

WARM UP

A husband was consoling his wife at their daughter's wedding. She was being brave in trying to hold back the tears, as he whispered into her ear: "Darling, don't think of it as losing a daughter; think of it as gaining a bathroom."

It is doubtful whether he scored any brownie points with that one, but at least he tried to lighten up a tearful situation.

On a more sober note, as marriages are coming unglued at the seams at such an alarming rate, it may be time for us to consider what makes for a happy marital relationship. Sure, a happy wife will pave the way for a happy life, but what makes a wife happy?

**READ** Proverbs 31:27; Proverbs 14:1; Colossians 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:22-28**BACKGROUND**

Someone once said: "You don't just marry one person, you marry three!"

1. The person you think they are.
2. The person they really are deep down inside.
3. The person they are going to become as a result of being married to you.

Most marriages start off on a high with the couple having ideal expectations. Then after a few years the fabric of love can begin to wear thin and fray at the edges. He can begin to take her for granted, and she in turn may lose respect for him. How the couple then respond determines whether "the person they are going to become as a result of being married to you" becomes a better person, or a worse one!

QUESTIONS

- 1 Be honest and ask yourself this question: What has my wife become as a result of being married to me?
- 2 Think of what you could change (or do) that would make your wife feel happier and more secure in your marriage. Discuss.

- 3 What is meant by the husband washing his wife by the word in Ephesians 5:26? As a spiritual priest in the home, are you doing this?

- 4 Are you totally honest and transparent with your wife? (Remember transparency in a relationship builds trust.) Share ways in which you can develop transparency.

CONSIDER THIS

In the secular world, marriage is often a battle for territory. Gaining control seems to be the name of the game. If there's to be real love and harmony in a marriage, then the battle for territory syndrome must give way to this mindset: When a husband and wife totally surrender to Christ, they give up trying to conquer each other. You can start by answering this heart searching question – is your all on the altar?

What is God saying to me?

LET'S PRAY**REAL LIFE STORIES OF GOD'S POWER**

I have been a Christian for three years now. Before that I was involved in sport and during rugby I managed to damage my hamstrings quite badly in both legs. Before I was a Christian I got acupuncture done and it did semi-heal it. Once I became a Christian we watched a Bill Subritzky video in class on deliverance and renouncing things and I found out then that acupuncture was not of God, so I renounced it and straight away the pain in my hamstring came back again. Bill was coming a week later to church. [He called] my condition and then he [prayed] for me and miraculously all the pain just disappeared in the hamstring again. God miraculously healed it and I have had no problems since. Hayden