

The following letter was written by Charlie Williams, Ministry to Men Director. After many requests for him to write a book about *Ministry to Men* and after several attempts to do just that, someone suggested he simply write letters sharing some of the truths God has been teaching him during the years.

We will be posting his letters on the Ministry to Men Web site. This letter was posted on May 23, 2011.

Letter 37 Five stages of love. Ephesians 5:33

A young school teacher in one of our home bible studies was telling me about her boyfriend and how much she loved him and how they were looking forward to their wedding. I asked her if I could point out a couple of things she may not appreciate and mostly because of her love and confidence in me she said 'go ahead'.

The first thing I told her was a real challenge in most marriages was that the couple usually spent more time, treasure and planning on their wedding than they did on their marriage. She gave me a strange look and spent a few minutes defending their plans.

Next I told her that more than likely right now what she was experiencing with her husband to be was not love but infatuation and that more likely than not sometime in the near future she (and he) would be disillusioned because their expectations were not being met. This would bring on misery, and for too many marriages I told her that's where they end but if we trust God and not let misery drive you there you will begin to experience acceptance which will lead you to love.

The five stages are:

1. Infatuation
2. Disillusionment
3. Misery
4. Acceptance
5. Love

She really let me know how much she loved her future husband and how this would never happen to them.

Several years later I received a letter from her on how they had gone through all these stages and how much they were now experiencing and enjoying real love.