

THE PROCESS OF BECOMING ONE FLESH

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In case you didn't know it, let me begin today by telling you that marriages aren't made in heaven. Good marriages, like friendships, don't just happen. They take time and effort. They take work. They take a lot of work!

I'm going to share four stages that I believe marriages go through.

Stage one is the ROMANCE stage. That stage where you are star struck. You have been bitten by the love bug. That stage where you kept Hallmark in business. The cards and letters just kept coming in. You enjoyed hours of conversations and kisses almost that long. You couldn't get enough of each other so you decided to join your lives together in matrimony.

Stage two is the REALITY stage. That point in your marriage when you realize that the person you thought you were marrying was not actually the person you married. Mr. Perfect is not always so perfect and Miss Beautiful is not always so beautiful.

Stage three is the RESENTMENT stage. Whenever you realize that the other person isn't going to meet all of your needs, sometimes you become resentful. You feel like you've been had, so you get mad. Instead of our spouses being the object of our affection they become the target of our frustration. The problem with resentment in marriage is that it doesn't usually stay resentment, it becomes rebellion.

Then there is stage four which is REBUILDING. We go from romance to reality to resentment which leads to rebellion and from there we either give up or else we purpose in our hearts to try as never before to get things like they really should be. We begin to rebuild.

Anything in life that is worth having is going to cost you something. If you're going to live the kind of life that God wants you to live, it's going to cost you something. If you're going to achieve success on your job, it's going to cost you something. If you are going to be healthy and in good shape, it's going to cost you something. And if you're going to have the kind of marriage that God intended for you to have, it's going to cost you something, but the kind of marriage that God wants you to have, is worth the price that you have to pay to enjoy it.

Your spouse should be your best friend. The two of you should be one flesh. That is God's desire and will for your life.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.