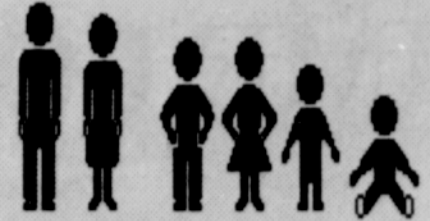




RELIGION

Strengthen Your Faith Through Prayer And Regular Church Worship

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK
Philippians 4:12-13



Part II: Love And Marriage . . . Hate And Divorce

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

When a couple stands before the altar and repeats the vows of marriage, they should be strongly advised before making this final decision. A good, Bible-teaching, Christian counselor should be employed six months, to a year, before taking that long walk down memory lane.

When you say "I do!" at the request of the minister, are you in brach of promise before you even leave the church? How often are the words of the marriage vows repeated carelessly and callously? Consider this . . . the world was brought into existence, by God Almighty, with a spoken word. The words of our ancestors, the words of the poets, the words of the prophets and the words of Jesus Christ linger in our hearts and minds longer than anything that is done. Let's take a child, for instance, when it is very young. They look directly into your mouth to see the forming of words. To hear the sounds. To feel the vibra-

tion of the words from your bosom, as they lay and are of curiosity upon you. The words are stored and catalogued. The content and quality of those words depends solely upon the parent speaker. Well! How important are the words that you speak and repeat in your vows of marriage? They should be as important as the first words that you spoke and heard when you were a very small child.

We are bound by our words. "A man's word is his bond," I remember my elders saying. So it should be today and including the vows of marriage. "I promise to love, honor, cherish and obey. To keep only to him/her as long as we both shall live. With all my worldly goods I to thee endow." These words alone have gotten more couples in trouble before they even get to the altar. "I'm not going to promise to obey anybody!" is the usual exclamation, of guess who?--the bride. Now, if you already have

these preconceived ideas, in your mind, why would you stand up there "in front of God and these witnesses" uttering words of untruth? We condemn ourselves by our own words coming forth from our mouths. There is an old saying "Engage your heart before you open your mouth." Many should take this in consideration.

Couples should consider the why-fors and the what-fors before making marriage their final step. Because--there are all kinds of implications to be had as a result of things done in haste. Get to know one another--you meet, you fall in love, now what? "C'mon let's get married." Stop and ask the question, "How much do I know about this person?" Do you like this person as well as love this person? If you get into an argument, can you still be friends after the argument? Or, are you ready to get rid of each other because of a minor dispute? If you are angry, don't

sin by nursing your grudge. Don't let the sun go down with you still angry--get over it quickly; for when you are angry you give a mighty foothold to the devil

"I promise to love, honor, cherish and obey. To keep only to him/her as long as we both shall live. With all my worldly goods I to thee endow." These words alone have gotten more couples in trouble . . .

[Eph. 4:26-27]. As I stated in last week's article, "Learn how to pray together. Hold hands and pray." You don't have to wait until you get married for you to begin praying together. Establish a strong

prayer base before you make that pledge.

There are several very important questions that should be answered before marriage. Are you both believers? Are you both Christians? And, if so, are you both baby Christians? Are you equally yoked? Does one person have more education than the other? Does that matter? Can one person do some things better than the other? Does that matter? Are you having to tell lies about yourself to be accepted by the other person? "Don't be teamed with those who don't love the Lord, for what do the people of God have in common with the people of sin? How can light live with darkness? And what harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a Christian be a partner with one who doesn't believe? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For you are God's temple, the home of the living God, and God has said of you, 'I will live in them and walk among them, and I will

be their God and they shall be my people. That is why the Lord has said, 'Leave them; separate yourselves from them; don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you, and be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters.'" [2 Corin. 6:14-18]

Don't believe the subtleties of the world. The devil is the ruler of this world and all its crafty, ludicrous and cynical standards. Satan tries so hard to lure you into his way of thinking. But . . . if you have a strong prayer life and you are strong in the Word, you can stand the wiles of the devil. "For if a person just listens and doesn't obey, he is like a man looking at his face in a mirror; as soon as he walks away, he can't see himself any more or remember what he looks like. But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it but he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does." [James 1:22-25]

Continued Next Week.

UCC Commission For Racial Justice Calls For EPA Study On Pollution In Racial/Ethnic Communities

The church office that conducted landmark research on toxic waste in racial/ethnic communities has called on the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out its own study on the subject.

Meeting in Cleveland last weekend, the commissioners of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice voted "full support" for a proposal that the EPA ask the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the "effects of environmental pollution on minorities and low-income populations in the United States." Introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), the proposal is an amendment to a congressional bill to elevate the EPA to cabinet-level status, also backed by the

national church agency.

The Commission is author of a highly-praised study released in 1987 on "Toxic wastes and Race in the U.S." The study found that race, even more than poverty, correlates with the placement of toxic sites. The more racial/ethnic people, the more toxic waste sites. Three-fifths of African-Americans and Hispanics and one-half of Pacific- and Asian-Americans and Native Americans live in areas with toxic sites.

The bill with amendment already has been passed by the House of Representatives. The Commission for Racial Justice has written to all senators to ask for their support.

In other business, the Commission

asked executive director Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. and United Church president the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Sherry to arrange for a delegation of denominational leaders to travel to Wisconsin in support of Native American treaty rights there.

Tensions have been high between whites and Indians in the northern part of the state, as in many parts of the U.S., around the question of whether treaty rights still should be binding. Right-wing groups are fanning these tensions, the Commission points out, with rhetoric maintaining that Indians are getting rich while whites lose homes and properties as a result of treaties. Major corporations dealing with mineral resources

also have a stake in whether treaty rights are repealed, the Commission adds.

The church body is worried about violence during the spring as the Chippewa Indians carry out their traditional practice of spearing fish on their ceded lands. Last year, anti-Indian demonstrators in Wisconsin carried signs reading "Speak an Indian, Save a Fish", and they have threatened to stop the fishing this year.

The commissioners also called upon the entire United Church of Christ to increase education and action around Native American treaty rights and other issues impacting American Indians.

Installation Service

For Rev. Paul A. Spurlock This Sunday

Ainsworth United Church of Christ will be hosting an installation service for their minister, Reverend Paul A. Spurlock, on Sunday, May 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Reverend Spurlock comes to Ainsworth Church from Heritage United Church of Christ of Denver, Colorado. He was born and reared in Denver and attended both public and parochial schools in his hometown. He attended the University of Colorado, but received his Bachelor's Degree from Metropolitan State college. Later, he attended the University of Denver School of Social Work, but received his master's of Divinity from Iliff School of Theology, also of Denver.

Reverend Spurlock completed his field work and served as interim minister at the Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ and Mayflower Congregational Church of Christ. He provided ministerial support services to the churches of Arriba, Flaler and Evergreen united Churches of Christ in Colorado.

Reverend Spurlock served for a period of time in the U.S. Navy, and later received commercial instrument in ulti-

engine pilot ratings. Most of Reverend Spurlock's work experience has been in Social and Human Services. He was head of personnel for the Opportunity Industrialized Center in Denver and a former member and moderator of Park Hill Congregational Church.

His wife, Sally Steiner-Spurlock, is on leave, pending transfer, from US West. His daughter, Lisa, is a congressional aide to Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell in Washington D.C. His son, Matthew, is a sophomore at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The congregation of Ainsworth extends a warm and hearty welcome to the Spurlocks.

Reverend Clyde Miller, Conference Minister from The Rocky Mountain Conference, will be guest speaker for the installation service, and Reverend Don Severson of the Pacific Central Conference will be officiating.

Ainsworth Church is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic congregation and is located at 30th and NE Ainsworth streets. Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. with morning worship beginning at 11:00 a.m. Call 284-8767.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST NEW TESTAMENT

Elder Leon Brewer, Jr.
Pastor

Weekly Service Roster
 Sunday: Sunday School - 9:30 am Morning Worship - 11:15 am
 Y.P.W.W. - 7:00 p.m. Evening Worship - 8:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: Prayer & Bible band - 7:30 pm
 Thursday: Praise Service - 7:30 p.m. Pastoral Teaching
 Saturday: Morning Prayer - 10:00 am

1237 N.E. Failing / Portland, Oregon 97212
 Church phone 284-7594 / Home phone 283-4382

Happy Mother's Day

BERNA PLUMMER

Republicans and Independents Can Vote for **BERNA PLUMMER**

Your Vote Can Make The Difference **May 15th - Tuesday**

BERNA PLUMMER

for Representative in Congress
3rd Congressional District

Paid for an Authorized by People for Plummer

MARANATHA CHURCH

4222 N.E. 12th Avenue
 Portland Oregon

Sunday Services
 Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
 Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
 Maranatha School of Ministry 6:30 P.M.
 Mid-Week Services - Wednesday 7:30 P.M.

Rev. Wendell H. Wallace
 Senior Pastor

Grotto Goes to Summer Hours

Beginning May 6, a 12:00 noon Mass will be celebrated outdoors each Sunday, weather permitting through September.

The Gift Shop summer hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. effective June 1 through September 15.

ELECT JIM DUNCAN
 for State Representative House District 19

JIM DUNCAN SAYS: "State priorities must reflect the needs of the people. Voters in HD 19 are concerned about Education, Crime, Drugs, Property Taxes, and declining Human Services."

JIM DUNCAN KNOWS THAT:

- Funding for Education from State must be increased to create an offset to local property taxes.
- Crime and Drugs are out of control. Our parks are not safe. More State intervention is needed if we are to remove the "crack houses" in NE Portland.
- More help and services by HD 19 Elderly and by HD19 Parents with MR & ED Children in the State Hospital at Fairview.
- Problems in the Workers Compensation System and with State Accident Insurance Fund must be solved. Injured workers and employers are in a hostage, no-win situation, as long as the system remains unchanged.
- Some of our community leaders, individual citizens, and business owners in HD 19 feel they do not have ACCESS to GOVERNMENT through the present elected leaders.

JIM DUNCAN will make your safety, your concerns, your welfare, his primary emphasis.
 Call him at 287-9462.

- INDEPENDENT VOTERS: Please remember you have the right to vote in the Oregon Republican Primary.
- Jim Duncan has been endorsed by the 1990 Oregon Black Political Convention.

Authorized by ELECT JIM DUNCAN COMMITTEE, P.O. Box 8604, Portland, OR 97207-8604. Ron Hall, Treasurer

Jesus Loves You!

Allen Temple CMC Church

4236 N.E. Eighth Avenue
 (corner of 8th & Skidmore)
 Portland, Oregon 97211
 (503) 287-0261
 Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor

'A Teaching Church With A Reaching Ministry.'

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor
 116 N.E. Schuyler - (503) 284-1954

3 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES
 8:00 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE
 12:30 P.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE
 CHURCH SCHOOL: SATURDAY MORNING 9 A.M. TO 10 A.M.
 BIBLE STUDY:
 10:30 A.M. - 12 NOON - WEDNESDAY
 6:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. - WEDNESDAY

Radio Ministry Each Sunday, 8:00 A.M. - KBMS