

*Living Waters Chapel*  
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

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July 13, 2008

**SERMON SERIES:** *“Maintaining Your Marriage So You Never Need A Miracle” – Part 1*

**SERMON TITLE:** *“When in Doubt Follow the Directions in the Owners Manual”*

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:18-25

**THEME:** Marriages are not wrecked by a blowout but rather by a slow leak; the result of continued negligence and inattention.

**INTRODUCTION:** Too many couples fail to work at maintaining their marriage so they often come to a place when they desperately need a miracle for their marriage to survive. But when the miracle doesn't come they're ready to pass the blame without ever taking personal responsibility for maintaining their own marriage according to the instructions God gives in His Marriage Manual, the Bible.

## I. A REALISTIC OVERVIEW OF MARRIAGE

- A. The Biblical Definition of marriage is between one man and one woman.
1. This distinction is clear from grammar. The Hebrew words translated for “man” and “woman” are the same. “Man” is the masculine form and “woman” is the feminine form.
  2. Genesis 2:20-23
  3. Matthew 19:4-6
  4. Marriage is the first institution established by God.
  5. The institution of marriage is under attack and Christians need to be aware of this so they can take the necessary action.

6. “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
- B. Psychologists at the Christian based Minirth-Meier Clinic have identified 5 normal stages married couples pass through as they build strong and deeply satisfying marriages.
1. *Young Love* - The first 2 years of marriage.
    - \* First there must be independence from parents.
    - \* Second there must be dependence from spouse.
  2. *Realistic Love* - Years 3 - 10. (Studies show this stage is often the most difficult and many marriages don't survive during this stage.)
  3. *Comfortable Love* – Years 11-25 “It's like oatmeal; not exactly exciting, but comfortable, warm and satisfying.”
  4. *Renewing Love* - Years 26 - 35
  5. *Transcendent Love* - Years 36 and after

## **CONCLUSION:**

There are two facts that we must never forget. Success in marriage doesn't depend on finding the right person but on being the right person. It's far more important for you to be the right person than it is for you to marry the right kind of person.

Philippians 2:4 reads: *“Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, what they are doing.”* This verse turns the present worldview upside down. It calls for both husband and wife to honor, respect and love the other. Marriage is not about who gets to be the boss, but about two people each putting the other first.