How to Have a Successful Marriage

(Ephesians 5:22-29; 5:18)

Henry Ford and the Model T

God's Design for marriage (Genesis 2:18-25)

God created Eve **FOR** Adam... to express the Roles He desires for the Husband & Wife (v.18-20)

Eve was Created to be Adam's Companion (v.18a)
("It is not good that the man should be alone")
Eve was Created to be Adam's Completer (v.18b-20)
("I will make him an help meet for him")

God created Eve **FROM** Adam... to express the Oneness (unity) He desires between Husband & Wife (v.21-25)

I. GOD'S EXPECTATION FOR MARRIAGE ROLES

The Role of the Wife: a submissive supporter for her husband

1. The command to submission (v.22)
   "Wives" is not qualified. Hence, this truth applies to every Christian wife regardless of her education, intelligence, spiritual maturity, giftedness, age, experience, etc. (MacArthur).
   "Submit" = (hypotasso) - a military term, meaning "to rank under", to take your place.
   It means to subject yourself under the authority of someone else. (EX. Luke 2:51 – Jesus to Joseph and Mary)
   AN ACT OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL - "Submit yourselves" (middle voice).

2. The reason for submission (v.23)
   Position of "headship" (even in the Trinity there is headship yet equality)
   Allow your husband to serve you (by performing his role as provider, protector, director of family) Submission is a non-issue until conflict occurs.

3. The Pattern for submission (v.24)
   As the Church submits to Christ

The Role of the Husband: A Loving Leader for his wife

The word "love" is the Koine Greek word "agapao." This is a special love.

The love that husbands are to have toward their wives is:

1. A spiritual love (love comes from God)
2. An unconditional love
3. A volitional love (a willing love)
4. A continual love
5. A Christ-like Love "even as Christ also loved the Church"
6. A sacrificial Love "and gave Himself for her [it]" (v. 25)
7. A similar Love (v. 28, 29)
8. A caring Love (v. 29) (Provide and Protect)

II. GOD'S PROVISION FOR SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGES (Eph. 5:18)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before God says anything about our roles and responsibilities, He commands us to be filled with His Spirit
This assumes you have the Holy Spirit (that you have been born again)

THE WRONG CONTROLLING INFLUENCE (v. 18a)

"Wine" = Prov. 20:1 - "Wine is a mocker" Prov. 23:29-35
"Excess" = wild and disorderly living produced

THE RIGHT CONTROLLING INFLUENCE (v. 18b)

What is the filling of the Spirit?

1. The filling of the Spirit is a <u>work of God</u>.
Proof: The passive voice of the imperative - "be filled."

2. The filling of the Spirit is a CONTINUAL work of God
Proof: The present tense imperative points to the repetitious nature of the Spirit filling a believer throughout his life.
There is one baptism of the Spirit (Eph. 4:5), but there are many fillings!

3. The filling of the Spirit refers to the control of the Spirit
Note: The filling of the Spirit is not you getting more of the Holy Spirit, but it is you letting the Holy Spirit get more of you!
The secret to being Spirit filled: Give in (yield) every time God speaks to your conscience with His Word.
The evidence of being Spirit-Filled?
1) An inward evidence (v. 19) (praise and joy)
2) An upward evidence (v. 20) (thankful heart to God)
3) An outward evidence (v. 21-f) (a Submissive attitude and Loving action)

It is possible to have a successful marriage. But God must control our hearts, minds, and wills. I have never had to give crisis counseling to a couple who were both Spirit-filled.