



## Contents

<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	11
<b>Introduction .....</b>	13

### **PATRISTIC ERA (c. 100–500)**

#### **Love Your Wife**

Ignatius of Antioch (d.107) .....	18
-----------------------------------	----

#### **Surviving a Bad Marriage**

Justin Martyr (100–165).....	20
------------------------------	----

#### **Guard Your Mind**

The Shepherd of Hermas (c. 150).....	22
--------------------------------------	----

#### **How Beautiful the Marriage of Two Christians**

Tertullian (160–220).....	24
---------------------------	----

#### **The Beauty of Purity**

The Clementine Homilies (c. 250) .....	26
--	----

#### **Marriage and Virginity**

Athanasius (296–373).....	28
---------------------------	----

#### **Do Not Fight**

John Chrysostom (347–407).....	30
--------------------------------	----

#### **Married to a Merciless Man**

Augustine of Hippo (354–430) .....	32
------------------------------------	----

#### **A Patristic Wedding Poem**

Paulinus of Nola (354–431) .....	34
----------------------------------	----

#### **The Choice to Marry**

Ambrosiaster (c. 375).....	36
----------------------------	----

#### **Bear With One Another**

Opus Imperfectum (c. 400) .....	38
---------------------------------	----

### **MEDIEVAL ERA (c. 500–1400)**

#### **Imitate Christ in Loving Your Spouse**

Gregory the Great (540–604) .....	42
-----------------------------------	----

#### **One Flesh and One Mind**

Hugh of St. Victor (1096–1141) .....	44
--------------------------------------	----



<b>Neither Queen Nor Slave</b>	
Peter Lombard (1100–1160) .....	46
<b>Christ's Affirmation of Marriage</b>	
Guibert of Tournai (c. 1200–1284) .....	48
<b>A Good Wife</b>	
Bartholomew of England (c. 1203–1272) .....	50
<b>Commending Marriage</b>	
Statutes of Salisbury (c. 1217) .....	52
<b>Should a Man Love His Wife or Parents More?</b>	
Thomas Aquinas (1225–1275) .....	54
<b>Become the Kind of Person You Want to Marry</b>	
Bernadino of Siena (1380–1444) .....	56
<b>REFORMATION &amp; PURITAN ERA (c. 1400–1700)</b>	
<b>How to Improve Your Husband</b>	
Desiderius Erasmus (1466–1536) .....	60
<b>What the World Says About Marriage</b>	
Martin Luther (1483–1546) .....	62
<b>A Reformation Definition of Marriage</b>	
Heinrich Bullinger (1504–1575) .....	64
<b>Peace Leads to Prayer</b>	
John Calvin (1509–1564) .....	66
<b>Dearly Beloved</b>	
The Book of Common Prayer (1559) .....	68
<b>A Good Wife Is a Gift from God</b>	
Thomas Gataker (1574–1654) .....	70
<b>Season Your Actions with Love</b>	
William Gouge (1575–1653) .....	72
<b>Guarding Against the Enemy</b>	
John Milton (1608–1674) .....	74
<b>To My Dear and Loving Husband</b>	
Anne Bradstreet (1612–1672) .....	76
<b>A Puritan's Advice for Getting Along With Your Spouse</b>	
Richard Baxter (1615–1691) .....	78



## Saying a Final Farewell

Sarah Goodhue (1641–1681) ..... 80

## The Householder's Psalm

Matthew Henry (1662–1714) ..... 82

## EARLY EVANGELICAL ERA (c. 1700–1900)

### I Hope You Will Lead Me to God

Philip Doddridge (1702–1751) ..... 86

### Give My Kindest Love to My Dear Wife

Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) ..... 88

### A Visit with the Edwards Family

George Whitefield (1714–1770) ..... 90

### A Firmer Basis

Henry Venn (1725–1797) ..... 92

### The Family as a Preview of Heaven

Samuel Stennett (1727–1795) ..... 94

### Concern for Newlyweds

Esther Edwards Burr (1732–1758) ..... 96

### Why God Created the Woman

Andrew Fuller (1754–1815) ..... 98

### Can You Part With Your Daughter?

Adoniram Judson (1788–1850) ..... 100

### On Marrying a Minister

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834–1892) ..... 102

## MODERN ERA (c. 1900–Present)

### Two Stubborn Pieces of Iron

G. K. Chesterton (1874–1936) ..... 106

### Sexuality and Humanity

Karl Barth (1886–1968) ..... 108

### Your Real Soul Mate

J. R. R. Tolkien (1892–1973) ..... 110

### We Were Made for God

C. S. Lewis (1898–1963) ..... 112



<b>Above All Consider Christ</b>	
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899–1981) .....	114
<b>Your Marriage Sustains Your Love</b>	
Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) .....	116
<b>Why Promiscuity Is Wrong</b>	
Francis Schaeffer (1912–1984) .....	118
<b>The Vocation of Marriage</b>	
Thomas Merton (1915–1968) .....	120
<b>After the Honeymoon</b>	
Elisabeth Elliot (1926–2015) .....	122
<b>The Beauty of Covenant-Keeping Love</b>	
John Piper (1946–) .....	124
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	127
Appendix:	
Scriptures for Memorization and Meditation.....	131

