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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

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PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR THE INTRUSION but I have something to say to married people.

When I was growing up, I thought people were supposed to grow up, get married, raise a family. Maybe not “live happily ever after,” (I don’t know how that got started) but at least be “civil” to each other and care.

For many years now, I have had the privilege of visiting couples in their homes and at church. These have been joyful occasions because I believe most Christians are the greatest people in the world (there are always exceptions) and these are dear friends of mine.

But one thing I have observed that, while not upsetting me, has disturbed me somewhat. At least half these people seem not to like each other and don’t act like they’re happy. Perhaps there are several reasons, but that’s not the purpose of this piece. They act as if they are unhappy with what life has handed them and unhappy with their mates.

Now most of these folks have lived together, 30, 40, 50 years or more. And many of them seem unhappy with their lot, even though they have a lot of experience and should know how to be happy and satisfied. In fact, many of them “yow yow” (a term I learned from my dad) at each other.

What the Bible says is important here because these people are Christians. God tells us through Paul, “[Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it;](#)”(Ephesians 5:25 ASV)

One woman told me one time her husband hadn’t told her he loved her in over 20 years, had never sent her flowers and they slept in separate

bedrooms. Besides that, from my own observations, I learned that she was his servant, because he demanded it.

It makes no difference what one's background has been or how he has been raised. To treat a woman that way whom he is supposed to "love, honor and cherish, till death us do part" is unconscionable. Notice that Paul tells us how a man is to love his wife, "as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for it." It doesn't take a genius to figure out what I have described doesn't fit that bill.

On the other hand, I have also observed that the wife isn't all that satisfied with the decisions that are made in the household. And to let her husband know she is unhappy (and every woman, when unhappy will find a way to let it be known, and some men do too) she gripes and complains and bickers about things that "don't amount to a 'hill of beans'."

Now what this suggests to me is that, despite their years together, she has not learned to "be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." (Eph 5:22) Despite the years of living together, and in most cases having children together, she still has not learned to be happy and pleasant, even in the presence of company.

It seems to me a tragic thing that husbands and wives have not learned much after long years of marriage. Evidently they have not learned to have a measure of happiness that would allow them to spend the rest of their time on earth in peace and serenity.

You made a deal! Ok, so you were young, so what's new? Most of the people who got married in the distant past were young. Some of them made it and quite well. Being young when you married is no excuse. You made a deal to love, honor and perhaps obey. OK, lets take "obey" out of it. You made a deal to love and honor. Isn't it about time that you started?



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