

relationships & marriages for the sake of the children etc. But right now, time is so short, if we have any shaky problem marriages, I think we have a lot more important things to do than to try to make a major project of trying to fall back in love & get all romantic again, all submitted to each other etc.! It's more important to just start helping the World & getting out & doing the work we're supposed to do!—And perhaps just agreeing to disagree, or separating, which might be even better.

2. I almost hate to say this, but it seems like in almost every instance where people have had serious marriage problems, it's borne good fruit to separate. Perhaps it can just be a temporary separation at first. But there's hardly one case that I know of which we have been personally knowledgeable about, in which we have either counselled people to separate, or another leader suggested it & we've agreed to it, I don't think there's been one case that hasn't borne good fruit.

3. The parties involved have gotten closer to the Lord, more desperate with the Lord, & in almost every way it's done them good. It seems like we're getting more & more into the "One Wife" situation, & it looks like for this particular time, this is what the Lord wants. At least we know He wants total dedication to Himself & to His Work, & in so many cases the former relationships had become too distracting.—Either people getting so wrapped up in each other that they can't do the Lord's Work, can't concentrate on it.—Or getting at each other's throats so much with so much contention & problems that they're a terrible sample!—And then they often feel so condemned & like such failures that they can't accomplish much for the Lord in this case, either. So either extreme, being too wrapped up in each other, or too contentious with each other, is a big distraction & hindrance to the Lord's Work.

4. It almost seems like the most fruitful kind of relationships are those in which they are very close friends & work together well. When couples are close friends & get along & work together well, but are not overly dependent on each other, not too romantically involved with each other, but complement each other's ministries, these are the ones that have really done the best. In other words, they do well together, but if they were

apart they would also do well. But because they do well together & complement each other, we don't want to separate them. But if they had to separate for the sake of the Work, they wouldn't have any problem with it, or at least not too much of a problem.

5. Of course, we don't just go around separating people for the sake of separating people. I'm glad when people can stay together & get along well together. Thank God for all of our couples who are not at each other's throats, or who are not so wrapped up in each other that they can't see anything else! Sometimes such couples worry because they aren't very romantically involved or "in love" with each other. But the fact is that they can usually do the Lord's work better that way. Sad to say, it seems like a good deal of our couples have a hard time finding the right balance.

### FIRST LOVE!

6. The Lord wants to be our husband, & I think that's the main conclusion that we're coming to. Having a big romantic love affair, maybe that's nice for a bonus once in awhile, but it just seems that if we put each other first, we're not going to be putting the Lord first.—How can you? There's not enough time.

7. Besides, the Lord is going to repay, & this present time isn't going to last much longer anyway. The Lord is going to make up everything, give us the desires of our hearts, & greatly repay us for the sacrifices we make, & it's not going to be so long from now. This is such a small sacrifice to make compared to what the Lord has in store for us! "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us!"—Romans 8:18. PTL!

8. But people don't need to be fearful, just worrying & waiting for their turn to come! As I said, we're not going around trying to split people up unless there's a very good reason for it or their relationship is presenting a big problem! If they complement each other & are a good team together, we certainly don't want to split them up unless their service for the Lord somehow requires it! As Dad has said, "Whatever glorifies God the most, that's what's best", praise the Lord!