



MARRIAGE – A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

Marian Baltazar
Class of 1980, University of the Philippines College of Manila
AB Political Science

Marriage is not a game that we use to play during our childhood days but it is a lifetime commitment. Definitely, we will never forget the time when we got married and our promises to each other when we exchanged our vows. It is not only described as a big leap that an individual has undertaken but it is also an utmost important step in our life that we cannot take back once we are into it. You would also agree with me when I say that getting married is one of the most crucial decisions that we have ever made in our life. Marriage can be defined as an entering into a commitment of two people into a monogamous relationship, by way of a ceremony and symbolism (that is, the rings that both people wear during the rites and the woman taking the last name of her husband too).

Marriage is a lifetime commitment to only one person. It means making a promise to always love one another no matter what the cost is. Nobody can break that promise and take it away from you and this means that you also committed to act lovingly towards each other. In this case, both parties have set their minds as to the utmost importance of why they have entered into a marriage. They have also promised to do everything to the best of their knowledge for their marriage to work out. Then, as expected, it has all the reasons for this relationship to last for they have opted to love and show it in action and not only through their feelings alone. Moreover, marriage is a commitment to only a person because you make a vow before God to be faithful to that sole person for the rest of your life.

Marriage is more than just a piece of paper or a legal contract. Some people just get married because of foolish reasons, like financial security, physical or sexual attraction or maybe just because they wanted to get away from their family. These and a lot more prove to be irrational. They have the thinking that getting married will solve their problems on money matters. People should not marry because of financial security but it should be because it is done out of love. We pretty well know that money can neither buy us love nor happiness.

Yes, marriage is when two people are very much in love with each other and they are willing to neck it out no matter what they encounter along this stage. That means during the entire time, even if you experience a lot of ups and downs, you manage to stick it out and forbear with one another. Not to mention the times when you undergo a lot of differences, both parties still manage and maintain their relationship for they see to it that these matters should be settled amicably between the two of them. Marriages will be better when the couple try to understand each other and will always be ready to also forgive and forget whenever there are misgivings. We should learn to accept each other's mistakes and try to nurture our relationship more.

Marriage can be a success if and only if both the man and the woman really wanted this relationship to last. It is a give-and-take relationship with an open communication so you could understand each other better and have the best resolution for this state of marital happiness to be attained. Always bear in mind the vow that you had before God to love each other and will be together till death do us part. You were made one in union with God, so we cannot do without our better half. Learn to accept one another's flaws and inconsistencies for your marriage to be a lifetime commitment.

Questions for discussion:

1. Will you do anything for your marriage to work out? How?
2. Do you agree that marriage is a lifetime commitment? Explain your answer.
3. How would you define marriage?
4. Does your marriage define the person that you are? Justify your answer.
5. Do you regret the fact that you have entered into this life-long commitment? Explain further your answer.