

The Beauty of Marriage

It all began in elementary school a long time ago. A young boy noticed a beautiful young girl several seats away from him. Before long there was an exchange of hand written notes. Warm fuzzy feelings followed.

Conveniently, both attended the same church. It appeared to be love at first sight. Conversations started to flow after church services. However the boy's mom kept a watchful eye on the goings-on of this young couple. She could be spotted coming outside after church scanning the rows of cars in the parking lot looking for her son and his girlfriend. You see, in their church dating wasn't allowed till the age of 17.

The young couple however found creative ways to get together. In their setting it wasn't unusual for friends to invite their friends to go home with them after church on Sunday and spend the afternoon together and go to church in the evening where you would be reunited with your family. Just so happened that this young couple had mutual friends in church that were a brother and sister. So it worked out quite well to go home with their mutual friends and then spend the afternoon together. Their friends lived on a farm and had a large woods behind the barn. On one of those Sunday afternoons they were taking a leisurely walk through the woods and all at once the unexpected happened. The girl shyly reached over and held the hand of her boyfriend as they walked through the woods. Surely this had to be love! Being only 15, transportation was limited to a Schwinn bicycle and the Ford farm tractor. Both were used to make occasional rides to the neighboring young lady's farm with the excuse of selling greeting cards. Their love for each other was continuing to grow.

The time came for the 17th birthday of the young lady. An official date was planned and with much eagerness the young boy picked up his girlfriend for the first time and went to a local restaurant for supper. Dating was now legal and so for the next several years their love continued to mature. They were married at the age of 19 with the blessing of both parents. God blessed them with four children and they currently have eight grandchildren.

That young couple has now been married over 50 years and are still in love and consider each other their best friend. That young couple is Philip and Elsie Stutzman.

Why am I sharing our story? I believe marriages are under attack today. The devil is doing all he can to erode marriage relationships. Society is trying to redefine marriage to include men with men and women with women. In the beginning God created a man and a woman with the ability to procreate. Two men or two women

cannot procreate. There is a very distinct difference between the male body and the female body.

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24 ESV. In Mark 10:7-9 Jesus quotes from Genesis 2:24 and adds, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." The apostle Paul speaks of the importance of marriage between a man and a woman, (Ephesians 5:22-33) and places the greater responsibility on the husband. We are to love our wife as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. It's a sacrificial type of love.

Raising a young family can be challenging. I remember so well those times we spent in the evening sitting together in the living room after a long hard day at work and reading a Bible story to our children. Sometimes singing a song or two and then praying together. Those were precious times. In doing so it provides a spiritual foundation for our children. In today's world it's especially important for our children to have a solid spiritual foundation before they start going to school. We can't expect the church to do all the spiritual teaching our children need. It begins in the home. "Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord". Ephesians 6:4, CSB.

Marriage can be hard, but it's worth all the effort you put into it! Beauty goes far deeper than the outward appearance. The apostle Peter has this to say about inner beauty, "You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God". 1 Peter 3:4 NLT. Kindness and mutual respect toward each other goes a long way in building trust with your spouse. If you're struggling in your marriage relationship, pick out one thing you can do for your spouse and focus on that one thing for the next month. Do it willingly and lovingly just because you love them. I believe you will discover a change starting to happen in your relationship. It pays rich dividends!

Philip Stutzman



*Phil and Elsie,
 first year of marriage.*



Phil & Elsie

Souls4Him Ministries

Our Mission: Calling people to a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

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Board of Directors: David Swartzentruber, Vice President;
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CMC Conference in Indiana.



Elsie and I attended the CMC Conference in Goshen IN

Praise Report

At our last board meeting our board decided to update the car we use in ministry that had over 200,000 miles. Through the generosity of some friends we replaced our Nissan Murano with a Honda Pilot. We are indeed grateful and so thankful to the Lord and friends for supplying this need!



We took a trailer load of donated items down to the Bethel Camp Fundraiser Auction.



Bibles

We are continuing to send Bibles to Africa. From time to time we host African pastors in our home that are able to take a good supply of study Bibles along back and place them in the hands of pastors that need them. Thank you for your generosity in supplying money so that we continue this very needful ministry!



We're hosting Rev Peter Kamau and his wife from Kenya. God moved powerfully in the services.

Points for Prayer

October 2,3 Trinity Church, Virginia
 October 9,10 Zion Mennonite, Oklahoma
 October 15-17 Springs of Life Church, Texas
 October 19 Elsie's birthday!
 November 13,14 Chambersburg Mennonite, Pennsylvania
 November 20 Our Grandson's wedding in Tennessee
 November 21 Our 51st wedding anniversary
 December 1-5 North Florida Prison Crusade



We have a Souls4Him page on FB or you can follow me on FB and Instagram under Philip Stutzman. Many have told me how they follow me as a "silent" follower and can keep up with what we are doing.

WHO WE ARE

Philip Stutzman Souls4Him Ministries invites people to authentic relationship in Jesus Christ. We do this through Evangelistic Meetings and Awake! Meetings in churches, prisons and community meetings, stateside and overseas. Having a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status makes all gifts tax deductible.