

Wedding ceremony of Samuel Waldron Phelps-Roper (SWP-R) and  
Jennifer Lynn Hockenbarger (JLH) at Westboro Baptist Church in  
Topeka, Kansas, on August 10, 2002

Conducted by Pastor Fred Waldron Phelps, Sr. (FWP)

FWP: Dearly Beloved: We're gathered together here in the presence of God; the Church being assembled; and being compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses to see and hear what we do; and with an innumerable company of angels; to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony in order to obey God in the matter and in the establishment of a new body in Christ Jesus. Marriage is the most ancient of all human institutions; having been ordained by the Lord God in Eden before the Fall. Marriage is emblematic of Christ and his bride, the Church; to be held inviolate and to be gloriously consummated at the great marriage supper of the Lamb at the end of the world.

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." (Rev 19:9).

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

Karl Hockenarger: Her Mother and I.

FWP: Thank You.

Sam, wilt thou have Jennifer to thy wedded wife to live together in the holy estate of matrimony?

SWP-R: I will.

FWP: And, wilt thou love and cherish her, and deal truly and faithfully with her; and render honor unto her as unto the weaker vessel; and, as being heirs together of the grace of life that your prayers be not hindered; and forsaking all others keep you only unto her until God by death shall separate you?

SWP-R: I will.

FWP: And, Jennifer, wilt thou have Sam to be thy wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony?

JLH: I will.

FWP: And wilt thou love and obey him, being in subjection to him in all things; and forsaking all others keep you only unto him until God by death shall separate you?

JLH: I will.

FWP: Sam, will you please place a ring on Jennifer's hand and say to her, "With this ring, I thee wed?"

SWP-R: With this ring, I thee wed.

FWP: And, Jennifer, will you please place a ring on Sam's hand and say to him, "With this ring, I thee wed?"

JLH: With this ring, I thee wed.

FWP: Now, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, I pronounce that you are man and wife; and what God Almighty has joined together let no man put asunder. Amen.

Now you may kiss the bride briefly and sit down. ... Long enough.

I have a word or two to say to you guys from the Good Book. It starts with you memorizing Hebrews 13:4: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will damn in hell forever." A good verse to start with. I recommend you memorize it. Type it up on a piece of paper, stick it on the mirror in the bathroom so that every morning when you shave or wash or anything, you see it.

"Marriage is honourable in all." That means in all times, in all places, and in all cultures. Wherever the sons and daughters of Adam live, marriage is honourable. One man; one woman; one lifetime. No messing around about that. And, that bed is undefiled. The marriage bed alone is undefiled. Every other sexual connection is defiled; and constitutes fornication, whoremongering, adultery; and for which, that verse says, God Almighty will damn your souls in hell forever. Is that a good verse to start with? Hebrews 13:4?

I said a bit a ago that you were beginning a new body today. There's a new body in this universe, a new house, a new household. I got that from Ephesians 5, where it says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." If that marriage makes shipwreck, Sam; it's on you. It'll be because you dealt treacherously with the wife of your youth. And there will be an irrebuttable presumption that arises in the minds of all God's people on this earth that you caused it. You did it. Because it was your house; it was your body. You're responsible to save

it. And, you're responsible in all the vicissitudes of life to see to it that that house is built upon a rock.

I got that idea out of Matthew 7, where the Lord Jesus said, "Wherefore, if any man hear my words and keep my sayings, he will be a wise man who built his house upon a rock: and, the rains descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew, and beat upon that house; but it stood: for it was built upon a rock. But a foolish man builds his house on the sand: and the rains come, and the floods descend and the floods come, and the winds blow, and beat upon that house; and it falls: and great is the fall thereof." And, the Lord Jesus said all that right after saying, (all that I just told you begins with a "therefore" that points to what just went before, and what went before is) "not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not preach in thy name? have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you workers of iniquity, you!" Then comes the "Therefore". It's all about a house.

So, it's a very solemn matter, and I don't want to darken up your day at all, Sam. But I'm laying some stuff on 'ya. I might not ever get this shot at 'ya again, when you're in this exact mood.

The day that John Kennedy was shot in Dallas he made a speech to a businessmen's group in Fort Worth, and he began it with Psalm 127:1. And, he did that because his speech writer in those days was a Southern Baptist preacher who backslid. But, he remembered Psalm 127:1. And, John Kennedy, the Catholic, out of King James version

quoted it to those businessmen in Forth Worth, minutes before he was shot. “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.” And, he applied it to government. Kennedy applied it to government. “We need God in this country.” And, that verse comes to mind almost every day, when that idiot in the White House is rattling those swords, and claiming he knows how to defend this country. He don’t know diddly. “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: and except the LORD keep this miserable country, the watchman waketh but in vain.” And, so I say it has some application to government. But that’s not the context.

Listen Sam and Jennifer: “Except the LORD build the house”-- your house—“they labour in vain that build it.” Because the next verse says, “Lo”—exclamation mark—“children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. And, blessed is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall rise up and speak, contend and prevail with the enemies in the gate.” So, right after you get through typing Hebrews 13:4 on a little piece of paper; put Psalm 127:1.

I’m going to give you a little more advice here, Sam; bless your heart. And, thank you Karl and Kay for this girl, for Jennifer. And, for letting Sam have her.

Matthew 19. They came testing the Lord Jesus; hurled this in his face; because it is the hardest of all human knots to untie. “Rabbi, can a man put away his wife for any reason whatever?” That’s a toughie. It says they put that to Jesus like that to try to trick him, to try to catch him in

some speech. The Lord Jesus said in answer to that, and in answer to all these silly, goofy, questions about same-sex marriage, and divorce and remarriage, and all the rest of it. He deals with it in one fell swoop of the sword of the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, Can't you read?!? Can't you read, you heretics?!? He that made them, he that created them, at the beginning created them man and wife; and said unto them—I'm talking about at the beginning. I'm talking Genesis Chapter 1 and Genesis Chapter 2. The Lord Jesus Christ said to these Pharisees, who are supposed to be experts in that Scripture, Can't you read?!? "He that made them at the beginning" —Matthew's account says "made"; Mark's account says, "made them at the beginning" —"made them male and female, and said unto them, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother." There wasn't any fathers and mothers when that word was given by God Almighty to Adam and Eve; there wasn't any children; there wasn't any parents; One man and one woman. And, at that time, the Lord God said, "for this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother"; There wasn't any fathers and mothers. This is a profound mystery, and Ephesians 5 says, "this is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the Church". And "they twain" —I'm going on in Matthew 19—"and they twain"—two. That knocks polygamy in the head forever. That knocks polyandry in the head forever. That knocks divorce and remarriage in the head forever. That knocks premarital sex and extramarital sex in the head forever. It disposes of it, from the mouth of Jesus Christ. "They twain"—one male, one female—"shall be one flesh".

You're stuck with her, boy. 😊

And, let me tell you another verse. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." (Proverbs 18:22)

Abraham sent his servant out to look for Isaac a wife, because he was 40 years old already and things did not look good. So he sent his servant way off to the land of his fathers, and said, "find Isaac a wife." And, said, "God's angel will go before you in this matter." And, along the way, he says, "and God's angel shall be with you in this matter." I tell you, Sam and Jennifer, marriage is a holy business and a profound business; and involves the active participation of the angels of God. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." That means that if you find a good wife, of course, that's in the context of the verse. You don't want no sluts. You want somebody like the Proverb says, a good woman, a good woman; precious jewel; price far above rubies. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."

So, I used to dandle you upon my knee, Sambo. From the time you were 2 days old. He is a good boy, Jennifer. And, at this spot, I performed the marriage of Jennifer's father and mother, you know. They raised her in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and she's a good girl. So, I love you; I'm expecting good things out of you; and behave yourselves.