



DON'T THEY MAKE A LOVELY COUPLE?



Six Important Questions
You Need To Face
About Your Marriage



By *John and Ann Benton*

CHRISTIAN FOCUS





Scripture quotations taken from the HOLY BIBLE,
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This book is dedicated to

Adrian and Sarah
Arthur and Eileen
Klaus and Suzanne
Phil and Monika

with love and appreciation for your godly
priorities and example to God's people at
Chertsey Street.





Preface

We had to run away together in order to write this book. Life is very busy! (Many thanks must go to David and Judith Fuhr for allowing us to use their excellent bolt-hole on the South Coast).

As we separately wrote our pre-allocated chapters and then read each other's work, an interesting, though perhaps unsurprising, feature emerged: each of us was writing in his/her own voice. In effect, one of the points we make in this book was being demonstrated. The discerning reader will spot the distinction in style: in three chapters the male direct approach; analytical and logical; in three chapters the female country road: intuitive and personal. No attempt has been made to unify the voices into a corporate house style. Rather, it is to be hoped that, as is intended in marriage, the male and female contributions complement each other effectively.

John & Ann Benton





Introduction







We got married in September 1970. It was a blazing hot day: the men sweated in their top hats and tails and we all squinted at the camera.

The preparations for our wedding day, (although modest by today's standards) had been substantial and had largely been made by our parents: all we had to do was turn up. By contrast the preparations for our marriage meanwhile had been, in any explicit sense, non-existent, but implicitly they too were made by our parents. They were the generation that sang 'Love and marriage, love and marriage, go together like a horse and carriage.' They believed in marriage and believed it was, "til death do us part', a safe, solid and sensible context for raising children and for life itself, even if they did not know why. We benefited from the security generated by that philosophy.

But we ourselves were the generation that sang 'All you need is love, dum da dada da'. That same generation went on to prove the falsity of that statement by divorcing in unprecedented numbers. Divorce rates continued to rise throughout the remainder of the twentieth century. Cohabitation is now the preferred option of many twenty-first century couples, anxious not to repeat their parents'





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mistakes. Not that there is any guarantee of permanence there.

The result of all this is, among many other tragedies, utter confusion about what marriage is. What should a couple expect of marriage? Why does it go wrong? What can be done to prevent it going sad and stale?

This book is written to answer such questions. Lovely couples too frequently end up at loggerheads. They need more than love: they need truth. We all do. Truth is to be found first and foremost in the Bible, the Maker's instructions. Apparently, only 1 in 10 people refer to the user guide of any newly purchased gadget for the home – until the thing breaks down, that is. Probably rather less than 1 in 10 look at what the Bible has to say about marriage before entering the married state. But God's truth is for everyone and wherever it is acted upon, it does good.

By the grace of God and the application of his truth, the knot so carelessly tied 33 years and 6 months ago has held, to the increasing, if not uninterrupted, delight of ourselves and our family. The grace and truth continue to be a daily necessity, however, and so it is with a due sense of humility and thankfulness, that we pass on what we have learned of God's truth concerning marriage, to others.

