

## COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

Contrary to what television and movie romance have told our culture, a good marriage takes work; and because it takes work that is why many would rather live in Common Law Marriage rather than to have a relationship that honors God.

Marriage was ordained by God in the Garden of Eden. God didn't tell Adam to sample the goods prior to ordaining Eve as his wife. God honors and respects marriages, it's a spiritual example of our marriage to Him. Many want to enjoy the life of marriage, but don't want to take the obligations that come with marriage.

People are treating marriage like buying a pair of shoes, once you purchase them, if you don't like them, you can return them and get another pair. Whether we believe God's word or not

we will be judged by the word of God when we stand before Him. Just as sure as we were born, there will be a day that we will have to die. Common Law Marriage was not ordained by God, but by man.

Common Law—An unwritten system of law based on court decisions, customs, and usages.

Isn't it funny how the court system can say if a couple has been together for three years or more it's consider as Common Law Marriage, but if the person decides to leave you after three years or die you will not receive anything that you and the individual may have purchased together. If there's a child or next of kin, they will receive ownership of the individual's belongings not the Common Law Wife. Too many times women live with a man for years, and the man doesn't marry them. If you are good enough to



live with he should love you enough to marry you.

Women, God has created you as a beautiful being, to be cherished, respected, and loved. When God created you, he didn't create you as something that was common.

Many women have lived in Common Law marriages for years only to become kicked to the side as though they didn't exist. With marriage if you're kicked to the side at least you leave with something other than just the bags you came with.

Marriage is to be forever until one or the other dies, it's also security that you will be taken care of if your spouse dies or decides he want to end the marriage. Women we can't be so desperate for a man until we dishonor ourselves to have one. Many are living in Common Law marriages with children; what an example you're giving to your children. You're teaching your child it's ok to live with a man or woman and not be married. Neither you or your child understands the consequences that goes with practicing marriage without having the proper paperwork from God and an earthly judge.

When you look in the mirror at yourself are you really happy knowing your mate might die or drop you at any time and nothing you have accomplished with him can be given to you by law because you're not his lawful wife? Think about what you're doing!

# STRESS

Stress is a major factor today in the lives of most people, if you're not stress today, keep living; stress will find its way to you. There are different ways we can alleviate stress. One way of alleviating stress is finding someone you can trust and talk to. Stress can cause an aneurysm, strokes, heart attack and sometimes death.

As women we should care about each other and be there as a friend to support one another, but the majority of the time rather than help-

ing each other we attack from every angle we can.

Satan is after everyone, but he's especially after women because he knows we will fight for our family and for others, we don't give up as easily as men. We will fight until there is nothing else in us to fight with and that is why Satan hates us. Satan uses different attacks to try to destroy us mentally and emotionally.

Find ways to alleviate stress. Spend time for yourself, take time out

and relax your mind and spirit. Get together with other women, take a trip, go out to dinner or a movie.

Women wear many hats and we try to accomplish everything set before us; women are dying pre-mature deaths because they have too much pressure placed on them and they don't realize what stress does to them. Stress will break down the immune system, and when the immune system isn't functioning properly this is how diseases attack the body.

## RELEASE YOUR STRESS TO GOD

Stress causes high blood pressure. It causes a loss of sleep which will also cause harm to the body.

Find something that you like to do and start doing it, take care of yourself. Another way to alleviate stress is laughter. Look at a comedy movie and let laughter over-ride stress. Find something that will get your mind off of whatever is stress-

ing you out. If you can't find a plan to resolve the issue then find a way to release the pressure until there is a change in the circumstance.

The best thing one can do is pray. Prayer connects you with God and it strengthens your faith. Prayer will not always solve the problem, but it will relieve the stress because you're no longer looking at what's

stressing you, but you're looking at who can deliver you from what's stressing you. Always remember there is nothing too hard for God, if it's impossible for you, then it's a situation for God to handle.

## CONFIDENCE: YOU CAN MAKE IT

In life there will be many trials and tribulations, hurt, pains and tears, but always remember that God loves you and when you place your faith in God, it is God that will enable you to accomplish the things you desire. It is God that enables us to do everything we do whether we believe in God or not. God sees and

hears everything. There is nothing going on in your life God is not aware of, and in time He will come to your rescue. There is no failure in God. To receive the blessings that God desires for us, we have to be placed in a position to appreciate who gave us the blessing and don't think that we did it ourselves. God

will give His glory to no one! God's thoughts toward you is not evil, but they are good to bring you to an expected end. Satan will tell you, you can't make it, you can't do it, but tell him, you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you!