

IN &
OUT

*Marriage
Without
Regrets*

MARRIAGE WITHOUT REGRETS IN & OUT

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MAN! WOMAN! WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Marriage Without Regrets! It's a wonderful title for a course on marriage, isn't it? Wonderful, yes! But is it possible? Can you have a marriage without regrets in a day and age when well over half of the marriages in the United States of America are ending in divorce? Can a marriage endure the pressures of an amoral society? Can two people weather the storms of mid-life crises? Can only one mate make a marriage work? If you are in a second marriage, is there any hope for you as far as God is concerned? Can you—from this time forward—have a marriage without regrets?

The answer to all these questions is an unequivocal yes. But it is also a qualified yes. Qualified in the sense that a marriage without regrets will not mean a marriage without testings, trials, and conflicts. Nor will it mean a marriage that fulfills some idealistic dream of your imagination. When I speak of a marriage without regrets, I am talking of a marriage that is so lived according to God's Word that when it is over, you will be able to look back and say, "I was all that God wanted me to be as a wife or as a husband."

"But," you may say, "I didn't know all this until I had been married for years!"

We understand. God does too! However, from this day on, you can go forward in your marriage. From this day on, it can be a marriage without regrets. You cannot change your past, Beloved. You can weep over it, constantly relive it, become depressed over it; but none of that will change it, nor will it help you to go forward. So, forgetting those things that are behind, let us press on toward a marriage lived without regrets.

Marriage Without Regrets is a course for everyone. Single, divorced, widowed, or married—you must know what God has to say about marriage.

Your knowledge of God's Word regarding men, women, their roles, and marriage can be used of God to equip you to live and to minister in a world which has seemingly gone mad.

Marriage Without Regrets*Lesson 1, Man-Woman*

Although there are many excellent books on the subject of marriage, I felt God impressing me with the need for an inductive Bible study course on the subject. Why? Because I believe that our minds need to be renewed on exactly what God's Word has to say about this institution. There are so many voices in this world expounding so many philosophies, psychologies, ideologies, and traditions of men. But are they truth? Do they hold to the plumb line of God's Word?

If you do not know what God's Word says about the roles of men and women, their God-given responsibilities, their differences;


If you do not know what God's Word says about love, sex, communication, raising children, managing finances;

If you do not know what God's Word says about the permanence of marriage, about divorce and remarriage; then you are not thoroughly equipped for life. Marriage and the home are the bedrock of society, ordained of God to be an earthly picture of a divine institution!

It is time for us to examine the standards by which we live. Whatever does not measure up to truth must be forsaken in order that truth might not be adulterated by society.

**TAKING
IT IN**



If you are going to know how to live as a husband, as a wife, as a single man or as a single woman, you must first understand who you are and how God made you. Therefore, we will begin by getting the facts through observing what God has to say on the subject. Then we will find out what it all means and how we can apply it to our lives. We will be observing some of the key passages in the Bible which deal with our creation and its purpose.

1. Form the habit of beginning each week's study in prayer. Biblical truth comes by revelation, not by mere intellect, for ". . . the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). Therefore, seek His wisdom and understanding. Also, please do not go to commentaries unless you are directed to do so.
2. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells us that in six days God created the world and everything in it. Man was created on the sixth day. Therefore, we will begin our study by doing some simple observations on Genesis 1:24-31. You will find a copy of Genesis 1:24-31 in the Appendix. Read through this passage of Scripture and then do the following:
 - a. Mark references to *God* with a  or color them one particular color. Then list everything you learn from this passage about God's relationship to man.

Marriage Without Regrets

Lesson 1, Man-Woman

If you have a copy of *How to Study Your Bible* by Kay Arthur and have the time, you will find it beneficial to read the section entitled “Focusing in on the Details.” What you are doing in simplified form is some basic observations.

- b. Now mark references to *man* with a  and references to a *woman* with a  or color them different colors.
 - c. You will find a chart at the end of this lesson entitled “**Man! Woman! What’s the Difference?**” Under the appropriate column list what you learned about each from Genesis 1. As you record your insights, note from which chapter and verse you gleaned your insight.
3. Read through Genesis 2, which is in the Appendix.
 - a. Mark references to *man* or *woman* the same way you did in Genesis 1.
 - b. Record your insights on men and women on the chart “**Man! Woman! What’s the Difference?**”
 4. Now, let’s look at another passage that deals with the relationship between men and women. Our goal for this week is simply to familiarize ourselves with some of the fundamental passages that deal with men and women. We shall study them in greater depth later in the course.

A copy of 1 Corinthians 11:3-12 is in the Appendix. Read it through, but please do not get sidetracked on issues such as what a woman should or should not have on her head. As you have done previously, mark references to the man and the woman, and then record your observations on the chart “**Man! Woman! What’s the Difference?**”
 5. In the Appendix you will find a copy of 1 Peter 3:7-12. Read it and mark the text as you did in the previous questions. Note any pertinent insights on men and women on your chart.

LIVING
IT OUT

1. Now it is time to take the truths that you have observed from the Word of God and see what you have learned that can be applied to your own life.
 - a. Whether you are single or married, list any new concepts you have gleaned about men or women.

- b. Whether married or single, have you seen anything about marriage which, at this point, does not match up with your concept of marriage? If so, what is it? Write it out.

2. Considering all you have learned this week, write out a prayer to God. In a specific way, tell Him what you need and if you are willing to act accordingly. God loves to answer specific prayer (John 15:16).

MAN! WOMAN! WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Insights	Man	Woman
Created by		
Created for		
Created from		
Relationship to God		
Distinctive Characteristics		

APPENDIX

GENESIS 1:24-31

Observation Worksheet

- 24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so.
- 25 And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.
- 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
- 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- 29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;
- 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food”; and it was so.
- 31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

GENESIS 2

Observation Worksheet

- 1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.
- 2 And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
- 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
- 4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.
- 5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth; and there was no man to cultivate the ground.
- 6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.
- 7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
- 8 And the LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.
- 9 And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.
- 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

- 12 And the gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.
- 13 And the name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.
- 14 And the name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
- 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
- 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
- 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."
- 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."
- 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.
- 20 And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.
- 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.
- 22 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

23 And the man said,

“This is now bone of my bones,

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:3-12

Observation Worksheet

- 3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.
- 4 Every man who has *something* on his head while praying or prophesying, disgraces his head.
- 5 But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, disgraces her head; for she is one and the same with her whose head is shaved.
- 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.
- 7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.
- 8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;
- 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.
- 10 Therefore the woman ought to have *a symbol of authority* on her head, because of the angels.
- 11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.
- 12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.

1 PETER 3:7-12

Observation Worksheet

- 7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
- 8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;
- 9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.
- 10 For,
- “LET HIM WHO MEANS TO LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS
REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING
GUILE.
- 11 “AND LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD;
LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.
- 12 “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS,
AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,
BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”