

The Oyster



...Because, Wisdom Builds upon the Rock.

September 2014

What Marriage is for

By David Trounce

September 14th-20th marks marriage week in 2014.

In a day when many people are no longer sure about what a marriage is, it seemed a good idea to put down not just what the Bible says marriage is, but why it exists at all.

First, marriage sets forth the need for wholeness. Mankind was separated at Creation into male and female. To be re-united in marriage was to be made visibly whole.

This is the meaning of the one flesh relationship depicted in intimacy. It sets forth the coming together of two complementary halves to make one beautiful whole.

Second, marriage establishes the primacy of the family. In ancient Israel a young man was given a full year away from civic duties (such as warfare) so that he could properly care for his new wife.

In making this provision, God was indicating the primacy of the family. Because family is man's first social concern, it took precedence over religious and civic obligations.

Third, marriage fulfils the responsibilities attendant on procreation.



In nature, procreation is the ordinary outcome of a union between male and female. Marriage has arisen in almost every culture throughout history as the institution by which men and woman fulfil the responsibilities that come with procreation.

Historically, cultures that have rejected this have found themselves rejecting a relentless rule of nature, and for that reason such societies have crumbled and do not survive.

This is because the relationship that marriage creates is grounded in and sets forth God's intended relationship for Himself with Humanity. God lives in perfect community as Father, Son and Spirit. This union sets the pattern for those made in His image.

Marriage won't in and of itself make you whole, but it points to man's desire for wholeness, a desire that is ultimately satisfied when we are united to God through Jesus.

But God looks at the Heart

“For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

John Blanchard stood up from the bench, straightened his Army uniform and studied the crowd of people making their way through Grand Central Station. He looked for the girl whose heart he knew, but whose face he didn't, the girl with the rose.



His interest in her had begun thirteen months before in a Florida library. Taking a book off the shelf he found himself intrigued, not with the words, but with the notes in the margin.

During the next year and one month the two grew to know each other through the mail. Each letter was a seed falling on a fertile heart. A romance was budding. Blanchard requested a photograph, but she refused. She felt that, if he really cared, it wouldn't matter what she looked like.

When the day finally came for him to return from Europe, they scheduled their first meeting - 7:00 PM at the Grand Central Station in New York. "You'll recognize me," she wrote, "by the red rose I'll be wearing on my lapel."

So at 7:00 PM he was in the station looking for a girl whose heart he loved, but whose face he'd never seen. I'll let Mr. Blanchard tell you what happened: A young woman was coming toward me, her figure long and slim. Her blonde hair lay back in curls from her delicate ears; her eyes were blue as flowers.

Her lips and chin had a gentle firmness, and in her pale green suit she was like springtime come alive. I started toward her, entirely forgetting to notice that she was not wearing a rose. As I moved, a small, provocative smile curved her lips. "Going my way, sailor?" she murmured.

Almost uncontrollably I made one step closer to her, and then I saw Hollis Maynell. She was standing almost directly behind the girl. A woman well past 40, she had greying hair tucked under a worn hat.. She was more than plump, her thick-ankled feet thrust into low-heeled shoes.

The girl in the green suit was walking quickly away. I felt as though I was split in two, so keen was my desire to follow her, and yet so deep was my longing for the woman whose spirit had truly companioned me and upheld my own. Cont'd...

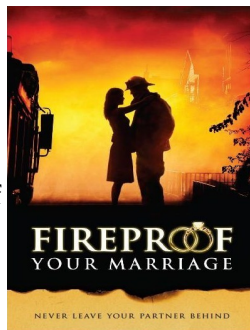
News, Views and Events

Fireproof Your Marriage

A marriage between a man and a woman represents one of societies most potent relationships.

Civilisations have been built, and have collapsed, on account of how they honoured or dishonoured marriage.

'Fireproof your Marriage' provides resources, counsel and support for married couples. If you would like to know more about these resources, pop by the church or call 4984 5442.



...And there she stood. Her pale, plump face was gentle and sensible, her grey eyes had a warm and kindly twinkle.

I did not hesitate. My fingers gripped the small worn blue leather copy of the book that was to identify me to her.

This would not be love, but it would be something precious, something perhaps even better than love, a friendship for which I had been and must ever be grateful.

I squared my shoulders and saluted and held out the book to the woman, even though while I spoke I felt choked by the bitterness of my disappointment.

"I'm Lieutenant John Blanchard, and you must be Miss Maynell. I am so glad you could meet me; may I take you to dinner?"

The woman's face broadened into a tolerant smile.

"I don't know what this is about, son," she answered, "but the young lady in the green suit who just went by, she begged me to wear this rose on my coat. And she said if you were to ask me out to dinner, I should go and tell you that she is waiting for you in the big restaurant across the street."

Published By Tanilba CRC.

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Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

What's On This Month

Women's Get Together

Join with other local woman each month for an evening dinner and chat.

This month Friday September 5th 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Kylie on 4982 4623

Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park.

This month September 6th 7.30am

For more Information call David on 4984 5442

Lemon Jam

4th Sunday of the Month at Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage.

Come hear some local music in the park. 1-4pm

Words, Words, Words...

W F Z R P H X E F P M U H F R
A E E G O G G J W K E P N R E
Y Y D N A A G P I Q H A L N H
K L O D I U E G Y V U S J D T
V U I R I V C H I L D R E N A
R O R M O N E X A A X Y K H F
Y A W L A Q G E U H L K L H L
M O B E Y F S G I T X V O N S
E Y U N L K Q G J O M F Y H G
R E H T O M C N B R Z Z A H B
O W X M O G V R I T C Z L L S
Z M W Y H V C R A E A S T O K
C C S B Y F S K H B L R Y B Y
U S V K N M R L S F E J D R X
B P S L Q M U L C C A T M A B

MARRIAGE
WEDDING
VOW
BETROTHAL

LOVE
HONOUR
OBEY
MOTHER

FAMILY
FATHER
CHILDREN
LOYALTY