

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 12

June 4, 2023

Number 23

MAKING MARRIAGE GOLD

John Edwards

The 50th wedding anniversary is known as the golden anniversary. I read recently where fewer than 5 percent of marriages make it 50 years, and the average length of marriage in the U.S. is 7-8 years. God designed marriage to last a lifetime (Gen. 2:18-24; Mt. 19:4-6; Rom. 7:2-3). How can we make marriage gold?

COMMITMENT. Husbands and wives need real commitment to the Lord and to one another. *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”* (Gen. 2:24). *“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth...”* (Rom. 7:2). This requires commitment. It takes commitment to keep your marriage vows (Eccl. 5:4-5).

COMPASSION. Love is the tie that binds us together. — *“...being knit together in love...”* (Col. 2:2). Love is a mutual responsibility of the marriage relationship. Ephesians 5 teaches: *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it”* (v. 25). *“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife*

loveth himself” (v. 28). *“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself...”* (v. 33). Titus 2 teaches women *“...to love their husbands...”* (v. 4). 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 describes the kind of love that makes marriage gold. Read it! Learn it! Live it! There must be genuine sympathetic pity and concern for each other in marriage. *“...having compassion one of another...”* (1 Pet. 3:8) is essential to marriage success. *“But whoso...shutteth up his bowels of compassion...how dwelleth the love of God in him?”* (1 Jn. 3:17).

COMPANIONSHIP. God provided for man’s need of companionship in marriage. *“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him”* (Gen. 2:18). Malachi spoke of *“...thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant”* (Mal. 2:14). A companion is a close friend you share things with. Husbands and wives should be the best of friends! Togetherness in marriage keeps a marriage together. Deuteronomy 24:5; Ecclesiastes 9:9; 1 Peter 3:8 all express the need for companionship in marriage. *“Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord”* (1 Cor. 11:11). Take time for one another. Plan things together. Do things together.

Live life together.

COMMUNICATION. The exchanging of information or ideas is critical to marriage. Instead of open and honest communication, too many refuse to talk. This causes husbands and wives to drift apart and has contributed to the breakdown of many marriages. 1 Peter 3:7, *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered”* (1 Pet. 3:7). This is impossible without proper communication. Communication helps you to know and understand each other. Set aside time to talk with one another.

COURTESY AND CARE. Husbands and wives must *“...be courteous”* (1 Pet. 3:8) toward one another. This is being polite, respectful and considerate. Such is expressed when the “golden rule” is practiced (Mt. 7:12). The Bible says, *“...he that is married careth...how he may please his wife...”* and *“she that is married careth...how she may please her husband”* (1 Cor. 7:33-34). Marriage obligates us to please our wife/husband. This involves taking thought of the other person and putting them ahead of self.

Will your marriage be gold?

NAKEDNESS

Nicolas Edwards

As the temperatures rise, clothes are coming off, modesty is thrown out the window and nakedness is revealed. What does God think about nakedness?

REVEALING NAKEDNESS IS SHAMEFUL. Isaiah 47:3, "*Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.*" Nahum 3:5, "*Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.*" The Lord counseled in Revelation 3:18, "...and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear..." Contrary to what the world believes, it is shameful to reveal your nakedness!

GOD'S VIEW OF NAKEDNESS. It does not matter what I think or what any man thinks. Our appeal is to God's standard! Genesis 3:7, "*And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves*

together, and made themselves aprons." In verse 21, "*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord make coats of skins, and clothed them.*" Evidently, one can be wearing something and still be naked in the sight of God! God's view of nakedness is further defined: Isaiah 20:4, "*So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.*" Ezekiel 16:7, "*I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare.*" Isaiah 47:2-3, "*Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea thy shame shall be seen....*" To uncover the buttocks, breast, or thigh is considered nakedness in the sight of God!

QUALITIES WE MUST WEAR AS CHRISTIANS.

1. Meekness and self control (Gal. 5:23).

2. Modesty, shamefacedness, and sobriety (1 Tim. 2:9).
3. Chaste, meek and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3).
4. Sober, righteous, godly (Titus 2:12).
5. Gentleness, goodness, faith (Gal. 5:22).

We are to be "*clothed with humility*" (1 Pet. 5:5). These qualities directly contradict the mindset of revealing, flaunting self, or drawing attention to self. 1 Peter 1:13-16, "*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*" We are to be set apart and consecrated as God's people! We are not to be conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2). This certainly includes our dress! Do you look like the world or are you letting your light shine? God's standard says revealing nakedness is shameful! Therefore, I will not have a single thing in my closet that would reveal such!

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com