BONDS OF MATRIMONY
(Ephesians 5:22) Becton: Texas District Conference, 31 March 1981

Men should so live it reminds the wife of Christ. Wives should so live it reminds him of the church.

(1) Nature of spiritual authority.
(2) Specifics of fulfilling this authority.

No legitimate authority without recognition. Recognition must come from one in submission. How did Christ love the church?

1. SACRIFICIALLY

The church's best interest was ahead of His own. He did not just give gadgets, He gave Himself. The wife wants her husband, not just things.

2. REDEMPTIVELY

Many love for what it does for them. Jesus intentions was to redeem. To make whole. Husbands make their wives complete.

3. FAITHFULLY (1 Corinthians 11:7)

Wife is the reflection of what her husband is. "Woman is the glory of the man" (Matthew 19). Genesis 2:24 marriage comes from a "merger"

Sodium and chloride separate are destructive. Together they make something useful - salt.

If more men were like Christ it would be easier for wives to submit.

We need to be like the girl wanting to go with a boy. She does not nag him or come to say she wants to go with him. She prepares to
please him. She finds what he likes. He falls and falls hard. Do the same with Jesus (1 Peter 3:7).

**INGREDIENTS OF A GOOD RELATIONSHIP**

God's approval is on marriage. He made the Church and marriage to be very much alike. It is God who sanctifies marriage. Put God in your relationship.

1. **AFFECTION**

   When people come to marriage they should like each other. Friendship, esteem, respect, confidence, concern, companionship are things you must put into a marriage.

2. **BALANCE**

   Be open and free. Prodigal had known freedom of being a son. Not ownership. Both develop the "Person" of the other. It takes paying a price. Develop the weaknesses. Allow no dead ends.

3. **COMMITMENT**

   No relation can last without commitment. The marriage must be organized. This is the only way to run it best it can be. Home is a mini-church. No role playing. Help each other. Produces appreciation. You will be vulnerable.

   **A Checklist for Selecting a Man to Marry**

   (Ephesians 5:25)

   Since one out of every two marriages is winding up on the rocks—a person needs all the help she or he can get. Here are some guidelines.
(1) How does he handle problems and pressure? Does he go to pieces? Does he blame others when things go wrong or remain calm and search for the best solution?

(2) How does he feel about women? Does he believe they are inferior to men and can't possibly make important decisions?

(3) How does he feel about helping you with your work? Does he think it is beneath his dignity?

(4) How does he feel about children? Do they annoy him or does he enjoy them? What part does he feel a father should play in the rearing of children? Does he believe it's strictly the mother's job? Do you agree with him on how many you should or should not have, and on how childbirth will be avoided?

(5) Is he stingy when it comes to spending money on you but somewhat extravagant with himself?

(6) How does he feel about his job? Is he content to keep doing the same thing for the rest of his life? (If so, you can be sure he'll complain later that he never got a break.)

(7) What is your social life like? Do you find yourself spending all your spare time with his family and friends and very little with yours?

(8) Does he ask you what you would like to do and then somehow you end up doing the things he prefers?

(9) How does he handle the car when he's in a bad mood? Does he drive like a crazy man when he's angry? (This is a real symptom of immaturity.)
(10) Does he become irritated if you are late but expect you to be understanding when he is late?

(11) Does he show signs of Christian leadership? Do you believe you can safely place your life in his hands for the rest of your life.

(12) Has he ever shown violence toward you and later said he was sorry—and then done it again?

(13) Does he treat his own parents and yours with respect?

(14) How is his sense of humor? Can he laugh at himself or does he see something funny only at the expense of others?

(15) How is his credit? Is he inclined to buy things on impulse, then have trouble paying his bills?

(16) Is he truthful, or have you caught him in little lies which he has tried to wriggle out of?

(17) Do you really enjoy his company—even when you are sitting silently?

(18) Have you thought about what he'll be like in twenty-five years? Do you honestly want to live with him for the rest of your life?

A Checklist for Selecting a Woman to Marry

(1) How does she handle problems and pressure? Does she go to pieces? Does she blame others when things go wrong or remain calm and search for the best solution?

(2) Does she respect you as a man? Does she show evidence that she plans to be independent? Will she want to control the use of money in the home?
(3) Does she resist your leadership? Since a woman's spirit controls her husband, does her spirit appear to yield to your will? Does she tend to take things into her own hands that are not her responsibility?

(4) How does she feel about children? Do they annoy her or does she enjoy them? What part does she feel a mother should play in the rearing of children? Do you agree with her on how many you should or should not have, and on how childbirth will be avoided?

(5) Does she have a good sense of money management? Is she inclined to buy things on impulse? Would she remain loyal to you when things are not in your favor?

(6) Does she desire to develop inward and outward beauty? Does she show modesty and gratefulness in dress, care of her home, and concern of her weight?

(7) What is your social life like? Do you find yourself spending all your spare time with things she likes to do rather than things you can do together?

(8) Does she ask you what you would like to do and then somehow you end up doing the things she prefers?

(9) How does she react to your driving? Is she a back-seat driver, or does she allow you to make mistakes within reason?

(10) Does she become irritated if you fail to live up to her expectations, but expect you to understand if she fails?

(11) Does she show signs of committing herself to your Christian leadership? Does she feel she can safely place her life in your hands for the rest of her life.
(12) Does she lovingly appeal to you when you are going beyond your limitations, and wisely respond to those who question your goals and ambitions?

(13) Does she treat her own parents and yours with respect?

(14) How is her sense of humor? Can she laugh at herself or does she see something funny only at the expense of others?

(15) Do the things she fears cause her to become depressed? Does she have mood swings that would be greatly enhanced when you are going through tough times? Can she encourage you when you are discouraged?

(16) Is she truthful, or have you caught her in little lies which she has tried to wriggle out of?

(17) Do you really enjoy her company—even when you are sitting silently?

(18) Have you thought about what she'll be like in twenty-five years? Do you honestly want to live with her for the rest of your life?

If your prospective mate doesn't get a passing mark on twelve of these questions, the person is not for you.