

WARM UP

For a few years I was a missionary in the Philippines, a nation made up of over 7000 islands, which means a lot of travel is by boat. Throughout my time there I spent many a night on a little stretcher on the decks of inter-island ferries, along with hundreds of other people. One night I boarded a ferry in Cebu and found my berth where I slept on and off (as you do on a crowded deck) for the next 8 or 10 hours. In the morning I got up expecting to be at another island, only to find my ship was still tied to the pier in Cebu. The moral of the story is that when we set out on a journey we don't always reach our destination, and sadly, the same is true for so many marriages.



READ Ephesians 5:28-33

QUESTIONS

1. The Bible says husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. Make a list of all the ways you "love your own body".

2. What changes would you have to make in order to love your wife like that?

BACKGROUND

Marriage is a journey anyone can get started on, but sadly many travellers come to grief along the way. Our goal is to reach the destination - in other words to establish an unconditional, monogamous and lifelong love.

Marriage is supposed to be a model of the love and union between Christ and the Church, which is a tall order. Can others look at our marriage and get a glimpse of Jesus' sacrificial love for His bride, the Church? That's not an easy destination to find and as we all know only too well, it's easy to lose our way, which is why it's absolutely vital that we follow the directions of our GPS - in this case, the Bible.

3. Discuss the ways in which Christ loves His Church.

4. What difference do you think it would make to your families, neighbours and workmates if they could see that you loved your wife as your own body and as Christ loved the Church?



CONSIDER THIS

Someone has said, "One possible reason that things are not going to plan is that there never was a plan". I think one of the mistakes many of us make is to put so much time, effort and money into planning the wedding that we don't even think about the destination, let alone plan how we're going to get there.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will "work" on my marriage by praying regularly for it and by reading, and putting into practice, the guidelines I see in the Bible.

I will undertake to "upskill" my role as a husband by reading a good Christian book on marriage, attending a marriage seminar, or watching a Christian DVD series.



WRAP UP

Marriage is the strongest covenant on earth between two people. It's a God thing, His idea right from the start. We must think, pray and study the Bible (GPS) in order to work out a strategy of how we can put God's idea into action and establish an unconditional, monogamous and lifelong love.