

Why Would You Want to Go to All the Effort to Develop an A+, World Class, "Soul-mate" Kind of Marriage?

Gen 2:18-24

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 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 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. 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 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." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. NIV

Because:

- 1. it honors your God**
- 2. it blesses your children**
- 3. it adds richness and depth to your own life**
- 4. it enhances your prayer life**
- 5. it is likely your greatest testimony for Jesus**

Mal 2:15

Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. NIV

Needs vs. Wants

Just as our lungs require oxygen, so our souls have emotional *needs*. Both men and women have two basic emotional *needs* that must be met in order for them to be content. These two *needs* are:

- 1) the *need* to be loved and forgiven unconditionally (security)
- 2) the *need* to participate in an eternal cause (significance)

Interestingly, only God can supply these *needs*. If these are not addressed, a person can have many *wants* supplied, and they will still be very unhappy. Conversely, if a person's emotional *needs* are met, they will likely be quite fulfilled in spite of a shortage of *wants*.

Wants are the things we desire that make life more full.

- 1) Most men *want* to be respected.
- 2) Most women *want* to be protected and pursued.

A human being cannot provide their spouse's *needs*, but they can address their *wants*.

Phil 4:10-13

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. NIV