

ISSUES OF LIFE

The Art of Becoming One – Couples Encounter

1. What is the importance of enjoying each other's sense of humor? Life is "beautiful"

- “Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth.” Proverbs 5:18
- It is a blessing for both partners to have a sense of humor but it is equally important to realize that everything is not humorous.
- As Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 states there is a time and a season for everything under the sun; so be sensitive enough to when your spouse is in the mood for humor.

2. I have a friend's wife who reacts to the word submit, please explain.

- If your question is eluding to your friend's wife as responding negatively to the word submit, then one question that would have to be asked is how is that word presented to her.
- According to the Word of God, (“submitting to one another in the fear of God.” Ephesians 5:21) demonstrates to us that submission is a mutual command for husband and wife. Remember the passage also commands the man to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her! When this is done, submission is not a problem.
- **Submit. (hü-po-tä's-sō)** This word was a Greek military term meaning "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader". In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

3. How do we allow one to be oneself and not what you want that person (spouse) to be, your way?

- “And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”” Genesis 2:18
- God created Eve to compliment Adam and not to mirror him or be a puppet for him. And remember the golden rule "do unto others as you would have them to unto you";
- Everybody need space to be able to be the person that God created them to be.

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4. My spouse feels that he is always right and I never get a chance to say what I feel, what should I do?

- Well first of all communication is key, if you have not communicated your feelings to your spouse then your spouse may not realize how and what you are feeling.
- Give this passage to your husband,
 - *“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” 1 Peter 3:7*

5. How do we apply wisdom in our marriage to know and understand God's will and our part to grow together with Jesus as one before Him?

- *“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5*
- *“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:33*
- I feel as though you are answering your own question because what you are asking is what God requires. Love each other unconditionally, respect each other wholeheartedly, pray together, study God's Word together and enjoy each other for ever.

6. We are contemplating marriage, how do we manage our money and financial future and how do we deal with a persons' baggage coming into a relationship?

- I would suggest first of all to find a good Christian marriage counselor before you tie the knot.
- Remember that when we marry we marry the person with baggage and all!
- Also remember that you more than likely have baggage as well.
- I also would suggest a good financial counselor as well.
- But most of all make sure that you love each other unconditionally because the scripture states: *“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”” 1 Peter 4:8*

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