**Wedding of**

**Paul and Renea Turner**

July 14, 1990

WELCOME

Dear friends, we have gathered together in the presence of God and all of you to join together this man and this woman in the state of marriage. This is an honorable estate instituted of God and signifying to us the mystical union that is between Christ and His Church.

This holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence and His first miracle that He worked in Cana of Galilee. Marriage is also commanded by Saint Paul to be honorable among all men.

Therefore, it is not by any to be entered into lightly or without counsel, but reverently, discreetly, advisably, soberly, and in the fear of God, into which these two persons come now to be joined.

Paul, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God’s ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto her so long as you both shall live? (I will)

Renea, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God’s ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto him so long as you both shall live? (I will)

Who gives this woman to be married to this man? (Her mother and I)

SCRIPTURE

Will you attend to the words of Scripture contained in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (Read Scripture) God bless His own Word.

EXHORTATION

Paul and Renea, we come together this afternoon to celebrate the occasion of your marriage. We have listened to the music and the Word of God. Now I want to share with you just a brief word of exhortation before you exchange your marriage vows. Paul, there are two specific commandments in Scripture with regard to your relationship to Renea.

First, it is the husband’s responsibility to love the wife as Christ loved to Church and gave Himself for it. Peter adds to that your responsibility to dwell with Renea in honor.

To love your wife is the hardest part of the bargain. That responsibility encompasses so many things since Jesus Himself is our example—the only One who has ever lived a perfect life!

Seldom does God ever call us to actually lay down our lives physically for our wives, but so many times throughout the course of the life you live together God is going to ask you to make those sacrifices—to set aside your own interests, your own ambitions, your own use of your own time.

As you assume these responsibilities for Renea and, perhaps ultimately, also for children, it means to give of yourself, to set aside your own interests, to set aside the things that you would do if you were single and if Renea didn’t have any needs of her own.

Those are heavy responsibilities. It is not ruling with an iron hand, it’s not simply saying, “These are the way things will be,” but it means to do as Jesus did for us—to look at Renea, to understand her needs, to understand what will cause her to be developed fully in all the potential that God has given her, and then to set aside your own interests in order to meet those needs. To love, to cherish her, to care for her, is the responsibility that God places upon you as her husband.

And then to dwell with her in honor means to give her the place of exaltation, the place of honor, in the home—to always lift her up as the one God has given to you. To lift her up with other people, to lift her up in the eyes of children (if someday God blesses you in that way), to always hold her up and give her in the home that unique position of honor.

It’s a big responsibility. It’s a good responsibility.

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Renea, the Word of God addresses responsibilities to you as well as a wife. It’s summed up in placing yourself under the authority of Paul as your husband. So often nowadays people understand that to mean that you are less of an individual, that you can’t do what you like to do, that you have no say, no input in the relationship, and we know that’s not true. We understand from the Word of God that you are just as much created in the image of God as Paul is.

What submission means is that in the final analysis when it comes down to the decisions that are made Paul has the responsibility for your home and your life—and that you are to look to him for that responsibility in the same way that we as the body of Christ look to the Lord Jesus as the head of the body.

God has given Paul to you to be a protector, to be a provider, to be one who will encourage and sustain you—and He’s given you to Paul to be one who will encourage him, to be one who will lift him up, to be one who will recognize his headship and his leadership.

And the beautiful thing in all this is that you approach these heavy responsibilities not in your own strength, which can soon fail but in that of the Lord Jesus since you love Him and have committed your lives to Him.

And so, you’ve already made that commitment to Jesus and now come together in a union which God has blessed to fulfill you and use you for His glory.

EVANGELISTIC MESSAGE

We’re glad, dear friends, that you have come to share this occasion as well. Paul and Renea would express the delight that you’re sharing this afternoon with us. And they want you to know that they have committed themselves to the Lord Jesus.

They have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and they have committed their lives to Him as individuals, but from this day forth they will live together for Him.

Marriage is the biblical illustration that God has chosen for our relationship to Him. In Ephesians 5 God says that husbands are to love their wives the same way as Christ loved the Church.

Jesus set aside His own interests, took upon Himself the form of a human being, was born, and then lived in this world for a number of years without ever committing a sin so that He might die to pay the price for our sin.

He saw our need. He saw that we were lost in the sinful condition in which Adam left us, and in the sinful condition that we placed ourselves. And Jesus came in much the same way that a husband has the responsibility to sacrifice for His wife. Jesus came and made that sacrifice on the cross to provide for us.

And He woos us to Himself, He draws us to Himself by saying, “I love you. I gave my life for you. I died for you. I put up with all these things for you as I sacrificed My Own life for you because I want to draw you into a relationship with Me.”

The Scripture says the wife is to place herself under the husband, to commit herself to the husband. And that’s what our responsibility is to God.

If we have never accepted the Lord Jesus as our Savior then as Jesus calls us and has sacrificed Himself for us, He wants us to place ourselves under His authority. He wants us to come to Him and say, “Jesus, I am recognizing my sinfulness and my need and I am placing myself under Your authority. I’m placing my faith and my trust and commitment in You.”

This is done in the same way that a wife places herself under her husband, trusting that he will do what is in her best interest. Jesus calls us to Himself and says, “Trust Me. I love You.”

And I think, in talking with Paul and Renea, as delighted as they are that you are here, that they would be even more thrilled with knowing for sure that you had that personal relationship with Jesus Christ—that you had come to the point in your life where you very simply had recognized that you’ve sinned, you’ve violated God’s Word.

And you’ve understood that Jesus gave Himself for you as well as for each one of us. And then to simply say, “God, I know that I’m sinful, I know that Jesus came and died for me, and I want to trust Him alone to take away my sin. I want to trust Him. I want to place Myself in His hands.” Oh, we trust that you will do this.

And this afternoon, as Paul and Renea share their marriage vows I’m sure it will be very special to you. The main reason it will be special is because of that relationship with Jesus Christ, which takes them beyond themselves into a new dimension in life. And they would desire that you experience that as well.

The fact that you are here also gives you another responsibility as well—to pray for them, to encourage them, maybe even at some point to admonish them—to offer advice from time to time, particularly if it is asked for, and to just stand behind them with your prayers and your love as they go forth.

And then I would encourage you also as they share their wedding vows to reaffirm your own. Think through the vows you yourself have made to your partner and reaffirm your marriage commitment. Restate in your own mind that love as they share it with each other.

VOWS

Paul and Renea, please face each other for your vows:

Paul, take Renea’s hands in yours, and state these vows:

I, Paul, / solemnly agree before God and these witnesses / to take you, Renea, / as my lawful wedded wife, / to love and respect you, / honor and cherish you, / in sickness and in health, / in prosperity and in adversity, / and leaving all others / I commit myself to remain only unto you / so long as we both shall live.

Renea, please state these vows to your husband:

I, Renea, / solemnly agree before God and these witnesses / to take you, Paul, / as my lawful wedded husband, / to love and respect you, / honor and cherish you, / in sickness and in health, / in prosperity and in adversity, / and leaving all others / I commit myself to remain only unto you / so long as we both shall live.

RINGS

What token do you have of these vows? (A ring)

These rings are made of valuable metal, as you know. They signify the preciousness and the value of these vows that you have just shared.

They are endless in a circular design, which signifies that the love and the commitment that you have made is endless also.

Paul, place this ring on Renea’s finger and repeat after me:

With this ring/ I thee wed/ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Renea, place this ring on Paul’s finger and repeat after me:

With this ring/ I thee wed/ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

Father, You are the One who has designed marriage. Way back in the Garden of Eden, before sin ever entered the world You said, “It is not good for a man to live alone. I will create a helper for him.”

And You have designed that a man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two should become one flesh. And so our Father we pray at this moment that You would be pleased to seal this union, that You would be pleased to bless this bride and this groom.

Bless Paul, Father, as the provider and sustainer for the family. Strengthen him, encourage him, give him wisdom and discernment as he seeks to walk with You.

And Father, bless Renea. May she always be able to look to Paul as her “knight in shining armor,” as her husband, as her lover and provider.

Father, we pray that You would be pleased to direct their lives in accordance with Your perfect will and plan. Make the assignments for them that will develop their potential. Give them enough success that they know they walk with You, and enough failure that they must keep their hands tightly in Yours.

Father, be pleased to lead them through all the days of their life together until one day one of them perhaps will lay the other into Your arms. Father, we pray that Your peace, that Your blessing, that Your will may be very much a part of their lives as they walk with You.

We commit them to You in the grace of the Lord Jesus. In Your Own love, in the power of the Spirit of God. Amen.

COMMUNION

Now, Paul and Renea, it is fitting that you approach the Lord’s table together, for these elements symbolize the unity and forgiveness you both have in Christ which has made this special day possible.

This bread reminds us not only of the broken body of our Lord but also symbolizes the fact that we are all one body in Christ. How much more does it symbolize your marital unity since you both know Jesus Christ personally.

The Apostle wrote, “The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me’” (Take the bread).

As the bread symbolizes your unity in Christ, so the cup reminds us of the basis by which this unity is obtained: the precious blood of our Lord Jesus which provides forgiveness.

The Scripture continues: “In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me’” (Take the cup).

May these elements ever remind you of both your unity and forgiveness in our Lord Jesus.

PRONOUNCEMENT

For as much as you, Paul, and you, Renea, have consented together in holy wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged your trust each to the other, and have declared the same by the giving and receiving of rings, and by joining of hands, I pronounce that you are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Whom God has joined together, let no man separate.

Paul, you may now kiss your wife.