

ENJOY YOUR MARRIAGE

By Pastor Rene Lussier

The image of God

- In the Trinity the Father leads, the Son submits to the Father, and the Holy Spirit submits to both the Father and the Son. However, all three are fully and equally deity.
 - Likewise, male and female in the marriage relationship are of the same nature and essence, equal as persons (cf. [Gal 3:28](#)), intimate in relationship, common in purpose, but distinct personalities with different roles: the husband leads and the wife submits to his leadership (cf. [Eph 5:31](#)).

Adam and Eve were created mutually interdependent. Together they are complete.

God created male and female in his image—

Gene 1:27 (NIV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- Both are equal, both are created to the likeness of God and Both are to bring glory to him, which is the essence of worship.

When God chose to create man in his own image, he created a marriage, a family. Its identity, life and power come from God.

- This open intimate relational aspect of God's image, reflected in marriage, **was disfigured by the fall** (cf. [Gen 3:7, 10](#)), causing each mate to hide (cover oneself) from each other and from God.

Ecc. 9:9 Enjoy life with the woman whom you love, is is your reward in life...

Marriage is God's idea - For mutual pleasure—enjoyment.

- God designed it so that the spouse may attain the highest level of satisfaction and fulfillment:

AT THE BEGINNING

Gene 2:18 (NIV) The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

- *Animals could not meet Adam basic needs.*

*19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them (animals) to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. **But for Adam no suitable helper was found.***

- *God's solution- A woman*

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib (part) he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man." (She was of the same nature; she could meet his need; he was attracted to her)

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united (cleave) to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Man and woman have been both created in God's image and for God's glory.

- They were "suitable"—"bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh".
- They could communicate, they could understand each other. They could feel the same things. They could help, support each other. In short, they could meet each others needs.
- How can they be happy and content in their relationship?
- When their needs will be met. When they will complement each other, enrich each other's life and fulfill each other's expectation. What are their basic needs?

THE WHOLE IDEA OF MARRIAGE IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

Physical Body	Intellectual & Emotional & Social (Soul)	Spiritual
1 Cor. 7	1 Pet 3:1 -7	Eph 5
	Rom 12:10	1 Pet 3:7
	Phil 2:3,4	

Marriage was designed by God to meet relationship needs on a human level.

Marriage counseling

One of the major complaints couples bring in is that of not having their needs met. Often one of the partner is trying or wish to meet the needs of the other, but doesn't always know what the needs are or exactly how to meet them.

- Each spouse being human being have the following basic needs:



<p>HIS NEEDS</p> 	<p>HER NEEDS</p> 
<p>Physical Intellectual Emotional Social Spiritual</p>	<p>Physical Intellectual Emotional Social Spiritual</p>


CHART2: MASLOV

Consider:

Most husbands and wives help fulfill the first 2 levels of needs. (air, water, food and rest)
Most are concerned about their car, their house, and property, etc...

But where most husbands and wives fall down is in meeting their spouse's needs for love and belonging, esteem and honor, and respect.

Even at that level, there is still an important dimension missing—helping your spouse to become the person God wants him/her to be. (ministry, career, happiness, etc...)



WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN EXPECTATIONS AND NEEDS ARE NOT MET ?

- Why is it so frequent that needs and expectations will be unmet, leading to unsatisfaction, quarelling, accusations and separation?

That is why we need continual conversion:

Marriage is the commitment of 2 imperfect people to the person of Jesus Christ...

That commitment becomes the security, stability of the relationship and determines the values, the degree of enjoyment.

ASSIGNMENT

Answer the following question individually.

What can I do to meet my spouse's need in the following areas: (Under each category, list a few things you could do. Be specific and practical. Do not write general and abstract things.)

Physical

Intellectual

Emotional

Social

Spiritual