

# Marriage in the Modern World

## What Are My Expectations Of You?



**Purpose of Presentation:** To explore my expectations of my spouse and how this can be a source of spiritual divorce. How we react when our spouse falls short of our expectations determines whether expectations have a negative effect on our relationship. Marriage is the process of learning where the other person is at and facing this reality.

### Preparation for Meeting By Presenting Couple

**Method:** A. Do your personal reflection and dialog on the following questions:

1. What are my expectations of you as a man or woman and how do I feel when you do or do not meet them?
2. What are my expectations of you as a spouse and how do I feel when you do or do not meet them?
3. What are my expectations of you as a father or mother to our children and how do I feel when you do or do not meet them?
4. What do I picture as an ideal spouse?

These are questions that should be phoned to your contact and host couples in advance, so they can phone them to the other couples in your Image group to dialog on.

- B. The following outline is to be used in preparation of your talk, but your own feelings and examples discovered in dialog will make your talk real. Remember to limit your talk to 20 minutes.

### The Meeting

**Dialog and Sharing Question:** How do I feel about allowing you the freedom to be an individual?

**Suggested Scripture Reading:** Colossians 3:12-17. Before reading the scripture remind them to think in terms of forgiveness for expectations not met. What does it say to me? Allow time to share feelings.

#### Outline of Talk

- I. Introduction (1-2 min. for each spouse)**
  - A. The objective of this talk which is presented in "Purpose".
  - B. Have I been aware of my expectations or have they been hidden even from me and operating subtly in our relationship?
  - C. Have we communicated on our expectations before this?
- II. Body (5 min. for each spouse)**
  - A. Give personal examples of expectations you have about your spouse and how that affects your relationship.  
Example: Expectation in roles, of values, of skills or talents, of mind reading of my needs.
  - B. My expectations can make my spouse a prisoner.  
How do I feel when my expectations have not been met?  
Example: Disappointment, frustration, hurt, anger, resentment, alienation, preoccupation with past so I don't experience the present moment.
  - C. How do I feel when my expectations are met?  
Example: Pleasure, joy, complacency, taking other for granted.
  - D. Are my expectations of you realistic or unrealistic, childish or mature?  
What influenced them?  
Example: Parents, church, mass media, literature, advertising.
  - E. What is the basis of my expectations?  
Example: Self will, self gratification.  
Are my expectations in tune with or opposing God's will which is Love?
- III. Conclusion (3 min. for each spouse)**

Unexamined expectations can lead to spiritual divorce.

  - A. How does awareness of my and our expectations affect me now?
  - B. What is an example of personal growth due to better understanding of the part expectations have played in my life?  
Example: Change in my attitude or behavior, increased acceptance of spouse, unity, more spontaneous dialog on the subject.  
How does this make me feel?