



## 2. Marriage is a partnership . . . choose yours carefully. 18:22

Marriage is a union of two people into a partnership that God has designed to be productive for his glory in many ways. The joining of man and woman in an inseparable union is a spiritual, reproductive, financial, social, spiritual, discipleship, gospel preaching partnership. In addition, it is intended to bring great joy and satisfaction to man and wife while bringing great joy and glory to God.

Because God has designed this partnership to be so powerful and productive for his purposes, you use great care and deliberation in selecting your life partner.

Seek God (and the entire land) for a partner who is . . .

- Of noble character.

12:4 A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

Cf. 31:10-31 cmp source of 12:1 Tit.2:5 – self controlled

- A wise builder.

14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

Dedicated to the well being of her household foolish – character issues

- From the Lord.

19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

18:22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

8:35 - finding a wife is equal to finding wisdom diligent, seeking of God's favor

## 3. Marriage experiences problems . . . solve yours quickly. 27:15-16

Note the repeated emphasis of these five Proverbs regarding the reality that even the closest of relationships can be divided by foolishness.

19:13 A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.

21:9 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

21:19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

25:24 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

27:15-16 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.

- Marital conflict feels like . . .

Separation and isolation rather than oneness and togetherness.	25:4; 21:9	roof
Disappointment and Irritation rather than peace and hope.	27:15-16	leaky
Uncertainty and danger rather than comfort and safety.	21:19	desert

- Marital conflict actually is . . .

Selfishness in speech.	25:23
Commitment to not solving problems.	26:21; 27:16
Idolatry, not getting what you want.	James 4:1ff

- Marital conflict is solved by . . .

Fearing the Lord, it is a character issue.	Titus 2:5ff; 1Peter 3:1-7
Knowing the truth, it is a commitment issue.	Marriage roles of Eph. 5
Asking for help, it is a community issue.	Prov. 22:3-5; 19:20

- 1. Marriage is a promise . . . honor yours faithfully. 2:17**
- 2. Marriage is a partnership . . . choose yours carefully. 18:22**
- 3. Marriage experiences problems . . . solve yours quickly. 27:15-16**

### Take Aways

1. Thank God for your marriage and spouse.
2. Renew your commitment to your marriage and humble problem solving.
3. Repent and change your approach to dating and spouse hunting.
4. Seek hard after God's wisdom – ask him to give you a hungry and teachable heart.

## Discussion Questions

1. What observations, questions or concerns do you have from the study of the ways of wisdom in marriage?
2. In your opinion what are the most typical or prominent problems or conflicts in marriage? What makes these conflicts so difficult to overcome?
3. Read Titus 2:1-8 and 1 Peter 3:1-7. How does a commitment to your promise to God – your faith, related to keeping your promise to your spouse? What are the essential elements/components of the promise of marriage? What is a person promising to do?
4. Why do you think that there are five proverbs about the quarrelsome wife and no direct or companion saying addressing the husband? Does this sound one sided to you? Why or why not?
5. What is the point of Proverbs 27:16? How does that apply to your life?
6. Consider/review point two about selecting a partner. Which of the 3 characteristics impresses you as the most important? Why? How can family and church do better at training our young people to seek God and a marriage partner by these standards?
7. Review the 3<sup>rd</sup> section on marital conflict. What impresses you most from this section? Why? How can KSBC better develop a culture of community to help marriages grow and solve problems?
8. Pray for our young people, students, marriages, singles, divorcees, widows in light of the instruction received today from Proverbs.