



# “THE STAGES OF MARRIAGE”

“Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding.”

Proverbs 24:3 (GN)

God wants us to be wise and understand how marriage works. There are three predictable stages in marriage.



# I. Stage One: The Happy Honeymoon

Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens. Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men.

I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste. He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love. Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love.

“Listen! My Lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills.

# FIVE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THIS STAGE:

- \* Intensity
- \* Idealism
- \* Indulgence
- \* Infatuation
- \* Ignorance

“All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.”

How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from the Mount Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.

The party's  
over....



## The Party's over

### II. Stage Two:

A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day; restraining her is like restraining the wind or grasping oil with the hand.

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

# FIVE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THIS STAGE:

- \*Dullness
- \*Disagreement
- \*Defensiveness
- \*Disapproval
- \*Disappointment

# III. Stage Three: Mature Love



<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

# FIVE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THIS STAGE:

- \* **T**enderness
- \* **R**espect
- \* **U**nderstanding
- \* **S**ecurity
- \* **T**ruthful and **T**rusting

# HOW TO MAKE IT TO STAGE 3 IN YOUR MARRIAGE:

1. **OPEN UP**
2. **GIVE UP**
3. **GROW UP**



