

A principle in the bible is first the natural and then the spiritual. In natural Israel, marriages were prearranged by the Parents. It was the father's job to find mates for his children. If he did not find his children suitable mates he failed as a father. The marriage was prearranged by the parents of the children.

We also see in the relationship of Joseph and Mary that they were considered married, even before the consummation of the marriage. This is why Joseph sought to put away privately Mary when he found out she was pregnant. They were married in the eyes of God even before they entered into a sexual relationship.

In the spiritual, God has given us the fivefold gift ministries until we come to a place of maturity. It is the Sheppard's job to find mates for the sheep; the pastor's job to make sure there is no unequal yokes in those God has given to him, those of which he must give an account- to watch out for their souls. This is because in our immaturity our soul can become tied to someone who is not healthy for us.

*1corn 7: <sup>27</sup>Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. <sup>28</sup>But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you. <sup>29</sup>But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;*

We are not to seek a relationship; we are to seek first the kingdom and His righteousness. When we enter into the Kingdom (the Lordship of Jesus over our lives) and his righteousness then God adds these things to us.

Until we learn how to walk in the spirit and relate in the spirit, if we get into a relationship we are going to have problems because we will gravitate back to the soul level.

All relationships encounter problems on the soul level. The spirit level is when we have a consciousness of the presence of God in our words, actions and behaviors. The soul level is not evil, it is just being human, we have human instincts that motivate us, we want to be happy, be loved and respected, and do something we enjoy. And then what we want may not be what the person we are with wants, so there is a conflict of interest.

But once we enter into a spiritual maturity in the Lord, we come into kingdom relationships.

The kingdom marriage becomes a powerful force of righteousness in the earth, more so than if we are yet single. In the kingdom marriage the two are not just one in the flesh, but one in the spirit, capable of producing spiritual children.

When a Pastor comes into a kingdom marriage, he is better enabled with his helpmate, to minister together to the flock of God. We need not only Father's but Mother's in the church of God.

What is the purpose of marriage? Is the purpose of Marriage so that we can enter into the most fulfilling intimate relationship possible on a natural human physical level?

In the book of Malachi we can see the reason God has instituted the marriage covenant.

*Malachi 2: <sup>14</sup>Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou*

*hast dealt treacherously* to act or deal treacherously, faithlessly, deceitfully, offend: *yet is she thy companion* wife, from the root word-knit together, fellow- worshippes, *and the wife of thy covenant.* <sup>15</sup>*And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue* rest, remnant, *of the spirit. And wherefore* of what kind *one* a certain kind, a unity of spirit? *That he might seek* to seek, require, desire, exact, request *a godly* rulers, judges, divine ones *Seed* offspring. *Therefore take heed* to keep, guard, observe, give heed *to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.* <sup>16</sup>*For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away* divorce, send away, let go,: *for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.*

Did he not make one, that He might have a divine offspring, therefore take heed to your spirit!

We need to learn how to keep a right spirit at all times, how to abide in the Lord, how to walk in the spirit.

Marriage was not instituted just so that two people could have a legal physical relationship. Marriage was instituted because God is seeking a godly seed. This applies to natural children, but also to spiritual children (those we lead to the Lord and disciple).

John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb and was the greatest prophet of the Old Covenant. But he who is least in the New Covenant, in the kingdom, is greater than he.

We have a promise that we can produce children more filled with the Spirit of God than John the Baptist from the mother's womb, children that have a greater anointing than his.

The negative characteristics of the Adamic nature have been transmitted from parents to children for 6,000 years. When we come into kingdom marriages where the parents are filled with the divine nature of God, they will transmit that nature into their children.

Most of us have not yet entered into a maturity of spirit where we can train our children in the spirit so that they do not depart from it when they grow up. How can we impart the fullness of the Spirit to our children when we do not yet know how to be continually filled with the Spirit?

As we enter into the spiritual pleasure of God's Spirit (in His presence is fullness of Joy) we are not tempted to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season because they are nothing in comparison. When we really taste of God's Spirit we are actually ruined for sin, it becomes a defiling thing of which we seek to be cleansed.

The godly seed is produced when the husband and wife are one in spirit. If the husband and wife are just one in the flesh and not in the spirit they may produce rebellious ungodly children.

In the church age there has been much preaching on the divine order of the family, that the wife must submit to the husband and the children must obey the parents. But if the husband is not filled with the Spirit, but manifests the adamic-nature instead of the divine nature it can become an oppressive relationship. In trying to get the children to obey, the parents manifest a spirit that is not like Christ.

As we come into the kingdom- the emphasis is on the divine oneness of Spirit, everything of individuality is swallowed up in the oneness of the life of the Lord. We enter into a oneness of the Spirit, where the manifestations of the self-life disappear.

The body of Christ is not a congregation of individuals co-existing with one another. It is one body all flowing in a unity being led by the head-the lordship of Jesus over us where we are filled with the divine love of God. Where the love of God constrains us, and we are so moved by love that we forget all about our own needs in the process, where each member has the exact same identical love for one another.

*Galations 3: <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

When it speaks of putting on Christ, it is speaking about being filled with the Spirit, where the Spirit of God is resting upon us or clothing us. This is speaking of our soul-life or natural life. Where the self-life is in continual submission to the Holy Spirit, were we no longer are moving in self but in the spirit, it is the denial of self. The Christ in our spirit is now also now enabled to live in our soul.

Our spirit speaks of the divine nature and our soul speaks of the human nature. Our human nature is totally submitted to the divine nature.

In the soul-life there is male and female, but in the spirit there is no male or female but one spirit- the spirit of Christ. This is a oneness of spirit where Jesus is continually manifest in us or glorified in us.

In the kingdom we enter into a oneness of spirit where there is no distinction between male and female. In the kingdom marriage the two become one spirit, submissive to the lord.

In the kingdom, a marriage breaks down if the husband lacks submission to Lord, but the husband will never be able to be totally

submissive to the Lord until his helpmate helps him, so that in one spirit they can fulfill the will of God together. There must be total submission to the will of God in each one, or the oneness of spirit that God desires will not come forth.

This oneness of spirit does not come forth when we live to please our mate, it does not take place when we abandon ourselves to be one with a person. This oneness only comes forth when each person abandons themselves to be one with Christ.

In the natural, physical attraction is the basis of a relationship. People are naturally attracted to each other.

In the spiritual, spiritual attraction is the basis of a kingdom relationship. The more spiritual we become the less we are focused on what a person looks like in the natural.

The marriages in the kingdom are first based upon the spirit. No matter how attractive a person is physically we will not become involved with them if they have a different spirit.

Once we meet someone with the same spirit and have a oneness of spirit, then we have the potential of a soul-mate. The soul speaks of our natural human life or interests that we have in common concerning this life.

The physical is the last part, there must be a physical attraction but this is our last consideration, because the more spiritual we become the less we are focused on the flesh. Our outward man is perishing, but our inward beauty should be increasing every day.

## The kingdom marriage