

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

*Marriage
Without
Regrets*

LEARNING HOW TO
BECOME ONE

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

MARRIAGE WITHOUT REGRETS
LEARNING HOW TO BECOME ONE

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7th edition

Printed in the United States of America

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED READING

In order to complete this course it will be necessary to purchase the following book:

WHEAT, ED, M.D.

Love Life for Every Married Couple

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Corporation, 1980

LESSON ONE

Man! Woman! What's the Difference

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES Observation Worksheets on Genesis 1:24-31; Genesis 2; 1 Corinthians 11:3-12; and 1 Peter 3:7-12, located in the Appendix

Marriage Without Regrets! It's a wonderful title for a course on marriage, isn't it? Wonderful, yes! But is it possible? Can you have a marriage without regrets in a day when so many marriages in the United States of America are ending in divorce? Can a marriage endure the pressures of an amoral society? Can two people weather the storms of mid-life crises? Can only one mate make a marriage work? If you are in a second marriage, is there any hope for you as far as God is concerned? Can you—from this time forward—have a marriage without regrets?

The answer to all these questions is an unequivocal yes. But it is also a qualified yes. Qualified in the sense that a marriage without regrets will not mean a marriage without testings, trials, and conflicts. Nor will it mean a marriage that fulfills some idealistic dream of your imagination. When we speak of a marriage without regrets, we are talking of a marriage that is so lived according to God's Word that when it is over, you will be able to look back and say, "I was all that God wanted me to be as a wife or as a husband."

"But," you may say, "I didn't know all this until I had been married for years!"

We understand. God does too! However, from this day on, you can go forward in your marriage. From this day on, it can be a marriage without regrets. You can't change your past, Beloved. You can weep over it, constantly relive it, become depressed over it; but none of that will change it, nor will it help you to go forward. So, forgetting those things that are behind, let us press on toward a marriage lived without regrets.

Marriage Without Regrets is a course for everyone. Married, divorced, widowed, or single, not yet married, or never married—you must know what God has to say about marriage.

Your knowledge of God's Word regarding men, women, their roles, and marriage can be used of God to equip you to live and to minister in a world which has seemingly gone mad.

Although there are many excellent books on the subject of marriage, our minds need to be renewed on exactly what God's Word has to say about this institution. There are so many voices in this world expounding so many philosophies, psychologies, ideologies, and traditions of men. But are they truth? Do they hold to the plumb line of God's Word?

If you do not know what God's Word says about the roles of men and women, their God-given responsibilities, their differences;

If you do not know what God's Word says about love, sex, communication, raising children, managing finances;

If you do not know what God's Word says about the permanence of marriage, about divorce and remarriage; then you are not thoroughly equipped for life. Marriage and the home are the bedrock of society, ordained of God to be an earthly picture of a divine institution!

It is time for us to examine the standards by which we live. Whatever does not measure up to truth must be forsaken in order that truth might not be adulterated by society.

DAY ONE

If you are going to know how to live as a husband or as a wife, as a single man or as a single woman, you must first understand who you are and how God made you. Therefore, we will begin by getting the facts through observing what God has to say on the subject. Then we will find out what it all means and how we can apply it to our lives. We will be observing some of the key passages in the Bible which deal with our creation and its purpose.

1. Form the habit of beginning each day's study in prayer. Biblical truth comes by revelation, not by mere intellect, for ". . . the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). Therefore, seek His wisdom and understanding.
2. Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells us that in six days God created the world and everything in it. Man was created on the sixth day. Therefore, we will begin our study by doing some simple observations on Genesis 1:24-31. Your Observation Worksheet is in the Appendix.

3. Follow the instructions for doing an Observation Worksheet found in the section “Focusing in on the Details” in *How to Study Your Bible* or see “How to Do a Chapter Study” in the Appendix of this *Marriage Without Regrets* Precept Upon Precept study. Mark the following words: *God* (every pronoun that refers to God and/or Godhead, i.e., *Us*), *make* or *made*, *man*, *image*, *created*, and *said*.
4. In the right-hand margin of your Observation Worksheet, make a list of all that God commanded man to do. Title this list “God’s Commands to Man.”
5. On a separate sheet of paper, note the following from your observations of the text:
 - a. God’s pattern for creating man,
 - b. how God created mankind or, to put it another way, exactly what He created,
 - c. God’s provision for man’s sustenance,
 - d. God’s feelings about all that He created, and
 - e. anything else that you had never noticed before about this passage.

DAY TWO

Some scholars say that there are two separate accounts of creation in Genesis, the second one in chapter 2 being the work of a different author. Those who support this view usually do not hold to the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Word of God. Consider that Genesis 2 is not a second or another version of creation but is an amplification by the Author, who ultimately is God. In chapter 1 a broad outline of the creation account is given; then in chapter 2 God gives the specific details of the creation account. Today we are going to continue to lay a strong biblical foundation by doing observations on Genesis 2.

1. Prayerfully read through your Observation Worksheet on Genesis 2, located in the Appendix.
2. Once again mark any **key words** or **key phrases** in the text. This time you pick out the key words!
3. In the right-hand margin of the text, record lists of all that this chapter teaches you about men, about women, and about their relationship to one another. Also, note any other pertinent lists, such as God’s instructions to man and/or to woman.
4. At the end of your worksheet note any other observations from the text which would be pertinent to our study on marriage.

DAY
THREE

There will be times when we will have to use a particular text several different times so that we can glean from it different aspects of truth. That is what we will have to do with today's Scripture.

By the way, it will get more interesting and practical. Right now we're laying a foundation. So, hangeth thou in there.

1. An Observation Worksheet on 1 Corinthians 11:3-12 is in the Appendix. Read through it, but please do not get sidetracked on issues, such as what a woman should or should not have on her head. That is another study and has nothing to do with our subject of marriage at this point! Unless, of course, after you read it, you insist that your wife put a hat or a veil on her head; then it could become a marital problem!
2. Note any repeated **key words** or **key phrases** as you have done before.
3. As you observe the text, record lists of all that you learn about the man and all that you learn about the woman.
4. As you read and observed this passage of Scripture, you probably noticed references to a specific order of headship. Record this in the margin of the text. You might want to diagram it with either words or symbols.
5. At the end of your Observation Worksheet, record any other insights or questions that you have on the text.

Enough for today! Go hug your husband or your wife, but don't preach to him or to her. Don't try to play theologian and try to get your mate straightened out on his or her role! Besides, you might blow it!

DAY
FOUR

Today's assignment is going to be a shorty. You deserve it. Besides, we want your marriage to survive your homework! As the weeks go by, we'll get more practical and then it will be great. It's just getting over the technicalities of the basics that is laborious. By the way, have your children kidded you yet about your coloring or your drawings? Makes you feel kind of silly, doesn't it? Oh well, it's a marvelous way to learn!

First Peter is an epistle of suffering and glory. It was not written primarily to teach us about marriage, but it does have something to say about the relationship between a husband and a wife because this letter is concerned with all of the relationships of life, especially relationships where Christians would find themselves in difficult or hard positions. Peter's concern is that no matter what the relationship, the Christian would find himself suffering for "... doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong" (1 Peter 3:17).

Marriage Without Regrets
Man! Woman! What's The Difference?

1. In the Appendix there is an Observation Worksheet on 1 Peter 3:7-12. Read it, noting that verses 8-12 are a summary statement that covers all relationships including marriage. As you read this, note how the instructions in verses 8-12 would benefit any husband/wife or parent/child relationship.
2. Mark the text as you have on previous days. Note any pertinent lists in the right-hand margin.
3. In compiling your lists, be sure that you note what the text says regarding a husband's behavior toward his wife, a believer's behavior toward others, a believer's attitude toward evil, and God's attitude toward the righteous and the unrighteous.

DAY
FIVE

1. Today will be spent summarizing all that you have learned this week from the various scriptures which you have observed. The simplest and most concise way of summarization would be to use a chart, so fill out the chart "Man! Woman! What's The Difference?" which is at the end of this lesson.
2. When you finish your chart, do the following exercises which are applicable to you:
 - a. Whether you are single or married, list any new concepts you have gleaned about men or about women.

- b. If you are single, list anything that you have seen about marriage which does not match up with your previous concept of marriage.

- c. If you are married, list anything that you have seen about marriage which, at this point, does not match up with your own marriage.
- d. Married or single, what have you learned this week that you can apply in a practical way? Write it out.

MAN! WOMAN! WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Insights	Man	Woman
Created by		
Created for		
Created from		
Relationship to God		
Distinctive Characteristics		

GENESIS 1:24-31
Observation Worksheet

- 24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so.
- 25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.
- 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
- 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- 29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;
- 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food”; and it was so.
- 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

GENESIS 2

Observation Worksheet

THUS the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.

- 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
- 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.
- 4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.
- 5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.
- 6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.
- 7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
- 8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.
- 9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

- 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.
- 12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.
- 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.
- 14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
- 15** Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
- 16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;
- 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”
- 18** Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”
- 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.
- 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.
- 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

- 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.
- 23 The man said,
“This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”
- 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
- 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:3-12

Observation Worksheet

- 3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.
- 4 Every man who has *something* on his head while praying or prophesying disgraces his head.
- 5 But every woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying disgraces her head, for she is one and the same as the woman whose head is shaved.
- 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, let her also have her hair cut off; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, let her cover her head.
- 7 For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.
- 8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;
- 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.
- 10 Therefore the woman ought to have *a symbol of* authority on her head, because of the angels.
- 11 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.
- 12 For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man *has his birth* through the woman; and all things originate from God.

1 PETER 3:7-12

Observation Worksheet

- 7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.
- 8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;
- 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.
- 10 For,
- “THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS,
MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING
DECEIT.
- 11 “HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD;
HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.
- 12 “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS,
AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,
BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”

HOW TO DO A CHAPTER STUDY ~ Let's Get Started!

To learn more about doing a chapter study and other inductive Bible study skills, we encourage you to keep on hand a copy of *How to Study Your Bible*. If you don't yet have a copy, you can order one by visiting www.precept.org or calling 800-763-8280.

A **chapter study** helps you to focus in on the details in the chapter to better understand what the author is saying. Each of the skills is used to bring important points to light.

- **Look for the 5 Ws and H**

Read the text asking the 5 Ws and H—*Who, What, When, Where, Why, How*. For example, when studying John 1, read the text asking questions like:

Who is this about?

When?

Where was the Word?

Who was the Word?

What did the Word do?

Don't expect every verse or chapter to answer all the 5 Ws and H about a particular subject or person, but you should read with a questioning mind-set.

Marking key words and phrases and making lists help you to answer the 5 Ws and H.

- **Mark key words and phrases**

Key words are repeated words within a text which are vital to its meaning.

Mark in a distinctive way each key word or phrase in the chapter along with its pronouns and synonyms. Use colors and/or symbols.

Example: "Word" is a repeated word that is *key* to understanding John 1.

- **Lists**

The next step is to list what the chapter says about each of the key words. Look at each place you marked a key word and list what the text says.

A **list** is a compilation of the facts given about a particular word or person. It gives the 5 Ws and H (who, what, when, where, why, how) about that word or person. Use words from the text.

A list about the **Word** from John 1 begins this way:

was in the beginning, v. 1

was with God, v. 1

was God, v. 1

was in the beginning with God, v. 2

• **Mark and evaluate:**

Contrasts—point out differences. To mark a contrast, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as *N*.

John 1:17: “For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”

“But,” “however,” or “nevertheless” might indicate a contrast.

John 4:2: “...Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were....”

Comparisons—point out similarities. To mark a comparison, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as *=*.

John 10:9: “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved....”

Sometimes “like” or “as” indicate a comparison.

John 3:14-15: “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”

Terms of Conclusion—show that a conclusion or summary is being made. These help us understand “why.”

Look for the words signifying a conclusion or result such as “therefore,” “for this reason,” and “finally.”

John 12:50: “I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”

Expressions of Time—give timing, sequence of events, or progression.

Look for words such as “then,” “after,” “when,” “until,” “the day of....”

John 1:2: “He was in the beginning with God.”

• **Identify subjects or themes**

Identify main subjects, events, or points of a chapter by observing it paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs can be shown with boldface type for the first verse number of a paragraph, by a paragraph symbol, or by an indention at the beginning of a paragraph.

Read each paragraph, and in the margin list the event, subject, or main point of the paragraph.

John 1:6-8

6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

*John testified
about the Light*

7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.