

It's Not Heaven, But It's Close

Thoughts on Marriage



Marriage is an adventure, not an achievement.—*David A. Seamands*

Knit your hearts with an unslipping knot.—*William Shakespeare*

It takes years to marry completely two hearts, even of the most loving. A happy wedlock is a long falling in love.—*Theodore Parker*

Success in marriage is much more than *finding* the right person: It is a matter of *being* the right person.—*Robert Browning (1812–1889)*

Even if marriages are made in Heaven, man has to be responsible for the maintenance.—*James C. Dobson*

You can bear your own faults, why not a fault in your wife?—*Benjamin Franklin*

The Lord God said, “It isn’t good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs” (*The Bible, Genesis 2:18, TLB*).

Not Alone

God knew it right away.

I don’t know when it first
Occurred to Him,
But the minute He saw
A human being, He knew.

It’s not good for people to live alone.

There are exceptions to that rule,
But I’m not one of them.

Living alone is strictly bananas
For this pilgrim.

Someone to care,
Someone to share,
Someone to bear
Your burdens.

I don’t want to meet
Struggles and heartaches
Without you praying
With me
For them.

Together we are more
Than apart, and so
I’m glad
He put us
Together.

—*Author unknown*

A good marriage requires determination to be married for good.

The Christian is supposed to love his neighbor, and since his wife is his nearest neighbor, she should be his deepest love.—*Martin Luther (1483–1546)*

More than four hundred years ago, Martin and Katherine Luther had a happy marriage, history tells us, though even they struggled with situations common to most marriages today.

Once while he was traveling, Luther wrote home: “To the saintly, worrying lady, Katherine Luther, doctor at Zulusdorf [the home of her inherited farm] and Wittenberg, my gracious, dear wife. We thank you heartily for being so worried that you can’t sleep, for since you started worrying about us, a fire broke out near my door. And yesterday, no doubt due to your worry, a big stone, save for the angels, would have fallen and crushed me like a mouse in a trap. If you don’t stop worrying, I’m afraid the earth will swallow us. Pray, let God worry.”

In spite of differences of opinion, Martin deeply valued family life. Before his marriage, he sometimes spoke of matrimony as a necessity for the flesh. Afterward, he saw it as an opportunity for the spirit. He often quoted the saying, “Let the wife make her husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.”