## Joint Petition for the Solution of The Marriage Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Mark 10:7-9, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

It is sad to see and hear of so many marriages breaking up. In the newspaper it often has the names of several couples who are giving a joint petition for the dissolution of the marriage. How can two people, who, at some time in the past, felt a love for each other and promised to be together, come to the point that they can't wait to divorce each other? At times they have come from what they thought was love to hating one another. Instead of a joint petition for the dissolution of the marriage, how about a joint petition for the solution of the marriage?

First of all, don't rush into a marriage. I have heard of people getting married after a few weeks, or months, and in one case it was after a few days. What was the chances that it would last? Zero to none in such a foolish decision.

Often it is not love, but an attraction to someone who is attractive. Desire, or lust, is very different from true love. Time changes all of us. Figures change, beauty fades, and if these were the main factors in choosing our mates, then there will be a change in the heart as well.

Before seriously thinking about getting married consider it carefully. Is this the person that you want to live with for the rest of your life? Someone has said that a man thinks that the woman he marries will not change, but she will; while the woman thinks that the man will change, but he will not. There is some truth to that. Marriage is a serious subject and should not be rushed into. Because it has been treated as a minor thing by man, many of which marry, divorce and remarry several times, many think that it is not important. God still says that it is to be for life.

I don't believe that there has been a marriage that has not had some troubles. It happens, we are human, and misunderstandings can get out of hand if we let them. Stop and think before you argue and yell at each other. Problems can be worked out if you can sit down and talk to each other. That is important - talk to each other, not to other people. I have known of those who just "talked"

to someone else then after a while left their spouse and married the one they talked to about their spouse.

In a marriage there will be times that one will need to forgive the other for something. It may be some small thing, or something big. Hurts and offenses come in all sizes, but where there is love and a desire to work things out, it can be done.

To have a strong marriage there must be both love and respect. Sometimes a person will speak about the spouse as if they are dumb, lazy, and without any good qualities at all. As I once said about a particular situation, "Who twisted your arm and made you marry such a person?" There must have been some love at one time since they married. I heard someone say once that if you wanted to be treated like the king, then treat your wife as the queen. I think that is good advice.

The best advice that I can give is to live for the Lord. If husband and wife love the Lord and seek to do His will they can overcome the problems of life. Any two people who are both believers in God and are seriously living for him can overcome any problem. When they can't then one, or both, are doing their own will and not God's. He says to love and to forgive, as He forgives us.



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