

***The Commitment of Marriage (Part 2)***  
***Expectations and Communication***  
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***Introduction:*** The challenge of all relationships is found in communication.

- A. One of the basic purposes of the home is to “socialize” our children.
  - 1. When faith in God becomes the center of the home then our children will learn how to think about and work with others. **(Mt 22:37-40)**
  - 2. Before we can raise our Children in such a faith, the husband and wife must first build a relationship on these principles. **(2 Tim 1:5)**
- B. How do very different people come to work together? **(Eph 5:33)**
  - 1. There is a constant need for communication and trust. Only from that communication can come realistic expectations!
  - 2. In the lack of communication, there comes stress, anger and discouragement.
  - 3. When one loves God and humbly seeks to serve others, then that one will pursue the wisdom to develop communication. **(Phil 2:3-4)**

***I. What realistic expectations should we have before marriage?***

- A. When you marry a faithful Christian then both should expect their mate will think and act as Christ has spoken. **(Jn 13:34-35)**
  - 1. In dating it is crucial that your relationship with God be the basis of your relationship with one another.
  - 2. Without a real commitment to God you can have NO realistic expectations.
  - 3. Wisdom will teach us to take time in dating and test the elements of true character. Be wise in who you chose to spend your life. **(Prov 9:8-10; 13:20)**

B. Before marriage you must be committed to patient communication. **(1 Pt 3:7)**

- 1. When expectations do not match reality then communication is needed.

Unspoken, half-hidden expectations about married life put wives and husbands to the test in the Realization stage. These “rules” form in childhood and our teen years as we watch our parents’ marriages and absorb silent imperatives about the roles of husbands and wives from society; from our cultural and religious affiliations; and from TV shows, movies, and books. Previous romances and even friendships further shape our expectations. And at a deeper level, we often believe our spouses will somehow intuit and heal our deepest psychic wounds.

- 2. Anger is a common response to unmet expectations. **(Jas 1:19-20; Prov 15:1)**
- 3. When we think we can “read minds” we often act unjustly. **(Jn 7:24)**
- 4. If we do not control our anger our mate may fear communication. You can enslave another by your anger and threats!

Expectations: it usually starts small: “Weren’t you going to take the garbage out?” “Didn’t you have time to do the dishes today?” “Did you forget to buy the groceries?”

Then it becomes personal: “Why do I always have to do the dirty work?” “Do you expect me to live in the kitchen?” “What am I, Supermom?”

***II. Harmony comes when expectations are built on communication***

- A. Foolish people often jump to conclusions and make accusations. **(Prov 18:17)**
  - 1. When there is a failure and disappointment, then there should always be a follow up in real communication. Men must take the lead in this. **(Eph 6:4)**

2. Some *good questions*: What expectations should we have in the future about this matter? How can I better understand and meet your needs?
  3. When discussing these matters it is important to place *understanding above self-defense*. Make it your 1<sup>st</sup> priority to understand your mate. **(1 Pt 3:7-9)**
- B. Without true love and communication we can destroy both ourselves and our mates through false expectations! **(Eph 4:31-32)**
1. It is harsh and cruel to expect something of another *that he cannot give*! While some adjustments can be made, you cannot expect and introvert to become an extrovert, a man to become a woman or a sensitive person to be indifferent.
  2. Often the very things that *attract us in dating* can become a focus of our anger.

### **III. Let God's grace and mercy dominate your thinking towards your mate**

- A. We *are called* to respond to injustice just like Christ did! **(1 Pt 2:19-23; Lk 23:34)**
1. The love of God always seeks to understand and then seek healing. God's love will not overlook sin or reality. **(1 Cor 13:4-6)**
  2. How would I want my mate to respond to my faults? (James 2:13)
- B. A godly man will choose to follow *the mercy and forgiveness* of Jesus.
1. Any faults he sees in others he *first remembers* what Jesus did for him. **(1 Tim 1:15-16)**
  2. He wants to *restore* the offender's relationship to God and to himself. **(2 Cor 2:7-8, 11)**
  3. He *lets the past go* and has confidence in the future path of his brother. **(2 Cor 2:3-4; 2 Thess 3:4; Philemon 1:21)**
  4. He will find his marriage, his children, his brethren and his friends *to be blessed* by his being a "son of encouragement." **(Acts 4:36)**
  5. His hurts *becomes an opportunity* to build a stronger faith and come even closer to God. **(Job 42:5-6; Ps 51:16-17)**
- C. This will be *a great blessing* to your children.
1. A child's first impression of what his heavenly Father is like will *come from his earthly father*.
  2. Does this message sink in with you as a parent? *What does my child see?*  
They will be observing you for ways to handle each and every situation and every emotion they may feel. Children learn to trust as they watch family members handle happiness, difficult situations, celebrations, disagreements, etc.
  3. Hopefully he will see *a humble person seeking to be taught of God* and in turn leading the way to heaven for his family. **(1 Cor 4:15-16; 11:1)**
- D. Our homes must be a place that *will allow wounds to heal*.
1. It is not just a place, but it is *people who will help us heal*. **(Heb 12:12-13)**
  2. What do our children see in us? Do they see a place where one can be honest and then learn to grow? Do they see a place to pretend, withdraw and bury hurt?
  2. In my home my occasion for hurting was *also an occasion to gain wisdom*! **(Prov 1:8, 10, 15; 2:1)**

**Conclusion:** What a blessing it is to have a home that follows God's wisdom