

No Longer Two, But One Flesh

God has been gracious to me. On the 22nd December, Lord willing, I am getting married to a lovely Christian woman, Joanne.

It is not good, God said from the beginning, that man should be alone. It is certainly not good for me!

I met Joanne on the neonatal intensive care unit; she is a professional neonatal nurse. We have spent countless hours caring for sick babies and young children. Joanne has a lively character, but I was especially attracted to her by her kindness and generosity.



Joanne has helped me grow spiritually and in every other aspect of my life. We share a simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a commitment to follow him according to the teaching of the Bible.

Our godly parents have taught us by their example what marriage is all about. They have faithfully kept the promise to be true to one another in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health; they have loved and honoured one another all their life. My father, almost 80 years old, still takes care of my mother with tender affection even though he is weak and his health is failing.

We want our marriage to be a reflection of the relationship between Christ and his bride, the church. Jesus, the head of the church, gave himself for his beloved; his church submits and respects her Lord. Even so, God commands us, "Let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." We have a perfect model to follow for we have experienced the loving leadership of Jesus Christ our Lord, and we have learned to submit from the heart to him whose love for us cost him his life!

It is not without fear that we take this step for we are conscious of the great responsibility of this sacred covenant. But we have reason to hope that, by God's help, we will also learn to love and submit, and experience the wonderful union of marriage.

We covet your prayers to God for our marriage.