Please Pray

- **International Thanksgiving Blending Conference in Denver, Colorado (Nov. 26-29):** May the Lord release an up-to-date speaking during this time. May the Lord grant us ears to hear the Lord's speaking to the churches.
- **Homes as fishing nets:** Our homes have several advantages. In America many freshmen attend college away from home. Since they are considered full-grown, they may leave home once they have graduated from high school. Many of them are lonely and homesick. If we invite them into our living rooms for a little snack or perhaps a dinner, they will feel at home, and this will open them to the Lord and the truth. Furthermore, people do not have a goal, and they are tired of their old manner of life. This situation is sovereign of the Lord... Many young people today do not have a goal. They are wondering what to do and where to go. They do not have a goal in their human life. The material riches of America cannot satisfy the hearts of the young people. Therefore, we must take this opportunity to fill up the gap in their hearts with Christ. The best way to do this is by opening up our homes. (Preaching the Gospel on the College Campuses, CWWL, 1977, Vol. 3, pp. 27-28). Pray for more home groups to be raised up for the student core to be connected to so that they can bring their friends and contacts into the homes of the saints.
- **Bearing fruit for His testimony in Montréal:** "As branches we must bear fruit. If anyone has not borne fruit for several years, I am very concerned for him. There is the danger that such a one may be cut off from the life supply. We must endeavor and be desperate. We must say, "Lord, I am one of Your branches. Why do I not bear fruit? I must bear some. I cannot go on like this anymore. Lord, have mercy on me that by Your grace I may bear at least one fruit." If we will bear even one fruit, the life supply will flood in. The life-juice will stream in, and we will bear more fruit. To bear the first fruit is a breakthrough. We must have such a breakthrough. We need to go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him." (CWWL, 1973–1974, Vol. 2, Chap. 3) – May the prayer in this ministry excerpt be our prayer. May we all endeavor to be normal fruit bearing branches and be desperate before the Lord to bear at least one fruit a year. May we go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him.
- **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** The saints, their contacts, and for the persons in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Isa. 42:1 – 48:22.
- HWMR: The Great Need for a New Revival, Week 3.
- Life-Study of Colossians, Message 2.

Announcements

- The 2027 HWMR subscription is now open, and the annual cost is $80. Please contact your respective district's responsible one to subscribe and to make your payment. The deadline to register and make your payment is Lord's Day, December 6, 2026.

Announcements (cont'd)

- This year's International Thanksgiving Blending Conference will be held from Thursday, November 26, through Lord's Day, November 29, 2026, at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center, Colorado Ballroom, 6700 N. Gaylord Rockies Blvd., Aurora, CO 80019, and will be open to the public. There will be translation into Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese. Live and archived messages will be available at lsmwebcast.com, and free for a period of 30 days after the conference.
- Registration for the December 2026 Semi-Annual Training is now open. The training will take place from December 21 to 26 in Anaheim, CA. Registration is required and the deadline was November 1. The registration fee is CAD$290 for the live training (in person), and CAD$185 for the online/video training. Please contact your respective district serving leader to get more information.
- Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com, by Wednesday evening of every week. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- November 26-29, Denver, CO: **International Thanksgiving Blending Conference**.
- December 21-26, Anaheim, CA: **December 2026 Semi-Annual Training**.
- February 20-21, 2027, Taipei, Taiwan: **International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference**.

This Week's Activities

Sun-Nov-08 LORD'S DAY	• 09:30am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Nov-09	•
Tues-Nov-10	• 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts prayer meetings in person and on Zoom.
Wed-Nov-11	•
Thur-Nov-12	•
Fri-Nov-13	• 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts home meetings in person.
Sat-Nov-14	•
Sun-Nov-15 LORD'S DAY	• 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

30. MARRIAGE

Marriage

In order to be a good Christian, one needs to deal with all the basic issues in a thorough way. If there is one basic issue that is not settled, whether it be the family or one's occupation, problems will eventually come back. As long as there is one unresolved issue, a Christian will not be able to take a straight path before the Lord.

Today we will cover the subject of marriage. A new believer should know what God's Word has to say about marriage. We need to consider this subject from various angles.

I. Marriage being holy

The first question to address with regard to marriage is the matter of sex. We need to be clear that human beings have an awareness of sex in the same way that they have an awareness of hunger. Just as the consciousness of hunger is a natural demand of the body, the consciousness of sex is also a natural demand of the body. To feel hungry is natural; it is not a sin. But to steal food is sin; that is not natural. Likewise, having a consciousness of sex is natural and is not a sin. But if a person uses improper means to satisfy his demand, he falls into sin.

Marriage was ordained and initiated by God. Hence, the consciousness of sex also was given by God. Marriage is not something that was instituted after man's fall; it was there before man sinned. It was not instituted after Genesis 3; rather, God ordained marriage in Genesis 2. Hence, the consciousness of sex existed before, not after, sin entered the world. It is definitely not a sin for a person to have the consciousness of sex. There is no element of sin in this consciousness. Rather, it is a consciousness created by God Himself.

New believers must be clear concerning this point. I have contacted many young brothers and sisters in the course of my Christian life and service during the past thirty years. Many of them were troubled by the matter of marriage. They were unnecessarily condemned in their conscience because they were ignorant of God's ordination as well as God's Word. They had the consciousness and need of marriage, yet they thought that this was sin. Some brothers have fallen into serious doubts about God's work only because of their consciousness of sex. It is a heathen thought to treat sex as something sinful. We need to be clear about God's Word. Just as it is not sin for a man to feel hungry, the need for sex is not sinful; it is a natural consciousness.

Hebrews 13:4 tells us, "Let marriage be held in honor among all." Marriage is not only honorable but even holy. God considers sex not only natural but even holy.

Dr. Meyer, a co-worker of D. L. Moody, wrote many good books on edification. He once said, "Only the most filthy mind would consider sex as something filthy." I think this was well said. Man injects filthy thoughts into sex because he himself is filthy. To the clean everything is clean. To the defiled everything is defiled. Because man's mind is defiled, his thoughts also become defiled. We need to realize that marriage is clean. A God-ordained sex relationship is holy, clean, and undefiled.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-3 Paul said that in later times, there would be the teachings of demons, one of which is the forbidding of marriage. Here we see that even demonic teachings pursue holiness. G. H. Pember pointed out clearly in his writing how men would forbid marriage in the pursuit of holiness. They thought that this would make them holy. However, in his Epistle to Timothy, Paul told us that forbidding marriage is a doctrine of the demons. God has never forbidden marriage.

No one should be condemned unnecessarily in his conscience because of heathen religious teachings. The consciousness of sex is something natural and is not sin. It is only when one begins to deal with this consciousness that the possibility of it becoming a sin arises. It is not a question of the presence of this consciousness; the presence of this consciousness is natural and is not sin. It is the way a person deals with this consciousness that determines whether or not it is sin. This matter needs to be thoroughly cleared up. Otherwise a person's conscience will be condemned, and he will not grow. This feeling of guilt is, in fact, not sin at all but the result of ignorance.

II. Basic elements of a marriage

A. Rendering mutual help

Marriage is ordained by God. In Genesis God said that it was not good for man to be alone. God said "good" to everything that He created. With the exception of the second day, God proclaimed that what He had created was good. God did not say that "it was good" on the second day, because the firmament was the place of Satan. Moreover, on the sixth day, God did not say that "it was good"; in fact, He even said that something was not good after He created man. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18). This is not to suggest that man was not created well. It means only that it was not good because there was just one man. Only half of man was created.

God created a help meet for Adam on the sixth day. Eve was also made on the sixth day, and she was brought by God to Adam. She was made for the purpose of marriage. The words help meet mean "meet to help." This word in Hebrew means "someone that matches, someone that renders help."

In considering Genesis 2:18, many Bible readers think that when God created man, He created a male plus a female. However, the Bible says only that God created man. His creation of man was His creation of male and female. The male and female made a complete man. It was as if God created half of a man in the beginning and then the other half after seeing that this man was only one-half. The two halves were joined together to become one. Only when the two halves were joined together was man complete. This is why God did not say that "it was good" until Eve was made. This shows us that marriage is not initiated by man but by God. The institution of marriage did not come after man's fall but before it. Man did not sin on the first day of his creation; he was married on the first day of his creation. On the same day that God created Eve, He gave her to Adam. This is not something that happened after man sinned. Marriage is something initiated by God.

In Genesis 2 we see marriage in God's creation. In John 2, at the beginning of the Lord Jesus' ministry, there was also a wedding in Cana. During that wedding the Lord Jesus changed the water into wine. This shows that the Lord not only allowed marriage but even approved and endorsed it. The Lord Jesus not only attended the wedding but even enhanced it and made it better. It is clear that marriage was initiated by God and particularly approved by the Lord Jesus. Therefore, it is something entirely of God.

Here we see the place of marriage before God. God's purpose is to have a husband and a wife, who will mutually help each other. Thus, He called Adam's wife a help meet. Help meet in Hebrew means someone who is meet to help. Here we find that God wants man to live in a corporate way, to have mutual fellowship, and to render mutual help. This is God's purpose.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 30, MARRIAGE, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at http://www.ministrybooks.org.