

SIX STONE FOUNDATIONS FOR A SOLID MARRIAGE

- Genesis 2:18 – Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
- Marriage is a _____ relationship initiated by God.

A contract ...	A covenant ...
... is a secular, legal document regulated by the state.	... is a sacred, moral agreement regulated by God.
... is based upon mistrust between two people.	... is based upon trust between two people and God.
... is written to create limited liability.	... is accepted to embrace unlimited responsibility.
... is embedded with “opt out” or escape clauses.	... is envisioned to be permanent.
... demands joy through mutual benefit.	... seeks joy through mutual sacrifice.

- Matthew 7 – The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders
 - Marriages can be built upon the rock of a covenant, or the sand of a contract.
 - “He who hears these words of mine, _____.”

1. Sacred _____

Genesis 2:21–24 – So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. And the man said: “This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken from man.” This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

- God ordained the first marriage when he brought the woman to the man.
- When a couple says, “I do,” the vows they make are a _____ to God first, and to one another second.
- Your spouse is God’s sacred _____ to you.

2. Sacrificial _____

Ephesians 5:1-2 – Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

- Love is undoubtedly an emotion, but it is not _____ an emotion.
- Love is also a choice that spouses make _____.
- Sacrificial love is giving your spouse . . .
 - . . . what they need the _____
 - . . . but _____ the least
 - . . . in the hardest of _____
 - . . . and it _____ you something

3. Spiritual _____

Galatians 5:22–23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- Every Christian is to pursue the “Fruit of the Spirit.” Fruit is what _____ every true believer in Jesus.
- Pursuing these character traits is your _____ to God and to your spouse.

- These character qualities are _____ for a healthy marriage and should never have to be “demanded” by your spouse.

4. **Scriptural** _____

John 13:34 – I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another

- There are _____ *one anothers* outlined in the Bible for Christian brotherhood.
- Spouses sometimes find it easier to fulfill these demands in lives of _____ than they do their own spouses.
- Marriage should display the _____ of fulfillment of these *one anothers* in the life of each spouse.
- Friendship in marriage must be _____ just like with any other relationship in life.

5. **Shared** _____

Ephesians 5:15-17 – Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So, don’t be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

- There is much more to a Christian marriage than _____. Paul prefaces his remarks on genders roles by calling for every believer to examine his/her own life.
- Regardless of gender roles, husbands and wives are _____ called to take personal responsibility for the intimacy of their Christian walk
- Marriage is not a 50/50 split. It takes _____% ownership and responsibility on the part of both spouses.

6. **Specific Roles**

Ephesians 5:22–33 – Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- In a marriage, husbands and wives have _____ value, but _____ roles.

The Unique Roles of Husbands and Wives

Wives

- I. Well-Suited _____ (Genesis 2:18)
 - She is to lock arms with her husband in being a true partner
- II. Respectful Supporter (1 Peter 3:1–6)
 - She is to respect and submit to him out of obedience to Christ
- III. Skilled _____ (Proverbs 31)
 - Her work outside the home is exemplary
- IV. _____ Lover (Solomon 5-8)
 - She should pursue her husband and delight in him
- V. Household _____ (Titus 2:3-5)
 - She should take pride in her responsibilities in the home

Husbands

1. Sacrificial _____ (Ephesians 5:25 & Solomon 5-8)
 - Jesus loved the church so much He died for her
 - He should pursue his wife and seek to enamor her
2. _____ Leader (Matthew 20:25-28)
 - Taking charge vs. taking responsibility
3. Family _____ (I Timothy 3:1-7)
 - As a pastor shepherds the church, he pastors his family
4. _____ Learner (I Peter 3:7)
 - He knows his wife and cherishes her
5. Strong _____ (1 Timothy 5:8)
 - He needs to be a hard worker providing for the family