



JOYCE MEYER
MINISTRIES®



“The two shall become one”

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

Joyce Meyer Ministries
Nanakramguda
Hyderabad - 500 008
Andhra Pradesh
INDIA
91-40-2300 6777
www.jmmindia.org
TN17

Marriage

V O L U M E 2

“The two shall become one”

Teaching by Joyce Meyer

Joyce Meyer Ministries
P.O. Box 655 • Fenton, MO 63026
636-349-0303 • 1-800-727-WORD (9673)
www.joycemeyer.org

Love Is A Decision!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

You have come to this marriage seminar with excitement, hope, and a dream of your marriages being made better.

I believe this seminar will be life changing. The teaching, worship, fellowship, and group discussions are going to open many new doors for your marriages and family relationships to be made better.

This seminar will get some things rolling, so to speak, but this must not be the end. The seminar itself has no special power unless you take the things you learn and then go home and **put them to work**. This will require hard work and effort on your part and a lot of it.

Our staff, as well as Dave and I, have worked very hard in the grace of God to make this as excellent as we know how to make it. We have days of study time invested, hours of prayer, preparations, planning, decorations, organizing, etc. Our job is about over – yours is just beginning.

Your marriage can be wonderful, exciting, fun, marvelous, and magnificent; but it will take a lot of continued hard work and effort.

I am willing to work at making my marriage excellent from this day forward on a daily basis.

Husband

Wife

(Allow 15 minutes)

QUESTIONS THAT QUICKEN

Take a thirty-minute break – Get alone with your spouse and answer these questions.

1. In general, what direction is our life taking?

Wife	–	(Positive)	(Negative)	(Stagnate)
Husband	–	(Positive)	(Negative)	(Stagnate)

2. What do we spend most of our free, non-regular working hours doing?

Wife _____

Husband _____

3. Is our life exciting and joy filled, or are we bored and is our life rather humdrum?

Wife _____

Husband _____

4. What are we doing to make the quality of someone else’s life better?

Wife _____

Husband _____

5. Do we have goals?

Wife

Husband

Financial?	Yes	No	Somewhat	Yes	No	Somewhat
------------	-----	----	----------	-----	----	----------

Household, repairs, etc.?	Yes	No	Somewhat	Yes	No	Somewhat
------------------------------	-----	----	----------	-----	----	----------

Goals (continued)	<u>Wife</u>			<u>Husband</u>		
Spiritual?	Yes	No	Somewhat	Yes	No	Somewhat
Physical?	Yes	No	Somewhat	Yes	No	Somewhat

6. Are we managing our time?

Wife – Yes No Somewhat

Husband – Yes No Somewhat

	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Husband</u>
7. Are you vague? (beat around the bush; avoid answering questions)	_____	_____

Are you straightforward? (clear; direct)	_____	_____
---	-------	-------

8. Check the ones that apply:

We really enjoy one another. We are having fun and growing closer all the time	_____	_____
---	-------	-------

We live together; I do my thing, and so does my spouse.	_____	_____
---	-------	-------

We laugh and have fun together occasionally.	_____	_____
--	-------	-------

We almost never laugh and have fun together.	_____	_____
--	-------	-------

9. Check one:

a) We have frequent arguments and heated disagreements.	_____	_____
---	-------	-------

We argue very rarely.	_____	_____
-----------------------	-------	-------

b) We disagree about most things.	_____	_____
-----------------------------------	-------	-------

We agree about most things.	_____	_____
-----------------------------	-------	-------

10. Check one: Wife Husband

There is strife in our home.
(Strife is an angry undercurrent.) _____

We have revelation on the dangers of strife,
and we keep it out of our home. _____

11. Are you touchy?
(get your feelings hurt easily)

Wife – Yes No

Husband – Yes No

12. Are you a peacemaker?
(willing to apologize whether the problem was your fault or not)

Wife – Yes No

Husband – Yes No

13. Are you willing to be wrong (look wrong or let others think you're wrong) even if you are right – rather than being the type of person who has to appear right no matter what the cost?

Wife – Yes No (Wife answers for self)

Husband – Yes No (Husband answers for self)

Wife – Yes No (Husband answers for Wife)

Husband – Yes No (Wife answers for Husband)

14. Do you feel we have quality, meaningful communication?

Wife – Yes No Somewhat

Husband – Yes No Somewhat

15. Are you satisfied with our sex life?

Wife – Yes No Yes in most areas, but I would like to see a few changes.

Husband – Yes No Yes in most areas, but I would like to see a few changes.

THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE

I. Two Shall Become One

A. Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:4-5

B. Joined as one

1. Body (I Corinthians 6:16)

2. Soul – Progressive

3. Spirit – In Christ

C. The soul – Mind (I think), will (I want), and emotions (I feel).

1. **Mind** (represents thoughts) – **Learning** to walk in agreement; be of one mind.

a. Amos 3:3 – How can two walk together unless they be in agreement?

b. Matthew 18:19 – Agreement brings prayer power.

c. Question: How do people who are not of one mind become one?

2. **Will** – Wants

a. Grow (progressively) – less self-centered.

Lay aside your personal wants for the good of the family unit.

- b. Examples:
Dave's Z-28
Oriental restaurant or one everyone can enjoy
- c. Question: How do two people who don't want the same thing become joined as one in their wills?

3. **Emotions** – Feelings

- a. Men and women are very different in this area.
- b. Men – Lateral in their thinking, which means they tend to use one side of their brain at a time. Men tend to favor the left side of the brain where logic operates. Men tend to be conquer-oriented.
- c. Women – Bilateral in their thinking, which means they tend to use both sides of their brain at the same time. Women tend to favor the right side of the brain where feeling, nurturing, communication, and the relational part of life operates.
- d. Question: How can two people created to behave emotionally different become one?

II. Become One Through Understanding, Value, And Honor.

I Peter 3:2,7 and **Ephesians 5:33** – If these Scriptures are obeyed, we will understand each other.

- A. Understanding requires:
 - 1. Listening
 - 2. Time
 - 3. Communication
 - 4. Transparency

B. **Genesis 2:25** – . . . *the man and his wife were both naked and were not embarrassed or ashamed in each other's presence.*

1. This is representative of them having a totally open, honest relationship.
2. Example: **Woman says**, “I want to go on vacation. I think we need a break and a change of pace; I feel like I really need some time alone with you.”

Man responds (from the left side of his brain), “We can’t afford a vacation. We only have a few hundred dollars, and we need a new lawn mower.”

3. His logic does not meet her emotional need. She feels unloved, misunderstood, and rejected.

Her lack of understanding that trying to take a vacation now would pressure them financially frustrates him.

The Answer: He should take the initiative as “Head of the Household” to say, “Let’s sit down and talk about this.”

Anytime the two are divided, it is the responsibility of the “Head” to initiate whatever will bring peace.

The woman, of course, can share in this responsibility. He should allow her to talk for a while, and he should listen; or vice versa depending on who is voicing a need.

*Listening MORE And Lecturing Less...
Makes A Happier Home!*

Hear – To listen and be listening.

You can hear words without hearing the person’s need.

VERY IMPORTANT: Even if he can't take her on a vacation right now, he can UNDERSTAND.

VERY IMPORTANT: He can also look for and suggest an alternative to meet her need.

C. Value and honor

Value – To attach great importance to.

You will never convince a person they are valuable if you won't try to **understand** them.

Understand – To perceive and comprehend, to know and be tolerant of or sympathetic toward (understanding your position even though I disagree).

Scorn – To consider or treat as contemptible or unworthy (scoff at). Laugh at or make light of another's need.

1. Value and honor as an individual

- a. **Love is liberating** – It sets you free to be an individual and allows you the privilege of being different.

Romans 14:3-5 – Individuality

Romans 14:18-19 – Acceptance and edification

Matthew 7:1 – Judge not

Romans 2:1 – You do the same things you judge others for.

- b. Example: We look at ourselves through rose-colored glasses and others through a magnifying glass.

2. Value and honor in the respective marriage roles

- a. **Ephesians 5:22-24** – A woman should honor her husband as head of the household.

Respect his logic; realizing it is his strength and her weakness.

- b. **Genesis 2:18** – God made Adam a helper.
Helper – One who corresponds to him; one who makes him complete.
 - c. A man should honor the woman as valuable to him – not just to cook his meals, clean his house, and meet his physical needs – but he should recognize he needs her advice, opinions, and thoughts.
 - d. **I Peter 3:7** – She is physically weaker – not mentally.
 - e. **Hebrews 13:4** – Let marriage be held in honor.
3. The cost – If you want a good marriage, you must work at it diligently.

How To Treat Your Mate

I. Ephesians 4:32 – Be Kind, Tenderhearted, Understanding, And Forgiving.

A. Other admonishments in the Word:

- Be loving
- Be gentle
- Be soft spoken (not harsh)
- Be edifying
- Be exhortative
- Be helpful (Ephesians 4:32)
- Be useful (Ephesians 4:32)
- Be straightforward (Ephesians 5:17)
- Be appreciative
- Be giving
- Be humble, meek
- Be patient (especially in each other's weaknesses)
- Be compassionate
- Be easy to get along with
- Be willing to be wrong
- Be in agreement
- Be merciful

B. Be a blessing.

II. We Communicate To One Another Mainly Through Words, Touch, And Facial Expressions.

A. Colossians 3:8 – Verbal abuse

1. Tearing down instead of building up
2. Proverbs 18:21 – *Death and life are in the power of the tongue . . .*

3. **Proverbs 15:4** – *A gentle tongue [with its healing power] is a tree of life, but willful contrariness in it breaks down the spirit.*

B. The spoken blessing

1. Everyone craves “the blessing.”
2. Words of encouragement
3. **James 3:9-10** – BLESS and CURSE
 - a. To speak well of
 - b. To speak evil of

C. What happens when we withhold words of blessing?

1. Bad marriages – even divorce
2. Bad relationships
3. **Two roads:**
 - a. Work-a-holism – Try harder, then maybe you’ll get praised.
 - b. Withdrawal – Give up because you’ve tried and failed so often that you can’t face another disappointment. Travel the road of apathy, depression, and withdrawal.

D. Words that raise value:

1. You’re important.
2. You have a lot of wisdom.
3. I need you.
4. You are very talented.

5. You're a hard worker.
- E. Power words:
1. I'm sorry.
 2. I love you.
 3. You're right and I'm wrong.
- F. God's covenant of blessing
1. **Genesis 12:2-3** – Abraham
 2. **Genesis 27:26-29** – Jacob and Esau
- G. The loving touch
1. Old covenant blessing included a loving touch.
 2. Jesus picked up the little children; He laid His hands on them, and blessed them.
 3. Laying on of hands – a loving touch
 4. Hugs, kisses, pats, holding hands, etc.
- H. Word pictures
1. **Genesis 49:1-28** – Jacob uses word pictures to bless or curse his sons.

Song of Solomon

1:15 (her)

2:2 (her)

4:1 (her)

4:2-16 (her)

5:10-16 (him)

Song of Solomon

6:5-9 (her)

2. Current-day word pictures
 - a. As soft as a kitten
 - b. Gentle as a lamb
 - c. Diamonds, rubies, etc.

- I. Encourage and build up your partner through believing they have a bright future and speaking words that convey that message.
 1. Examples:
 - a. “Honey, I believe God is really going to use you.”
 - b. “I know you’re having some struggles with yourself and your spiritual growth, but you’re growing and changing. By this time next year (with God’s help) you’ll have this conquered, and it will all be over.”
 - c. “I believe you have gifts and abilities coming forth that are going to help you really move ahead at work.”
 2. Convey hope through words.

- J. Don’t just be married – be committed and involved.
 1. Care enough to get involved in what your mate is doing, even if it would not be **your** number one choice.
 2. Don’t get so absorbed in TV, reading, etc. that you do not communicate “real interest” in what your partner is saying.
 3. Be involved by doing work projects together.

Example: Instead of the woman doing the dishes after dinner while the man cuts the grass, perhaps he should consider helping her with the dishes and then she could do the trimming or pulling weeds while he cuts the grass. (This would be especially important if they had no other time to spend together that day.)

K. The cost – If you want a good marriage, you must diligently work at it.

Healing Past Hurts

I. Healing Past Hurts

A. Distrust, rejection, fear of being hurt, wounded spirits, broken hearts, insecurity, anger, resentment, bitterness, etc.

B. Time

1. Has a healing effect

2. Acts 1:7

C. Forgiveness

1. Repentance – One party (the one offended) has a responsibility to promote a desire to repent through kindness. The offending party has a responsibility to repent.

Luke 17:3 – If he repents, forgive him.

Luke 24:47

Romans 2:4

2. Love is not easily offended, and it covers a multitude of sins.

I Peter 4:8

I Corinthians: Chapter 13

3. Process of repentance

a. Offender faces truth

b. Admits guilt

c. Takes responsibility for his or her actions

I John 1:9

Matthew 3:8 – Bring forth fruit consistent with repentance.

NOTE: When excuses cover bad behavior, the offended spouse may decide to go on and let it go; however there still remains an offense in the spirit that leaves a wound.

4. The outcome of repentance and forgiveness is reconciliation.

D. **Philippians 3:13-14** – Forget the past.

E. Take special steps to restore security, trust, etc.

1. Ask your spouse to choose on a scale of 1-10 how secure your actions and attitudes make him and her feel. (See chart below)
2. Ask your spouse what you could do over the next few weeks to make him or her feel more secure.
3. Use “The Blessing Package” to strengthen your mate’s self-esteem and help him or her discover new levels of self-confidence.
 - a. Example: If your spouse feels unappreciated, you can build security by showing special appreciation (even more during the rebuilding than will be necessary later); however, don’t ever stop.
 - b. Example: If a spouse has been unfaithful and the couple has decided to try to reconcile the marriage, tremendous wisdom should be used on the part of the offending spouse when around members of the opposite sex.

<p>1. Where do we want our relationship to be?</p> <p>0 10</p> <p>worst best</p> <p>2. Where is our relationship today?</p> <p>0 10</p> <p>worst best</p> <p>3. What could we do in the next several days or weeks to bring our relationship closer to where we want it?</p> <p>If the discussion bogs down, you can get it going again by using the 0 to 10 scale on different relationship areas such as: communication, listening, understanding, etc.</p>

Fulfillment Of Proper Roles

I. Man – “Head Of Household” – High Priest/King/Husband

A. Head of household

1. Provider
2. Protector
3. Keeper of the peace
4. Disciplinarian

B. High priest

1. Spiritual leader . . .
 - a. Teach wife and children verbally
– mainly by example.
 - b. Pray, study the Word, etc.

C. King

1. Should be respected and honored as the king.
2. Treat your wife as a queen, and she will crown you king.
3. **Romans 13:7** – Give respect to whom respect is due, and honor to whom honor is due.
4. If you want to be treated as a king, don’t act like a bear.

D. Husband

1. **Ephesians 5:25-29**

a. Nourish (defined/Vine's) – To rear, feed, to nurse, bring up, nurture along, bring from out of, the type of care one gives to his or her own flesh, and to train especially to be nourished in the faith.

b. Cherish (defined/Vine's) – To soften with heat; to keep warm as BIRDS covering their young; to give tender care.

(defined/Webster's) – To hold dear, treat affectionately; to keep fondly in mind.

(JM definition) – To think of their welfare in every situation

2. Friend requires . . .

a. Time together

b. Communication

3. Lover requires . . .

a. Romance

b. Creativity

c. Initiative

E. The cost – If you want to be a good husband, you must be willing to work at it diligently.

II. Woman – “Helpmate” – Queen Of The Home/Wife/Friend/Lover

A. Keep the home life cheerful and energized.

1. **Proverbs 31:27** – *She looks well to how things go in her household, and the bread of idleness (gossip, discontent, and self-pity) she will not eat.*

a. Variety of foods

- b. Decorating
 - 2. **Proverbs 31:23** – Her husband is known in the city.
 - a. Be a good wife that your husband can be proud of.
 - b. Take good care of yourself personally.
 - 3. Should a woman work outside the home?
 - a. **Proverbs 31:16** – She was a businesswoman, but she expanded prudently and did not neglect her present duties by assuming others.
 - b. It is best to be home with your children if at all possible. I realize sometimes it is not possible, so each family must make the decision.
- B. **Ephesians 5:22** – ADAPT to be submissive.

C. **Ephesians 5:33**

Respect
 Reverence
 Notice
 Regard
 Honor
 Prefer
 Venerate
 Esteem
 Defer to
 Praise
 Love
 Admire

EXCEEDINGLY!

Love Is A Decision!

QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU DISCOVER ONE ANOTHER

1. What are some of the best memories you have of our life together?
2. What are some of the most romantic times we've had together?

What can we do to keep the romantic side of our relationship alive and exciting?

3. In what single way would you like to grow personally in the next twelve months?

In what single way would you like to see me (your spouse) grow personally in the next twelve months?

4. What problems (two or three), if solved, would make the most positive difference in our marriage and family?
5. What important decisions do we need to make in the near future?
In what direction are you leaning in each area?
6. What are your favorite things to do?

Describe your . . .

- Ideal day
- Ideal weekend
- Ideal evening
- Ideal vacation

7. If you could spend one hour talking to anyone on the earth, who would it be and why? What would you discuss?
8. In what ways can we improve our everyday communication?

Where do we hit snags when we try to communicate?

9. What needs in the world trouble you most?
What do you think needs to be done about them?
What do you think we could do, if anything?
10. What three things produce the most stress in our lives?
How can we overcome it?
Personally, what is your greatest area of stress?
Is there anything I can do to help you in this area?
11. What part of your work is most fulfilling?
What part is most frustrating?
12. If we suddenly became richer than either of us could ever imagine, what would you do with the money?
13. What do you see as your greatest strengths and your greatest weaknesses?
What do you see as my greatest strengths and weaknesses?
14. What are three of the most important things we could do with our children this year?
What are the most important values we need to teach them?
15. Of all the people we know or have known, who do you most admire and why?
16. Who are your three closest personal friends?
What do you enjoy about each one?
17. What three things do we own that are the most important to you?
18. What do you enjoy most about our sex life? How can I improve?
What do you wish I would or would not do?
19. What do I do that really bugs you that I could stop doing and make life easier for you?

