

## For Starters

January 12, 2003

I don't know them from Adam... but I wish I did! This week, our local town paper ran an article with an accompanying picture about Pat & Bruce Elmblad. Now, just what makes them deserve an article in our paper? Just the fact that they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! Mrs. Elmblad has volunteered at the Newton-Wellesley Hospital for over fifteen years and Mr. Elmblad remains active in both his alma maters, namely Michigan Tech and the United States Military Academy at West Point. They have four children and five grandchildren. They sound like pretty nice folks to me.

I contrast that story to another one in the "Entertainment" section of our paper that talks about the probable marriage of a very famous, young, singer/actress who will now be marrying for the third time in four years. She is considered to be a wonderful role model for our youth because she is so hard working and has gotten "so far" in her career already.

I now read (in the NY-Times) about marriages being described as "starter marriages" - in much the same way as you would buy a "starter house". These marriages are for people who are "entering" the marriage "market" and need a "temporary" spouse to help them get used to the idea of marriage. These marriages can then be later dissolved without acrimony because there was no longevity implied in the initial commitment. In the same way, starter houses are not bought with the intention of staying in them too long.

Wow... is that what marriage is coming to? I certainly hope not. I've been married thirty-one years and I'm still discovering new things about my spouse!

The Bible speaks of marriage in terms of a covenant - a mutual promise to face life together with God being at the core of it. Think of a rope with three strands, which bind it all together and you get the picture. "Starter marriages" would be an atrocity in God's sight.

So, if you're married and reading this, thank God for the gift you have received in the form of your spouse. But if you're not, don't buy into the idea of a "starter marriage"... it's not a buyer's market!