

Making Music in Your Hearts

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This presentation is planned around a banquet or meal. It can be adapted for a meeting without a meal, however.

Preparation: Make arrangements for the meal. If it is to be covered dish, be sure everyone knows the details. If it is to be a seated banquet, reservations might need to be taken.

Focus center: Behind the speaker's table, place a backdrop with the theme Making Music in Your Hearts and music notes. Pink and silver is a good color scheme for the backdrop, as well as for table decorations.

Program folder: Provide an outline of the presentation. On the front cover, paste a music note cut from silver foil. Letter the theme across the top. Inside, print Ephesians 5:15-21 (Phillips) and the responsive reading.

Name tags: If guests will not know each other, provide name tags. These can be music notes on which a name can be written.

Decorations: Use a floral arrangement at the center table, with silver music notes as part of the arrangement. On the other tables use music notes and candles.

Procedure: Ephesians 5:15-21 is the background Scripture for this presentation. Use J.B. Phillips translation. Select a leader and five other speakers for the service.

Leader: (Bride) and (Groom), your friends are assembled here to assure you of their love and support as you begin building a home. We have begun to think of this experience of yours as a musical experience, a making of music in your hearts. Listen as we read a portion from the New Testament.

"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as [those] who do not know the meaning and purpose of life by as those who do. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these

days. Don't be vague, but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of the Lord. Don't get your stimulus from wine...but let the Spirit stimulate your souls. Express your joy in singing among yourselves...making music in your hearts to the Lord. Thank God at all times for everything...'fit in with' one another, because of your common reverence for God" (Eph. 5:15-21 Phillips).*

We want to pick from this passage the special kinds of instructions we would like to bring to you.

Speaker 1: "'Fit in with' one another." Just as a song does not happen accidentally, so does a harmonious marriage not just happen. You have been two, now you will be one. There will be steady adjustment to each other as you learn how to please each other and as you learn how to give up your own individual wishes for the good of your mutual goals. Make music in your hearts as you fit in with one another.

Speaker 2: "Live life with a due sense of responsibility." There will be a tendency in the early years of marriage to become self-centered. Your friends encourage you to remember that life itself is a responsibility. As you accept your responsibilities together for the work the Lord would have you do together, you will create music for those you help in His name.

Speaker 3: "Don't be vague." There is nothing shadowy or indirect in music. Notes are clearly placed so the singer or the instrumentalist knows exactly what to do about the notes in order to produce music. Healthy, happy marriages can be built only if there is open and honest communication between partners. Hurt feelings, unintentionally caused, cannot be healed if the one who has hurt does not know how it happened. A couple cannot move toward their goal of a meaningful and successful relationship if they cannot directly deal with each other. A Christian home cannot result from a marriage here there is only a vague understanding about the place Christ plays in the home. Deal honestly and directly with each other. Talk frankly about things that matter, and your life together will provide music for your home and for those around you.

Speaker 4: Be filled with the Spirit. This is rather impossible for mere humans. Yet God has not left us alone to simply drift and flounder and strike discordant notes. He has given us an ever-present help in the person of the Holy Spirit. In a specific commandment He insists that we be filled with the Spirit. Together acknowledge the

presence of the Holy Spirit in your marriage. He is the one who can make a symphony of an otherwise unpleasant or inharmonious sound.

Speaker 5: "Firmly grasp...the will of the Lord." God has led you separately through your earlier years. Now, in His will you have accepted a new kind of life. He will no longer call you separately and without regard to the other. Together seek His will. Then firmly grasp it and gladly do each day what His will is for that day. As you follow, He might change your lifestyle completely, leading you into greater avenues of service for Him.

Leader: Now (bride) and (groom), please stand here. We all will stand in a circle around you as a symbol of our pledge to support you and encourage you.

We present to you, as a tangible reminder of our interest in your life together, a Bible. Make its teaching foundational in your home.

(Read responsively.)

Leader: The Lord God formed a man's body of the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life and man became a living person.

Audience: "And the Lord God said, 'It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him.'"

Then the Lord God cause the man to fall into a deep sleep

and He took one of the ribs, and closed up the place from which He had removed it and made the rib into a woman and brought her unto the man.

And Adam exclaimed, "She is part of my bond and flesh!"

"For this reason a man will leave his father and unite with his wife, and the two shall be one. So they are no longer two but one.

Man must not separate, then, what God has joined together."

Closing prayer: Sing together or use as a solo, "Lord, You Bid Us Ever" (Baptist Hymnal, 1975 edition) or "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee," substituting *us* for *me* (Baptist Hymnal).

*From THE NEW TESTAMEN IN MODERN ENGLISH, Revised Edition, J.B. Phillips, translator. © J.B. Phillips 1958, 1960, 1972. By permission of Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.