

thing doesn't satisfy all the hopes and desires that I have it's a mistake; let's divorce her and throw it away! But that cannot be true of Christian marriage. In getting married you are receiving a great blessing, but you are taking upon yourself a tremendous responsibility. And you have a responsibility to help that marriage partner to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and in being a blessing to her and God has laid a tremendous responsibility on you in that.

I heard a program on the radio, or TV the other day in which the statement was made that most people when they get married think their marriage partner is just absolutely perfect. This is absolute perfection, nothing like it anywhere in the world! They have that attitude for a while and then they go to the opposite extreme and they think the marriage partner is absolutely no good at all. They go from one extreme which is utterly irrational, to the other which is equally irrational and every little thing that takes place makes them wonder why they ever married this person! But then, they said, in the majority of marriages, they reach the position where they realize that the other person like themselves is imperfect and has faults but that they probably are as well suited to each other as any they would ever find. They made a reasonable marriage out of it instead of a dream one as is apt to be when the person first gets married.

So a person has a responsibility toward the one he has married-- a responsibility before the Lord to help make them into jewels that God wants him or her to be. And that responsibility toward the wife is very important. In seminary where so many have to work so many hours in order to pay expenses, and also the wife working many hours there is apt to be a tremendous strain on the marriage situation.