

**Marriage, Divorce,  
Remarriage Or Celibacy**  
by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —  
MD1

*Five Tape Series*

- 4181 *A Man Prepares For Marriage*
- 8004 *A Woman Prepares For Marriage (Ruth Prince)*
- 4182 *The Marriage Covenant*
- 4183 *How To Be A Father*
- 4184 *Divorce, Remarriage, Celibacy*

**A Man Prepares For Marriage**  
**4181**

**I. Gateway To Christian Living (Rom. 12:1–2)**

- A. Present your bodies
  - 1. Living sacrifice
  - 2. God in complete control
- B. Your reasonable service
- C. Renew your mind
  - 1. Not conformed
  - 2. Be transformed
- D. Prove the acceptable will of God
  - 1. Carnal mind is enmity with God
  - 2. Renewed mind in God's will
    - a. Good
    - b. Acceptable
    - c. Perfect

**II. Led By The Spirit: Sons Of God (Prov. 3:5–6)**

- A. An ongoing relationship with the Spirit
- B. Acknowledge Him
  - 1. By thanksgiving
  - 2. He will direct your paths

**III. Preparation For Marriage**

- A. Attitudes
  - 1. Attitude toward marriage (Matt. 19:4–6)
    - a. Ordained by God
    - b. Purpose: unity. “The two shall become one.”
    - c. Pattern for relationship: Christ and His Church (Eph. 5:25)
      - (1) Love
      - (2) Reverence

2. Attitude toward self
  - a. Remedy for rejection (2 Cor. 5:17)
  - b. Ephesians 1:3–6
3. Attitude toward other people
  - a. Philippians 2:4–5
  - b. 2 Corinthians 4:5
4. Attitude toward parents (Eph. 6:1–3)
- B. Job description (1 Cor. 11:3)**
  1. Headship
    - a. Father over Christ
    - b. Christ over husband
    - c. Husband over wife
  2. Represent Christ to wife and family (1 Tim. 3:4–5)
    - a. Stand out in front, lead
    - b. Protect/shield
  3. Requirements
    - a. Love (Eph. 5:25)
      - (1) Strong (Song 8:6)
      - (2) Tender (Jer. 31:3)
      - (3) Romance
      - (4) Self-giving (Eph. 5:25–26)
    - b. Sanctify (Eph. 5:26)
      - (1) Instruct the children (Eph. 6:4)
      - (2) Come under pastoral care
    - c. Intercede (Heb. 7:25; Ezek. 22:30)
    - d. Prepare for headship
      - (1) Sensitivity
      - (2) Wisdom
      - (3) Strength
    - e. Build character
      - (1) Responsibility
      - (2) Faithfulness (Luke 16:10)

**A Woman Prepares For Marriage**  
 — by Ruth Prince —  
 8004

**I. Introduction**

- A. Perilous times (Rev. 19:1–8)
  1. The *bride* is an *eternal* goal
  2. 1 Corinthians 15:19
  3. Matthew 24:36–39
- B. Marriage is *not* the final goal

**II. Practical Helps**

- A. Prepare to be a helper (Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 12:28)

1. Characteristics

**General**

Wise  
Kind  
Faithful  
Loyal  
Sober  
Honorable  
Trustworthy  
Gracious  
Courageous  
Generous

**Home**

Industrious  
Prudent  
Strong  
Caring (home  
and family)  
Capable  
Dutiful

**Feminine**

Modest  
Pure  
Meek and quiet spirit  
Priceless  
Trusting

**Spiritual**

Prayerful  
Prophetic  
Ministering  
Devout  
Fearing the Lord

2. Lay down your life
3. Homemaker, helper, is not demeaning
4. An expression of love and gratitude to God
5. Practice before marriage
6. Proverbs 31:10–31

**B. Cultivate your relationship with the Lord**

1. Relationships take *time*
2. Give God your *best* time
3. Begin with thanksgiving and praise
4. Read your Bible first
5. Keep a prayer list
6. Don't limit the Lord to these times
7. Make sure God is *first*

**C. Cultivate commitment and loyalty**

1. Faithfulness (Luke 16:10–12, NIV)
2. Uphold and encourage him

**D. Cultivate self-esteem**

1. Ephesians 2:10
2. Philippians 3:12–14
3. Memorize Scriptures of encouragement

**E. Be willing to learn**

1. Humble = meek = teachable
2. Practical skills
3. Use of time (TV, idleness)

**F. Be willing to serve**

1. Expression of love
2. Consideration
3. Thoughtfulness

- G.** Be willing to adjust to husband's priorities
  1. 1 Peter 3:5–6
  2. 1 Corinthians 11:3
  3. Examples of Rebecca and Sarah
- H.** Learn to pray and intercede for others
  1. Takes your mind off yourself
  2. Prepares you to intercede for mate
  3. Have a prayer partner
- I.** Learn proper care of the body
  1. Proper food (not just skinny)
  2. Preventive medicine
  3. Physical exercise
  4. Don't sin against the body (1 Cor. 6:18–20)
- J.** Observe wife's behavior in exemplary marriages
  1. Meek and quiet spirit
  2. 1 Corinthians 11:1
  3. Conformed to Christ (Rom. 8:29)
- K.** Trust God, be willing to wait
  1. Psalm 37:3–5, KJV
  2. Wrong husband is worse than no husband
- L.** Set goals; establish priorities
  1. Spirit-led changes to your life
  2. Need God's grace
  3. Be realistic
  4. Pray at meals
- M.** We are responsible to God (2 Cor. 5:9–11, NIV)

## **The Marriage Covenant**

### **4182**

#### **I. Personal Testimony**

#### **II. Marriage**

- A.** A mystery (Eph. 5:32)
- B.** A covenant
  1. Proverbs 2:16–17
  2. Malachi 2:13–14
  3. Ecc. 4:9ff: A threefold cord

#### **III. Nature Of Covenant**

- A.** Testament = Covenant
- B.** Secret of the Lord
  1. Revealed to those who hear
    - a.** Not intellectual
    - b.** Character qualifications
      - (1)** Humility

(2) Fear of the Lord

- C. Vertical and horizontal dimensions
  - 1. Vertical = Man and God
  - 2. Horizontal = Man and man
- D. Covenant made through sacrifice (Ps. 50:4–5; Jer. 34:18–20)
  - 1. First covenant—Gen. 15:7–18
    - a. Vultures: doubt, fear, depression (v. 9)
    - b. Oven: affliction (Is. 48:10)
    - c. Torch: Holy Spirit (Rev. 4:5)
  - 2. The Holy Spirit illuminates the sacrifice (Jesus) in times of great affliction (Rom. 8:32)
- E. Covenant of death (Heb. 9:16–17)

**IV. Application To Marriage**

- A. The ideal wife (Prov. 31:10ff)
  - 1. Successful—through her husband (v. 11–12, 23, 28–29)
    - a. Uphold
    - b. Encourage
- B. Husband (1 Cor. 11:7)
  - 1. Wife is his glory
  - 2. Produce security
    - a. Provide (1 Tim. 5:8)
    - b. Protect

**V. Heart Of Marriage**

- A. Commitment to covenant
  - 1. Releases God’s grace
  - 2. Without commitment, there is no marriage
- B. End purpose
  - 1. Unity
  - 2. To “know” spouse, not “lay” (Gen. 4:1; Heb. 13:4)

**VI. Application To Relationship With God (Hosea 2:14–20)**

- A. Union with God
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:16–17
  - 2. John 17:3
- B. Worship
  - 1. Physical attitude
  - 2. Brings unity

**How To Be A Father  
4183**

**I. Every Family A Fatherhood (Eph. 3:14–15)**

- A. Proceeds from God the Father
- B. Children perceive God as they do their natural fathers
- C. John 14:6

1. "The Way"
  2. To where? To the Father
- D. Knowing God as Father brings:
1. Identity
  2. Security
  3. Self-worth

## II. What Is A Father? (1 Cor. 11:3)

- A. Priest: represents family to Christ
1. Offer sacrifice of intercession
  2. Example of Job 1:4–5, 42:12
  3. Example of Passover (Ex. 12:3)
  4. The father believed for the son (Mark 9:21)
  5. The Corinthian jailer (Acts 16:31)
  6. Rahab the prophetess
- B. Prophet: represents Christ to family
1. Ephesians 6:4
  2. Deuteronomy 11:18–21
- C. King: as ruler
1. 1 Timothy 3:4–5
  2. Abraham fulfills function of a father (Gen. 18:17–19)

## III. When Fathers Fail (Deut. 28:41; Mal. 4:5–6)

- A. Lack of knowledge (Mal. 2:7)
1. No longer priest
  2. God-forgotten children (Hos. 4:6)
- B. Children into captivity (Deut. 28:41)
- C. Divided homes (Mal. 4:5–6)  
Fathers *must* change *first*

## IV. Root Force: Witchcraft

- A. Rebellion and witchcraft are twins (1 Sam. 15:23)
1. Rejects legal authority; enforces illegitimate authority
  2. Brings a curse
  3. The home breaker
- B. A work of the flesh (Gal. 5:19–20)
1. Manipulation
  2. Intimidation
  3. Domination
- C. Satanic power (Gal. 3:1)
1. Legalism
    - a. Obscures the cross
    - b. Christ is the end of law (Rom. 10:4)
    - c. Brings a curse (Gal. 3:10; Jer. 17:5)
  2. Liberty through the cross (Gal. 5:1)
    - a. The cross is the only basis for liberty
    - b. Puts an end to law for achieving righteousness
    - c. God's sentence on our carnal nature

- d. The defeat of Satan (Col. 2:13–15)
- 3. A spirit of slavery (Rom. 8:12–17)

## **Divorce, Remarriage, Celibacy**

### **4184**

#### **I. Being Single (1 Cor. 7:27–33)**

- A. Jesus is single, waiting for His bride
- B. Be content (Phil. 4:11–13)

#### **II. Divorce And Remarriage**

- A. Grounds for divorce
  - 1. Ezra 9 & 10 endorse divorce
  - 2. Penalty for adultery: death (Gen. 38; Deut. 22:22–24)
  - 3. Sexual immorality (Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:9)
- B. Greek word *porneia*
  - 1. Refers to *all* types of sexual immorality
  - 2. Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 9–11; Jude 7
- C. Remarriage
  - Divorce *includes* right to remarry in Scripture
  - 1. Deuteronomy 24:1–4
  - 2. 1 Corinthians 7:27–28
- D. Marriage vow
  - 1. “Use clause” — to thee alone
  - 2. “Time clause” — till death do us part
  - 3. If one clause is broken, the other is broken also
- E. Another ground? (1 Cor. 7:10–15)
  - 1. Desertion of unbeliever
  - 2. Remarriage to a believer only
- F. Guidelines for other cases (1 Cor. 7:25)
  - 1. Unforgivable sin is *not* adultery (Matt. 12:31)
  - 2. Justified from *all* sin (Acts 13:38–39)
  - 3. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11
  - 4. “What God has cleansed you must not call unclean” (Acts 10:9–16)
  - 5. Mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:12–13)
- G. Healing the wounds (Is. 54:6)
  - 1. Acknowledge hurt
  - 2. Put your trust in Christ’s atonement
  - 3. Jesus endured our rejection that we might have His acceptance
    - a. Rejected by man (Is. 53:3)
    - b. Rejected by God (Matt. 27:46)
    - c. He died of a broken heart
  - 4. Lay down all bitterness and resentment (Matt. 6:14–15)