)

Not necessarily sexual, but shows affection. A hug, simple kiss, gentle hand squeeze or even wink from across room can be signs of affectionate love.

Affectionate love is based on delight and pleasure found in the person loved. This is the love of friendship, warmth, and affection.

Jacob, Rachel & Leah - given & w/held - **Genesis 29:11-18; Genesis 29:30-34; Deuteronomy 24:5**

Women are different from men emotionally. Women think emotionally and they tend to react emotionally. Men tend to respond logically.

How does your spouse know that you love them? What have you done that has shown your love?

When was last time you sacrificed because you love them?

Do you seek their welfare?

Is your love unconditional, or does it change due to conditions?

Do not forget affectionate love.

Recent bulletin article "Hold Hands", hugs, touching

That stuff that embarrasses your kids/grandkids

Do you recognize the affectionate gestures of your spouse?

Intimate love (sexual)

Intimate love depends upon expressing our caring and affectionate love if it is to have meaning.

Not equal to affectionate love. Leah had sexual love, but she longed for affectionate love.

Only between a husband and wife. It is expressed in private. It is filled with passion and intensity.

Sexual love permitted by God in husband-wife relationship - **1Corinthians 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4**

Easier to develop if caring & affectionate love are present

Not to be used as a tool of manipulation.

Is one of giving, not taking. Each should consider wants & desires of the other.

Companions

Spouse must be mental companion, physical companion, spiritual companion, and social companion?

Remember, it takes a strong effort to be a good companion.

Am I my mate's "Pride & Joy"

Maybe think about why they liked to be around you in the beginning

All three elements of love are essential to a successful relationship.

True and joyful intimate love will be experienced when the road has been paved by affectionate love which is guided by caring love.

When caring love is the foundation and framework of the home, then affectionate love and intimate love will finish the home and allow it to be beautiful.

Care and affection will remain strong even when intimacy begins to weaken.

James Dunigan?