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Chapter I

The Human Condition

This book looks at both lifestyles of being married or remaining single. Marriage can be a blessing or a curse. Being single can be a blessing or a curse. The purpose of this book is to help the reader to see all the blessings and cursings of each lifestyle. It also helps the reader know more about themselves as to what they want and don't want for either lifestyle. The book provides the reality of marriage and remaining single, as opposed to our dreams and expectations, so that the reader can avoid making a foolish decision. The book provides wisdom to the reader so that they can make a wise choice for which ever lifestyle they would choose - because you must choose between one or the other. I attempt to discuss as many variables as possible that should be considered when deciding which lifestyle to choose from. I cannot cover all possible variables since there exist too many minor variables thus, I focus on the general variables. This book is not written to solve anyone's marriage problems, since I'm not a marriage counselor. Every relationship has many different challenges, circumstances, problems, and solutions. All relationships develop differently so what one solution will work with one will not work with another. Instead of solving marriage problems, this book provides a look at the two different

lifestyles – single or married – pros and cons – blessings and cursing's. The book can also provide a lot of answers to marriage and relationship problems but that is not the goal of the book.....

I'm going to begin with the subject divorce as strange as that seems. That's because divorce is what you never want to happen to you. The truth about divorce is not taught so, people do not know what is involved with a first time divorce. It's ugly.

There are two ways in which you can be divorced. Out-of-court settlement and In-court settlement. Out-of-court settlements only cost filing fees. You both decide on what to keep being fair about splitting moneys and belongs evenly. If you can do this, you both will walk away with 50% for each of you. This is a great way to get divorced since no one gets any of your money. An Out-of-court settlement requires that you both be fair with each other. Most people are too upset and angry so they are going to go through an In-court-settlement involving attorneys. They are usually attempting to get as much from the other as possible. Greed gets in the way. With an In-court-settlement and there are no children involved, the courts are going to attempt to divide everything in half-since you both refuse to do this. The courts have formula's that they use to help aid them in dividing belongings. One part of this formula involves the income of each spouse. With one spouse making more than the other then this effects the division of belongings. An out-of-court settlement does not consider each spouses income.

The bottom line with an In-court settlement is that both spouses are going to lose most everything. You must pay court fees, filing fees, and attorney fees. The attorneys are expensive and usually net 30% of the gross total of all belongings. Each attorney gets 30% thus an In-court-divorce is going to cost 60% (2 attorneys) of all gross moneys. That's just the beginning. When the divorce is final you will not have much left and will be starting all over in life. The house must be sold or bought out from a spouse, and the funds distributed among the attorneys as well as the spouses. Funds are also paid to the court and filing fees usually amounting to another 10%. The remainder 30% gets divided between the spouses which is 15% of remaining money. When children are involved, the courts also have a formula for them. Whoever gets to pay child support is worseoff. Then there is alimony, retirement, and investments that are factored into this formula. It all gets very nasty. When the dust settles both spouses walk away with very little. This is one of the reasons that you don't want to go through a divorce. If a divorce is inevitable, then you **must** understand what your outcome is going to be and be prepared for that outcome. If you choose to be greedy you will lose everything - thats the reality of In-court-divorce.....

I'll begin the subject of marriage/single by discussing human emotions. Emotions are the biggest variable that plays with marriage. We humans have intellect and emotions – **surprise**. Emotions are wonderful but they can also be a curse. Emotions have no solid steady base within anyone. Emotions

come and go, they are up and down, they swing to the opposite very quickly. Emotions are difficult to control, thus, emotions cannot be trusted with anyone....

Physical feelings are not emotions. They all are cravings of our flesh. A lot of emotions can come to life from physical cravings. Physical desires are one and the same with physical cravings. When we are hungry this is a physical craving. When we have sexual desires, this is a physical craving. The physical cravings can bring on lots of cursing's to our life just as those cravings can be a blessing. Disciplining the physical cravings will keep the desires in check. Not disciplining the physical cravings will allow those cravings to rule your decisions. To give way to the physical cravings and satisfy them usually brings about cursing's. Controlling the physical fleshly appetites most always produces blessings. The wise control their physical desires while fools don't attempt to control their physical cravings. Controlling the physical cravings are actions that **must** be learned because it's not a natural ability. Those who can learn self-control will always be blessed. If you want to be blessed, then you must learn to control the physical cravings.

Being patient with your emotions along with logical thinking is going to be a blessing to you. Even better is having control over your emotions and physical desires. And remember this last insight; some people are very clever at hiding their faults for long periods of time. Unless you find someone, who is honest, up front, and tells you their

Chapter 2

Single verses Married

I will first cover the single life-style since most people do not take a close look at this style of life. Most people do not consider the pros and cons of being single. I'll start with the pros. Remaining single has lots of advantages. Once the reader sees what is required for marriage, they might seriously consider the single lifestyle. Marriage requires a lot of work and is limited with advantages and disadvantages, where being single has no requirements.

Remaining single is easy since there are no demands or requirements, no fuss, no buss. Once we look at all the pros and cons the reader might become excited at the single lifestyle. Once the reader can see all the blessing of remaining single, they will have an entirely different outlook with being single. It's difficult to sum up the pros and cons without looking at marriage as well. The reader will be better off looking at the marriage variables to use for comparisons.

One great pro is freedom. The single style does not have to be concerned about any of the marriage variables. One such variable is freedoms. By remaining single you get to enjoy a lot of freedoms where in marriage you lose a lot of those freedoms. A single person needs to understand the value of their freedoms. Freedom is something you shouldn't take lightly. No one can be

married and continue with the freedoms of the single life-style. Any time you lose a freedom you become a slave to the one who took your freedom. When you lose your freedoms, you are in bondage to the other plus you are at their mercy. Consider very carefully about sacrificing your freedoms.....

Most single people that are looking to marry and have grown up thinking that they must be married, yet have never considered the single lifestyle. Most have never even given any thought about the single lifestyle. What I'm attempting to do is rattle your cage and make you think about the single lifestyle – to take a serious look at the single life.....

A single person can accomplish many things because of their freedom. In marriage you will most likely have to forsake a lot of things you enjoy. Chances are that even projects your good at, the spouse isn't interested in them, thus the tendency will be to hold you back from pursuing your projects – this is the reality of marriage which you better consider really hard and very carefully.....

Almost every married person I know - their number one complaint is that they long for the freedom of not being held back from their projects..... Nine out of ten married couples that I know of tell me that they want out of marriage with their present spouse.....

Another pro is that of finances. All the money you make is yours. You don't have to pay for the other spouse. There is no one else to be a continual financial burden or strain. You only have one person to pay for - yourself. When married you have two people to pay for.....

One nice advantage or pro to remaining single is that you can do a lot of investing. Most working people don't make wealth just from a job. Most wealth comes through investing. Married people usually don't have money for investing because all their money goes to bills and monthly child expenses. There is always the exception for some married couples. The way to become wealthy is through investing and a single person has a better opportunity....

Another pro is having lots of friends. When people marry, their time becomes restricted with former friends. Marriage requires lots of your time. When single, you have lots of time and lots of friends and can do as you please. If you enjoy lots of friendships marriage will rob you of those friends. Consider carefully which you value more, lots of friendships or just one major friendship. In marriage your spouse is supposed to become your one main friend. That one main friend is going to require a lot of your time.....

Another con is regarding your finances. When your married and you go places, like a restaurant, a movie, shopping, sporting events, etc. you must pay for 2 people. If you have children you must pay all the more.....

Another con to consider is the cost of a family. At today's costs to raise one child will cost from \$100,000 to \$250,000 up to \$500,000 for those 18 years of age.....

Another pro is being able to go places a lot. Married folks are limited to traveling because of time off from work and finances.....

Chapter 3

Finances

Finances are always a touchy subject when discussing marriage. Finances is another major variable that contributes to marriage and the single lifestyle. We all work to earn money, so the worker usually is the one who is also in charge of the finances. Every marriage handles finances differently. There are several schemes to handling finances which I'll attempt to cover. What will work with one couple will not work with another. There are several factors that determine which method each couple will choose to use. Trusting in the spouse, amount of income from each spouse, only one working spouse, the amount of time each spouse works, expenditures, hobbies, a business, a family business, size and price of a house, children, financial goals, investing, habits, to name a few. Some of the schemes that I cover can also be applied to those who choose the single lifestyle. If you're a single person it's good to review these different methods since you might see a few idea's that will enhance your financial wisdom. All these mentioned methods are aimed at married spouses since most all married couples must deal with financial decisions and difficulties.....

What I keep seeing again and again, is that newlyweds or marriages with financial problems, have not come together to discuss a financial plan. There are many factors to consider

when discussing a financial plan as mentioned below. I cover these schemes to give you some ideas of what to consider when making a financial marriage plan.....

Most married couples don't take the time to draw out a long-term plan. Instead, they just do things as each problem arises. These kinds of marriages are headed for financial problems. Zero planning for anything in a marriage, most always involves finances. Both spouses also need to include planning for the unexpected such as an auto accident or replacing a dying auto, a job lay-off, an accident that causes expensive hospital bills, or a natural disaster. Any type of unexpected financial costs will probably happen because this is the norm for most all individuals - married and single. When there is no planning and you're living by taking on each problem as they arise, you're only looking at how much remaining money you have for each month. When the next problem presents itself, the question that arises is what we can afford for this present problem or this need.....

With a financial plan you both know how much money you have in the pot each month. You'll know what items you can afford and if you stick strictly to that budget, you'll not have problems that others suffer. You'll know what your goals are and can both work to achieve those goals. With such a plan there will be little to none of the financial pressures and strains that can impact a marriage unless you deviate from the plan.....

Chapter 4

Problem Solving

Today, solving problems in any type of relationship is no longer taught. The generations since World War 2, has ceased from teaching much of anything regarding relationships and marriage. One of the variables not taught in relationships is problem solving. Solving problems is a critical requirement for marriages to succeed. If you never learn how to solve problems in any friendship or marriage that relationship or marriage is doomed for failure.

Today's society does the opposite of solving problems. People run from their problems because most people don't know how to solve problems. What makes runners so bad is that in the next relationship, they are going to encounter problems again and the cycle starts all over - not solving the problems but running from those problems. Runners continue to look for a new partner or spouse that can solve or prevent problems. In the end the cycle starts all over again. Later, runners learn to tolerate difficulties or problems. They ignore the problem and just don't discuss it anymore. In turn, that marriage or relationship stagnates – ceasing from developing into a deeper meaningful relationship.....

Every relationship is going to encounter problems and difficulties. There is no such thing as a problem free marriage. If

you're thinking that your perfect marriage will never have problems you're living in a dream world. Ask every married person about having marriage problems and you're going to quickly learn that every one of them has had problems or is having problems.....

Each spouse is going to have to learn and know how to solve their marriage problems. Any and most all problems cannot be solved by just one spouse. Both spouses must learn to work together at solving their problems. If one spouse does not learn to work with the other at solving their problems, then that marriage will eventually fail. Problem solving requires both spouse's input. It requires a strategy that both must formulate together and initiate together.....

Communication skills is an art that must be developed between spouses. You can't take for granted that the other knows what you're thinking. None of us are mind readers. I know lots of couples that make this error frequently. Both spouses must learn to spell out everything that they are thinking.....

Problem solving requires thinking skills. If you don't know how to think you're not going to solve any problems. You don't have to become a think tank like Einstein or Oppenheimer, but you do need basic thinking skills. You can learn from a few books or even from lessons off the internet. If your spouse has thinking skills that is a big green flag.....

Chapter 5

Culture

Every country is different in their cultures and traditions. Older countries, like Europe and the Middle East are more steeped in traditions than the newer countries like the USA and South America. The older countries carry far more meaning in their heritage, which makes them rather special with their history. These older countries pride themselves on their rich traditions as anyone would. For them, tradition and heritage are an important part of their culture.....

No matter where you go on the earth, all marriages encounter the same variables, the same challenges, the same struggles, the same conditions. One of the biggest observations I've made is that most cultures are different when it comes to pride versus humility. The way a culture develops is usually based upon these two traits. The degree of pride and humility will affect a marriage for better or worse. The more prideful a country is, the higher the divorce rate. The less pride the less the divorce rate. And this is the condition of the people of the USA, England, some of the European countries, and some of the Middle Eastern countries. They are full of pride and will never return to being humble. Knowing this situation in these countries should make you aware of the risk of divorce in those countries.....

Chapter 6

Like Interests

You should try to find a spouse with as many interests as you have. The more the interests the better and these likenesses can be counted as green flags. A spouse that has the same interests is going to be a big plus to any marriage. They will be involved in the projects you enjoy because they also will find much joy participating in the same likes. You both will play and work together with the same goals and projects. Your conversations will be more joyful and exciting.....

It's a rarity to find a spouse with many of the same likes let alone all the same likes. Should you find such a spouse they will make for a more meaningful marriage. There will be little contention between both of you. You will share all the equipment and time together. Your projects will be more enjoyable and meaningful. Goals and aspirations will be mutual making for a greater amount of joy and love for both spouses.....

When both spouses have only a few things in common they both attempt to tolerate the things that are not in common. Depending upon the tolerance levels, some can be okay with the other spouse. As time passes both spouses are going to become more involved with their projects. This can develop into problems because of financing those projects. What then comes into play is the fairness of being equal with the financing.....

Chapter 7

Soul Mates

For the past twenty years there has been a new belief throughout the earth which I'm going to discuss in this chapter. This belief is called Soul Mates. The belief is that there is just one person who has been destined for you and no one else. This belief involves that such a spouse is the ideal perfect person that is intended for you to be married to.

This soul mate belief is a false teaching, and I'll show you why. I'll use the Bible for an example and then some other examples. In the Bible you will never find God creating any one person to be married to another person except for Adam and Eve. You never find God match making or bringing two people together for marriage unless you give Him permission to do so. The Bible teaches that everyone has the freedom of choice which also applies to marriage. The Bible also teaches that it's a good thing to find a good spouse and that we can obtain blessings from marriage. The Bible further teaches spouses many aspects to have, to make for a better marriage. You can ask God for His advice about a potential spouse. Many of my Christian friends have had God say no, and some of them have had God say 'yes.' Most positive answers from God are more along the lines of 'that one has my approval.' Even with God's approval it's all your choice.....

Another example comes from what we witness in our lifetime. If the soul mate's belief is true, then why do I continue to witness people getting divorced who accepted this belief before they married? Then they get married again to another Soul Mate? Suddenly there are two soul mates. The belief now is altered to accommodate failure. The belief of Soul Mate is that the soul mate marriage will always last. No matter what happens, that spouse is your one and only spouse and that spouse will always defeat and conquer all differences and difficulties. The belief is based on a perfect dream person that is your ideal spouse. As discussed in chapter 2 – the ideal dream spouse does not exist. I know several people who adopted this belief only to watch them undergo divorce. After their divorce I would ask them about their soul mate marriage. The answer is always the same – I must have not met the soul mate; thus, this belief is always being altered. Today there exists all kinds of versions of the soul mate belief.....

God expects you to be wise and knowledgeable about marriage like studying this book. Once you have learned all that, you probably have 90% of what you need to know and will be accurate with a wise choice. My advice is to learn all you can about marriage and a potential spouse and then ask God for His opinion. You might find a seemingly great candidate who has lots of green flags and God may say no. You've done all your homework but still can't see something that God can see, and this is where He is wonderful at providing an answer. God is great at helping us avoid potential problems by providing

Chapter 8

Point of View

Points of view come from past experiences everyone has encountered throughout their life. As we age our experiences alter our thoughts and ideas. We learn more truths about life and many times what we once thought was correct turns out to be incorrect. We experience good situations and bad situations. Over time our ideas and points of view are developed and defined or redefined. This evolving occurrence is ongoing throughout our lifetime. The more we experience life the more defined we become.

When we engage in a relationship our points of view come into play. With a relationship we have two sets of points of view, two sets of beliefs, and two sets of past experiences. Part of a relationship is discussing our points of view to each other. These discussions are what makes for a wonderful relationship or causes a relationship to turn sour.

What you want to achieve is to be heard and to hear the other. When engaging in a conversation you want to learn to listen to the other and thoroughly understand all that they have said. In lots of conversations, we tend to be vague by either taking for granted that the other understands our thoughts or is just not being descriptive enough. When this occurs the other person must guess what you mean or try to figure out what you're

exactly saying.....

Marriage is another example of a viewpoint. There can be a lot of differences in decision making which requires thinking skills. There may be more than one solution to solving a problem or planning.

Points of view play a big role in relationships and marriage. Learn to recognize each other's points of view during a conversation. If you think or know that their view is wrong, be wise as to how to show them where they errored. Points of view can be sticky when attempting to correct the others' views. Remember that they had a past experience that molded their views. So, when listening to their view keep in mind that an experience is a powerful factor. It's that experience that you are dealing with. When you disagree with their view, or they disagree with your view try to view how their experience unfolded.....

Chapter 9

Baggage

Baggage is when people will not let go of former relationship or marriage memories. Hanging onto baggage is harmful and not wise. I'm continually amazed at how people can't let go of the memories. They have good memories and bad memories from a divorce. Baggage are memories that need to be dwelt with before entering a new relationship. Any time anyone brings up past memories in a new relationship the other person is going to feel like they are being compared to past memories whether they are bad or good memories. This is what anyone is doing by opening baggage. Unknowingly they are comparing a new relationship with the former relationship. How would you like to be compared to someone in the past? That former person is gone – over with. The person in the new relationship is going to start to be in competition with memories. How would you like being in competition with someone's baggage?

One of the most destructive methods to harm a new marriage is by bringing past memories of a former relationship to a new spouse. Just one sentence can do harm. Bringing up memories when dating is going to damage the other. No one including you, wants to hear about any of that persons past relationship. Instead, they want a new you that is healed and free

from the past, just as you also desire that from someone who was divorced. If you're divorced, the biggest lesson you must learn is to never bring up memories of a past relationship to anyone including the good memories. Even if the other one your dating asks, never talk about the past.....

You want to accomplish forgetting the good memories as well as the bad memories. There are three courses of action you need to employ to get free from past relationships – the ability to forgive, the ability to control your thinking of your past relationships, and the ability to forget. If you can achieve these three goals, you'll be free from any baggage. There are very few things sweeter in life than other things – one is to be free. You'll enjoy yourself and be happy with your life because of the freedom that you can gain from any baggage. Mental clinics and mental doctors and their medications can't do this for you because they either refuse to tell you or they just don't know what to do.....

I'll discuss how these three methods work. These three tasks are not easy and require work. They require time as well, so be aware that practicing these tasks is not going to heal you overnight. Depending on your ability to concentrate on these tasks can shorten your healing time.....

Forgiveness is powerful but it is very difficult to do. Forgiveness involves not holding any grudges, dislikes, hatreds, anger, hurts and memories towards any wrongs that people have done to us. We all experience wrongs that are done to us all the time. Forgiveness is not holding anything against.....

Chapter 10

Red Flags and Green Flags and Testing

Red Flags and Green Flags are our best tools for any relationship and especially for an engagement for marriage. The red flags notify us that something isn't right or is wrong. The green flags show us that everything is good and has exceptional strong points. All of us encounter people with red flags and green flags all the time. Surprisingly, most of us ignore the red flags when we are dating or become engaged. We can see the reds, but we want to think that they are just a temporary issue with the other person. Green flags are great, but they can be deceiving because our tendency is to focus upon them and ignore the reds. Rest assured the reds are not a temporary issue but a permanent part of the true nature of that person. Those who ignore the red flags because they are wanting to have ownership of the other person are going to be in misery after acquiring ownership. After a while, they are going to regret having ignored those red flags and will discover that having ownership of that person was not worth ignoring those red flags. With the greens, use them for highlighting those traits to enhance the rest of that person's personality. Testing for suspicious red flags is a healthy action to employ. Most people don't know about testing or are afraid to test another person. I refer to testing as a shield of protection for anyone's happiness and peace.

protection for anyone's happiness and peace.....

Patience and red flags and green flags are the most important tools we need for friendships and marriage. You'll never go wrong by being patient and watching for red flags. One point, we all need to understand, is that in any kind of relationship (whether friendships or an engagement) we are going to find red flags in every person. We are all human and we all have errors, faults, and shortcomings – none of us are perfect. The ideal person you desire to be married to is not a perfect angel as you envision because we all have faults.....

There are all kinds of rankings for red flags. I use 3 categories of red flags: Extreme, Medium, and Small. For our purpose we must decide what red flags we can live with. An extreme red flag is a big negative that is going to cause a lot of problems and headaches and misery. With one or two extreme red flags you should seriously consider letting go of that potential spouse. The medium red flags are faults that we can tolerate. Depending on your irritation level you might survive with these faults, or you may not fare well with them. But remember that you will always have to tolerate the medium red flags which will get to you from time to time.....

Along with Extreme, Medium, and Small red flags, there can be a mixture of each category. You will have to weigh all the red flags and add up the score. There is no getting around red flags thus we must consider and determine all the red flags that we see.....

Chapter 11

Deception

I have mentioned, in a few previous chapters, the variable of deception. There isn't a whole lot to discuss about this variable. Deception is deception and it's ugly to see people deceiving others. Most all deception is for personal gains. I believe that every person who has lived and is living has been involved in some sort of deception. Deception comes in all forms and schemes. Deception always involves lying. Three types of lying are involved since all lying is categorized into three main categories.....

First Type of Lying

One type of the most common lying, is an outright verbal lie. Outright verbal lying involves talking. It may be denying what a person is accused of – 'I didn't do it.' It may be giving false information. It may be fabricating a story to impress others. Most of the lying involves outright verbal lying. Most of the time this type of lie is to hide the truth from others. You don't want your evil deeds to be revealed. Or you want to impress others about your abilities and successes.....

Chapter 12

Testing and Detective

This chapter is more for individuals who believe that the person they are dating, engaged to, or married to is involved in some type of criminal activity, illegal activities, or is hiding various activities. You're wanting to learn the truth of their activities so that you can make a decision to break off that relationship to protect yourself from any harm or determine if your partner is innocent. In chapter 10, I discussed testing to determine red flags. Red flag testing doesn't always work for these types of activities and can be dangerous if your test is discovered. Trying to dig up information from the internet is only going to provide information about past actions. The internet can't reveal what present activities your partner is involved in. Doing any kind of detective work on your own will probably be discovered and can become dangerous.

This is when you want to hire a private investigator. PI's are going to cost some money and they all have different prices. There are all kinds of PI's that specialize in different kinds of investigations. And there are a lot of them that just are not very good. A good PI will have former experience with law enforcement or is involved with law enforcement. Attorneys hire PI's and even employ their own PI's. An experienced PI is usually a professional at what they do. Finding a good PI

Chapter 13

Marriage Counseling

When having marriage difficulties there is always the option of seeing a marriage counselor. Marriage counseling doesn't work for half the people who see a counselor - surprise. The best that a counselor can do is to reveal what you're doing wrong to the other person and how to stop doing those wrongs. If only one of you sees a counselor you're probably not going to resolve the difficulty. It's far better for both of you to see a counselor. For each discrepancy the counselor needs to see and hear the others' response. When only one person sees a counselor it's hearing only one side of the story. The counselor needs to hear both sides of the story. There are lots of counselors who are more than happy to take your money and give counsel to only one of the spouses. Be aware that if you see a counselor solo, you are going to receive some poor advice.

Receiving advice to stop performing a certain habit isn't going to get rid of that habit. You must deal with the core problem and most counselors don't do this nor do they know how to do this. Habits are most always a surface reaction to a deeper problem. If you cut a weed off at its base it will grow right back - you must pull the root out of the ground to rid the weed in the yard. Cutting off cigarettes from a smoker isn't solving the problem - you must deal with the addiction.....

Chapter 14

Communication

People marry for all kinds of reasons, but the most common reason is communication. We want to share experiences, laugh, have intellectual conversations, be heard, be taken care of, be offered wise advice, fellowship with family, learn new interests, share information, be warned, be helped, be a team worker, etc. All these reasons require communication. No one wants to marry a dead log and no one wants to marry someone who is constantly rambling.

For some people, communication is easy – no assembly required. They are natural at communication. Others need to develop communication skills – some assembly required. Many of us grew up being shy in school and have had a difficult time with shyness even after we become young adults. If you're a lump on a log there are a lot of skills that you can learn that will help you to break out of your shy cocoon. First of all, know that it's not a sin to have not developed communication skills. There are many factors causing people to lack these skills. Most of these skills did not get developed during your youth.

Most of us humans don't develop thinking skills till after our teenage years. Good communication requires a bit of thinking. Once you begin to think your communication is going to become more in-depth, causing you to learn.....

Chapter 15

Control Freaks

In today's society, we see a lot of people with pride and arrogance. All this pride stems from people who are more interested in making money and owning material things. Along with this pride comes the desire to be in control of their money and then eventually spreads to all other facets of their lifestyle. As time wears on, their pride increases and they want to dominate every decision when a spouse is involved. This pride will turn that person into a total control freak, and they will attempt to make every decision in that marriage. The other spouse can either suffer through it, resist or leave – there is no other option. To suffer a control freak, you will always be put down and never allowed to be free in that marriage. You will never be able to be yourself and make some decisions for yourself. To resist a control freak becomes a major battle every time a decision is made. You will constantly suffer fights and arguments and never have any peace. Whether or not the non-prideful spouse wins or loses a battle the non-controlling spouse is going to grow weary of having to engage in a battle every time a decision is made. Those battles can get old real fast, leaving the non-controlling spouse not wanting to engage in any more conflicts.....

Control freaks are the same thing as a dictator.....

Chapter 16

Ownership

One of the main reasons for getting married involves ownership. When we are dating there is no ownership with the potential spouse. But there is the upcoming knowing of the potential of becoming an owner. For those who live together there is somewhat of ownership involved but it's lacking the actual purchasing of each other through commitment and signing a closing deal. When living together there is still the possibility of eventually becoming an owner of the other, but in both people's minds, there is always knowing there is an absence of a commitment. Along with this there is also never a total amount of ownership involved. Both people will never be able to be 100% committed to each other. The relationship is more of a borrowing or renting of each other - there is no purchase agreement. This will always hinder each other from total commitment and ownership.

When marrying, ownership involves a few variables. Commitment and trust are such variables. Both are placing their trust in the other because of the need and desire for faithfulness for each other. Both want to know that they can totally trust the other to be faithful to each other thus, eliminating the fear of unfaithfulness. They both have the idea that they can develop together over the rest of their lives.....

Chapter 17

Motives for Marrying

There are all kinds of reasons why people marry. Most people have the idea to marry out of love for each other. As discussed in chapter 1, people marry based upon a dream ideal. A lot of people will marry for other reasons than this dream ideal of love.

The list of all kinds of reasons for marriage can go on and on. I can't cover every reason why people marry. One point you might take a closer look at is that you don't have to marry for love. Also, there can be multiple reasons that people marry. Companionship, power, fame, fortune, prestige, social standing, business partnership, career, and other reasons not mentioned in this chapter.

Companionship involves all types of reasons. Companionship is a general word that has lots of subtitles. There are kinds of subjects involved in companionship. Friendship, love, beliefs, compatibility, to name a few. The number one reason for companionship is because of loneliness. Most people are lonely mainly because they have never considered the single lifestyle. Being in a single lifestyle involves being alone for a large amount of time. Once a person learns how to enjoy being alone the desire for companionship decreases.....

Chapter 18

Children

Children are a major part of most marriages. To begin with, children are affected by everything their parents do. On average, they spend their first 15 years watching and listening to their parents and to their friends. For those first 15 years they are most involved in the learning process of life. On average, they are not involved with thinking and reasoning. Instead, they observe and learn skills for basic life. As they are approaching 15 years of age, they have already developed some reasoning skills from all their learning. At 15 years of age, they begin to think about life and who they are. They are at an age where they are beginning to transform into adults.

Throughout their childhood, parents are a major contributor to their development. The family is the most important part of any child's development.....

All parents want to see their children grow into wise and smart adults. To accomplish this task is going to require a lot of time, work, and patience.....

Every child is different consisting of a different character, personality, and intellectual ability. Thus, each child is going to require some different teaching techniques. What works with one child will not work with the other. Every parent is going to have to work with each child a bit differently because of the different personalities.....

Chapter 19

Second Marriage

A second marriage usually becomes a sticky situation.

Several factors need to be delt with before entering a second marriage. As discussed in chapter 9, you're better off having to put away any baggage. If you haven't done so, you're going to be opening a can of worms to the new spouse which will cause a lot of damage. You will also need to have ended all problems and dilemmas. You need to be a problem solver as discussed in chapter 4. A spouse running from problems is going to be bringing those situations into a second marriage which is not fair or wise to a new spouse thus causing a lot of harm to that second marriage.

A second marriage is going to be a bit more difficult than the first marriage because you now have some experience with marriage. You're going to be more careful and cautious by not repeating the same mistakes you made with the first spouse. But that doesn't mean you're not going to be making new mistakes. Everyone who is or was married knows the mistakes they made with that marriage. If you're wise you will have learned from those mistakes and hopefully improved by fixing that part of your personality. If you're foolish you will have done nothing to improve yourself and will resort to repeating those same errors.....

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Chapter 20

Wisdom From Others

One of the best ways to obtain wisdom for marriage is from others who are wise and experienced.

Unfortunately, there are not a whole lot of people who have lots of marriage wisdom. Lots and lots of people do have experience. Most people have bits and pieces of marriage wisdom, and those small pieces are helpful. There are other sources of wisdom – books, media, some movies, some churches, marriage counselors, and elderly folks. Those with experience are always helpful to some degree but you must be careful when listening to them. They tend to focus upon their ex's faults and don't share much about their own faults. Neither will they tell you how they treated the spouse in retaliation or vengeance. They tend to tell you just half the truth. Remember that there are always two sides to a marriage story....

Interviewing others who have successful marriages is going to be the best source of learning because you can do some in-depth questioning during an interview. Other people can give you several examples for you to use. The more examples you have, the better you are. An interview can be just one question from a casual conversation. Most people are more than happy to share their successes with their marriage. The best people to interview are past the age of 60 and have been married for 40 years or more. They have lots of experience and advice.....

Chapter 21

Dating Sites Dot Com

Every person I know who has tried an online dating site has been stung. I don't know of anyone who has a successful marriage having met each other from a dating site. Maybe there are lots of people who have and I just don't know about them.....

One good thing about a dating site is that each site uses psychological testing to attempt to determine the compatibility of another's personality. These are good tests to weed out a lot of unwanted non-liked-matching personality people. When you are matched with another compatible personality there are still a lot of variables that have not been considered. Just because you are matched with a compatible personality does not mean that person would make a good match. With my third wife, we were well matched with our personalities. But our beliefs with many subjects were not the same. Her ways were not the same as mine due to her difference in beliefs. It was the difference in beliefs that made that marriage difficult because we were not able to discuss subjects of like interests. In fact there were no like interests between us even though we both had the same personalities.

These sites are also good at matching like interests. But these sites don't provide a listing of beliefs. I don't know that there would be a very effective way to do so. Beliefs are intricate and complex. Everyones life evolves around beliefs. Everyone has.....

Summary

This small book is a shorten version of samples from the parent book. The parent book consists of 175 pages thus, there is a lot of information to take in and remember.

Though this book deals a lot with marriage there is still the choice of deciding to live a single lifestyle or to choose a marriage lifestyle. Hopefully I have opened your eyes to the complexities of the marriage lifestyle. It's not my intention to try and scare anyone away from marriage but instead open your eyes to many of the issues that make for a successful marriage. It's my goal to help the reader to look at what a marriage requires from both spouses because there are not very many people who have this wisdom that you can go to. It's my hope that should you decide upon the marriage lifestyle that you never have to suffer a divorce since that is the last option that I would ever want anyone to suffer. Divorce is ugly, painful, taxing, and harmful – leaving scares for the rest of your life.

A single lifestyle is way easier to live than the marriage lifestyle. A marriage lifestyle is difficult involving complex issues. Both lifestyles offer pros and cons. Choose wisely.

You can purchase the book from the authors website at:

Prophetcaleb.com

The book is not available anywhere else.