

A close-up photograph of a couple's hands clasped together. The person on the left has dark skin and is wearing a brown long-sleeved shirt and a black beaded bracelet. The person on the right has light skin and is wearing a white sleeve. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting. A large, semi-transparent white circle is centered over the hands, containing the title and subtitle text.

# THE Ideal Christian MARRIAGE

Understanding How  
it Works

Author:  
Sam Olamiji Akibu



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# THE IDEAL CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

UNDERSTANDING  
HOW IT WORKS

By  
SAM OLAMIJI AKIBU

*First Fruits Press*  
*Wilmore, Kentucky*  
*c2019*



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## LOVINGLY DEDICATED

### TO VERONICA FOLASHADE, MY QUEEN

---

A dependable partner in life, and ministry I call you Queen, because that is who you are. Thanks for believing in me and inspiring me to greater things. Your love, friendship, and support make my living with you each day a gift. I would not be who I am without the precious imputes you made in my life and ministry. I respect you, admire you, and look forward to spending the rest of our lives together. You are a second to no one.

### TO RACHAEL OLUWAJOMILOJU

---

You are such an incredible daughter; you are not only beautiful on the outside, but also beautiful on the inside. You have such a tender heart; you are smart and funny with a great sense of humor. You are going to make a significant impact on your world.

### TO ANNA OLUWADARA

---

You are beautiful, smart, and healthy. Sometimes your appearance resembles that of a little angel. Indeed, you are. Thank you for growing so healthily, I love you for it. You are a vessel unto honor.

### TO SAMUEL OLAMIJI AKIBU JR.,

---

My son, no doubt we look incredibly alike, and I have also seen that you are smart. I love you because you are already demonstrating certain leadership qualities and intelligence in key areas. Grow up in God's wisdom and strength and take charge.

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## IN LOVING MEMORY

### PRINCESS MORADEUN, MY CHERISHED MOTHER

---

We your children started by calling you Maami, some of us called you Iya Ibeji, later Mama. I watched you go through many things in life, grappled with a lot of pains especially in marriage that I couldn't be of help to. I remember in my younger years that i cried for you just because I had no solution to your problems.

The worst happened Sunday morning of 8th September 2013 when you couldn't hold a bit more to enjoy all that you labored for. But God knows best, as you have really gone to rest.

Maami, I will immortalize you, because you laid the foundation for whom and what I am today.



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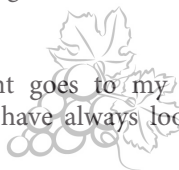
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and her faculty have played in my theological and ministerial training cannot be overemphasized. WATS is truly a land of inspiration for breeding both theological and ministerial giants. She is indeed my Alma Mata; I recommend her to the readers of this book. I really enjoyed the tutelage and friendship of many lecturers during my study days both at the under graduate and the graduate level.

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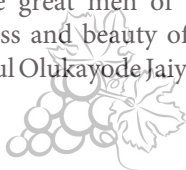
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opportunity to acknowledge her services in raising our two beautiful daughters. God bless you Mama. And to all our other children in the house, Yetunde, Abayomi, John Gad and Feyishara, and my wonderful siblings and in-laws, the Lord will bless you all in Jesus name. Amen

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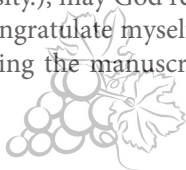
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of CCC Central Cathedral, Abuja who gladly and willingly accepted to write the foreword to this book. Daddy, I say a big thank you to you sir. I acknowledge and appreciate the fatherly and indefatigable support of (Dr.) Akin Arikawe, OON, Pioneer Director General of Nigeria's Debt Management Office, and retired Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Republic of Nigeria whose comments and commendation on my marriage seminar in Abuja, courtesy of the Youths organization of Celestial Church of Christ, Central Cathedral, Abuja set the tune for this book. Prophet (Dr). Tunde Orebiyi, General Manager of AIT Sports, Abuja also made remarkable and intelligent contribution to the success of this book, thank you sir. Another wonderful man is a great brother and friend in the ministry Bro. Femi Arikawe who painstakingly and diligently proofread and edited this work.

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## FOREWORD



There are different types of marriage in the world today (Christian, Islamic, Traditional, Buddhist marriages.)

This book is written on ideal Christian marriage focusing on the road-map, pointers, signs, and serves as user's manual for a successful marriage.

The author exposed the effect of Christian ethics on marriage, and opened up pitfalls in pre-marriage relationships.

Marriage is an institution established and ordained by God; therefore, the ideal Christian marriage is a union of a man and a woman (Gen.2:24). It is not a union between a man and another man, or a woman and another woman consummating in a marriage. That of course, is unbiblical.

Understanding the word of God and the principles of ideal Christian marriage encapsulated in this book will serve as corner-stone for blissful and peaceful marriage.

On a wider level however, peace and harmony in various families as the smallest units of the society will lead to greater peace in the social, economic, and the political strata of the society.

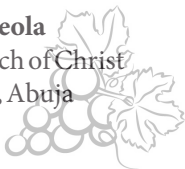
Evangelist Sam Olamiji Akibu's contribution through this book will not only help reduce the "jump in jump out syndrome" called early divorce, and assist our young female against single mother malady rampaging our society today.

His expositions on marriage check-ups, sex life, money matters, in-law issues and effective communication in marriage are pivotal to enjoyable marriage.

I congratulate the author for putting his knowledge of the word of God, his teaching and marital experience out for the benefit of the public.

Finally, I recommend this book to both married couples and intending marriageable singles to understand the work ability of Christian marriage. Let God be the pillar and controller of your marriage and you will be happy for life. God bless.

**Dr. Paul Olukayode Jaiyeola**  
Shepherd, Celestial Church of Christ  
Central Cathedral, Garki, Abuja



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## PREFACE



One of the Nigerians' female celebrities was invited to one of popular TV programs, in which marriage was the focus of discussion. It then became well understandable why many people cannot and would never be able to sustain their marriages, especially the so called "celebrities", as she bluntly opined that marriage is bondage. In her views, the woman ends up living another person's life, jettisoning her right and her freedom to live just to please a man (husband) that she's married to.

Similar to her position are some who are of the view that marriage is a mere social contract that can be dissolved or be disengaged from at will, while others are of the opinion that nothing last forever including marriage.



As all these share misunderstandings and misconceptions of the institution of marriage, the question then would be, 'what is the God's master plan for marriage?

God founded the institution of marriage just after the institution of rest (Sabbath) in the Garden of Eden, and it was the first institution attacked by the devil, and also still under the attack of the enemy even till date. As Jesus stepped into history, marriage was the first occasion he attended to perform his first earthly miracle, indicating that God indeed meant well for man by creating this blessed and blissful institution for both male and female.

Unfortunately, many have not come to the understanding (ignorance) of what the original plan of God is, and how seriously the devil is fighting to making sure that man doesn't enjoy this act of benevolence of God.

Most marriages today are far from being that ideal marriage God planned. Meanwhile, God has given us a manual-the Bible, which does not leave us in the dark as to what God actually desires in the institution he founded before the fall of man, and as such, many things are working in the opposite direction.

As against "it is not good that the man/'woman' to be alone", what seems to be prevalent is the opposite: Divorce, Separation, Single Parenting, and loneliness in many marriages. In the place of "they two shall be one flesh", polygyny and division seem to be the order of the day. Also, the Bible puts it expressly that "male and female created he them" but some countries of the world today, have created platform

for man and man, woman and woman to be married as husbands and wives, even among man and animal.

While God indeed frowns at divorce and putting away, 50% of most first marriages, 60% of the second, and 70% of some mostly end in divorce. This is according to a statistics of many western marriages; even Africa is not safe from this irresponsibility any longer. The number of broken homes and couples living separately are on the increase on daily basis. Marriage is meant to be “honorable in all” but it is the most abused and disrespected institution today. While Africans and some other parts of Asia afflict it with polygyny (a man marrying more than one wife) and polyandry (a woman marrying more than one husband), American and Europe visit it often with serial marriages (leaving one marriage for another) and gay marriages (homosexuality/same sex marriage) and bestiality (marriage between human and animals).

Children from many broken homes have all fallen into the claws of one terrorist group or the other who now use them as suicide bombers and elements of mass destructions. The situation has gone so moribund to an extent that single brothers and sisters in the church are now afraid to go into marriage. While many resort to single life, others prefer to simply just having sexual partners. As many are tired and confused and are in need of urgent answers and solutions, the hosts of others have resulted to fate.

However, God of man has never abandoned his man to his fate, but constantly making ready solutions to his teaming problems. This is not to say that there is any marriage without

peculiar challenges, but understanding the workings of the ideal Christian marriage as laid down by God in the Bible is the only effective solution to many problems in marriage.

It should be on record therefore, that there is no problem in marriage that is without a solution. Prayerfully understanding and putting all the biblical principles contained in this book to use will not only guarantee victory and success, but hopefully will also be the key to securing your marital fulfillment in Jesus name.

Sam Olamiji Akibu  
Ideal Life Ministries  
January, 2017



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*“Now the Lord God said, it is not good  
(sufficient, satisfactory)  
That the man should be alone;  
I will make him a helper meet  
(suitable, adapted, complementary)  
for him...therefore a man  
shall leave his father and his  
mother and shall become united  
and cleave to his wife,  
and they shall become one flesh”  
- (Gen.2:18, 24)*

*Amplified*



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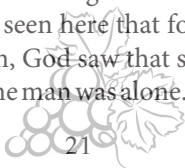
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### MARRIAGE IS GOD'S IDEA

**I**deal is the right word that perfectly defines the kind of marriage the Lord God made in the Garden of Eden. This is to establish first and foremost that marriage is God's own initiative. According to what the writer of Genesis recorded, that prior to the creation of this institution, God saw that everything He created was good except that the man he created was alone.

God observed, "it is not good that man should be alone;" (Gen. 2:18a) it is seen here that for the very first time in the record of the creation, God saw that something was missing somewhere, and that is, the man was alone.



And as always, God who cares so much about His creation, especially the man He has created in His own image quickly swung into action by making the concluding statement thus; “I will make him a helper comparable to him.” (Gen. 2:18b).

This is the beginning of the blessed institution called marriage, and it is confirmed here that God is the sole initiator and creator of the institution called marriage. A careful and a follow-up study exposes us into how God actualize this and what His intensions are; coupled with a perfect description of all that He conceived of this holy institution.

God took the first and major step, which is to create the woman. The bible calls the woman the “remnant of the man's spirit” (Mal.2:15a) i.e. the remainder part of all that he is, without which he can function or fulfill destiny, and should be with him always and all the time.

It is pertinent, therefore, to believe and to know that marriage is to cushion the effect of loneliness, bridge emotional gap, and supply the strength togetherness alone can generate. This is why some who believe so much in this institution, and have taken so much time to grow it are reaping all these dividends, while others suffer serious psychological and emotional ailment and instability that failed marriage or lack of marriage has inflicted on them. Many are languishing in various psychological homes today as a result of one disappointment or the other they encountered in their marriages. My prayer is that the Lord will heal people and anyone going through such conditions today by mercy in the name of Jesus. (Amen)

Before this time, God had created the man (Adam), and placed him in a garden called Eden where he was instructed to carry out his assignment of keeping and cultivating the garden. (Gen.2:7,15). It is easy then to conclude that, God had made the man comfortable, giving him a place to dwell in and a job to do before thinking of marriage for him. This shows that God is a God of order; who put things in their proper perspectives. May we find the courage and patience to learn from this process of doing things in their right order in Jesus name (Amen)

In another passage, God was equally seen saying the same thing through Jeremiah to the Jews in exile “This is what the LORD almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile, from Jerusalem to Babylon; Build houses and settle; plant gardens and eat what it produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.”(Jer.29:4-6).

This by implication means that, any under-age, or anyone who has not made any meaning out of his own life has no business in marriage, less he makes a mess of this sacred commitment. In other words, he must have had something meaningful doing with at least an apartment to accommodate his wife. However, they can both team up to make a provision for an apartment. We may as well say that, he should be gainfully employed, though not necessarily living in the climax of his dreams with a fat bank account, but at least making a living that is enough to take care of him and the wife, if he eventually marries one. Unfortunately, many have missed it from this point, and

have ended up in great marital and financial crises.

One should have engaged with God and destiny before thinking about marriage at all. Like I always say to the singles in any given opportunity, that 'marry God, marry your destiny, before anyone else (wife or husband)'. My prayer is that singles today will understand and abide by this principle and not make or repeat the mistake of going into the marriage with virtually nothing in view. As your relationship with God, and the understanding of what you are (destiny) determine who you will eventually marry, and as a matter of fact, God must be fully involved in your choice of marriage. Wait! Don't rush into that marriage, so you don't rush out. Focus on God and the pursuit of your destiny just like Adam and let God determine whom you will marry and when you will marry. I allowed this to happen in my own case and I have not regretted it for one day. Rather, I am giving thanks to God till date for letting His wish come to pass.

I have been in the ministry for almost nine years, before I met my wife, this is to say, I have found God and destiny before I found my wife and that is why today, my wife is the best companion for my destiny, any other woman would have been a problem for me. This is why things have been very easy for me, and that is not to say either that we don't have our challenges, but God has proven to ever been involved in our union together.

Some have made a mess of this holy institution by fulfilling one, and neglecting the other, they claim to be faithful practitioners by failing to plan for their own future ahead of

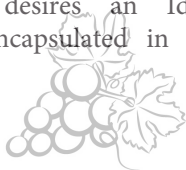
marriage, saying “God will do it”, and they have no clue into what the future holds for them. Men of faith are men of destiny, and men of destiny are men of faith. So, don't be deceived. God is not an author of confusion. God knows faith more than you and I, but He desires that his people should walk and live by faith; by His actions and commands in the scriptures, He has shown us examples and advocates that His people practice sanity in marriage, which will guaranty peace and engender success in marriage.

Jesus also explains that anyone who desires to build a tower would first sit and count the cost. (Luke 14:28).

This was what God intended for marriage- hassle free and blessing filled. So all the troubles people go through in marriage today are not part of God's original plan for the institution of marriage. He made everything beautiful in its own time, setting a standard for how it should be done thereafter, and this standard remains so with God in spite of all human abuses.

Marriage comes with many nuances that only matured mind can handle, that was why God waited till Adam was old and matured enough to gain the full understanding of all that it requires before He brought Eve. A young and pre-mature has no business in marriage.

All that have been said is; God has original plan for marriage that everyone who desires an Ideal marriage must understand. This is encapsulated in the following points below;



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## GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

Someone has said that if the purpose of a thing is not known or well defined, abuse is inevitable. Being aware of what God really created this holy and blessed institution for will go a long way to lay many things to rest. God is not a wasteful God; He created everything for a purpose including marriage; hence the following are why God created marriage:

However, partnership here should not erode the respect and honor the wife has towards the husband.

i. **Partnership** - before God created the man, there was an assignment God had for him to carry out, and he needs a partner to fulfill this assignment. Alas! Every man has a God given destiny which he cannot fulfill on his own without a partner. God fore-knew and understood this when he proclaimed that “it is not good for the man to be alone” every successful marriage must fulfill the purpose of partnership for this is the first aspect of man's life that God takes care of, as He realized that he (the man) needs a partner for his destiny to be fulfilled. This is one of the great blessings of marriage that people have abandoned today, especially the man himself that makes him to suffer without end. Woe unto a man that abandons his partner and walk/work like a lone ranger, for he has missed his source of great blessing.

However, partnership here should not erode the respect and honor the wife has towards the husband.

“Two are better than one, because they have good return for their work: if one falls down his friend can help can him up.

But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?" Eccl 4:9-11. This is one suitable passage in the Bible for partnership that husband and wife must make their companion. The day a man finds a wife, he has not only found a good thing, but he has also obtained the favor of the Lord which is encoded in the unending partnership he now enjoys with his wife because he is no longer to live and do things alone, as the same applies to the woman. Husband and wives begin to have fulfillment when they work in collaboration to achieve all of their goals, as they now get better and quicker results from all of their efforts.

I had this understanding long before I got married, so from the very first day my wife and I got married, we do everything together, and that is why within just few years of our marriage we have had a tremendous achievement. Neither of us could have been able to achieve that much within such space of time had we not worked in partnership. It is a wisdom every man must possess to have a quick breakthrough in every area of his life. I advise husband and wife in marriage to always try to do things together, for this is the ideal plan of God for marriage institution which makes things work better and faster.

It is unfortunate that in many of today's marriage the reverse is the case, as husband and wife are seen pursuing different agenda from different end trying to out-smart one another as though competing for an Olympic medal out of suspicion and selfishness, allaying unnecessary fear and thereby ending up not being faithful to each other. This is far from God's agenda for marriage; marriage should better bring solution and blessing, rather than curses and the problems. More so, the

success of every marriage depends on the partnership and collaboration that exist between the husband and the wife which is also applicable in the upbringing of their children.

Coincidentally, the man has a divine assignment that his wife must support him to actualize. It is in this fulfillment that the woman too gets fulfilled. This is why they are no longer two but one as the bible teaches, and for the same reason, a man will leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Gen. 2:24.

ii. **Prevention of sexual immorality** - “But since there is so much immorality, each man should marry his own wife and each woman her own husband.”- 1Cor.7:2. In the face of global moral bankruptcy and sexual recklessness, God seems to be saying; from the scriptural point of view that marriage is the only solution to sexual faithfulness. Unfortunately, this has proven otherwise due to human depraved nature, lack of regard for the word of God, and lack of commitment to marital vows and erosion of moral values.

God designed sex for husband and wife, not for just two individuals, more so, He created human beings with such desire for sex, and that such desire can always push us against Him when it is not properly channeled due to human depravity after the fall, so He gave the express command against sexual sins. Lev.18:6-26

Sex is only given to be enjoyed between a man and a woman who are legally married. It is defilement when it is practiced outside of marriage, or when it is practiced between persons of the same sex.”. 1Cor. 7:9

More detailed discussion about sex and sexuality in marriage will come much later.

iii. **Procreation** - when God created man the Bible says He created them male and female and He blessed them thus. “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.” Gen 1:28a. Apart from the obvious reason of partnership, another cardinal and fundamental purpose for marriage is procreation. This is not just to compensate the man, but it is in accordance with God's agenda that through the marriage of Adam and Eve and other subsequent marriages that man should bring forth offsprings after God's likeness that will populate the earth. God could have done this once and for all at creation, but He chose to achieve this through the union of man and woman.

In fact, the Bible tells us what children are in the following passage “...Children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of ones' youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies at the gate”. (Psalm 127:3-4) NKJV God desires that every marriage be blessed with children, so that they can carry-on with their parents' posterity.

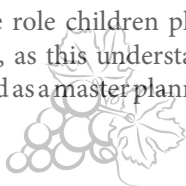
This is the main reason why the entire world should rise and speak against America's policy of Gay Marriage and Abortion so we can stay true to our moral values. And just like God Himself moved to disrupt the first plot of Tower of babel, (Gen.11:4-8) the European Union, United Nation, African Union and the Middle East should equally recognize this act as a reverser of the divine order, and a gross rebellion against our common

course and source, and that they are plots and rebellion against God and an avenue to truncate the destiny of humanity thereby dragging the entire human race into extinction, and to further be caught in the web of the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Neither a union between a man and a man, nor a relationship between a woman and a woman will ever result into pregnancy that will produce a child. It is only the union between a man and a woman that is programmed by God to achieve this blessed purpose. I therefore plead with my fellow Africans to please jettison this ungodly act of the Western world and kick against such ungodliness with one voice.

Also, vasectomy and total removal of the woman's womb on the platform of choice or enjoyment in marriage is equally not acceptable to God, although He is not against family planning. We are mandated through our marital unions to obey God's command on procreation and in turn fill the earth. The Bible says "children are a heritage from the Lord..." Psalm 127:3. The desire of God is that after marriage every woman should bring forth a child; my prayer through this platform to every woman believing God for the fruit of the womb is that you will carry your baby in the name Jesus, and nothing will stand in your way of fruitfulness in Jesus name. Amen.

The blessedness and the role children play in marriage would be discussed much later, as this understanding will help us all to come to appreciate God as a master planner.



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iv. **Provision and companionship** - everybody has a need, man and woman alike, although this varies from gender to gender and from person to person. God created the institution of marriage out of necessity- that is; it is not good for the man to be alone. In essence, if it is not good for the man to be alone, it is equally not good for the woman to be alone. As earlier mentioned, man and woman have various needs that marriage is designed to cater for. The concern really should now be what these needs are, and how they are to be met.

Marriage touches every aspect of human life- spiritual, physical, emotional, sexual, mental, relational, psychological and socio-economic. All these aspects of human life are so important with none indispensable, because the man and the woman were created with the tendencies which will always surface from time to time. No matter how one will want to suppress them, they will always fight back.

When God created the man, He created the woman also, and the bible establishes further, “Nevertheless, neither is man independent of a woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord.” (1Cor. 11:11NKJV). It is a symbiotic relationship where they need each other for survival. Man is wired in such a way that there is an aspect of his life that only his relationship with a woman can complement, likewise the woman.

Before the creation of the woman, the man was doing things all alone, but God in His unsearchable wisdom knew that the man could not cope with the situation for a very long time, therefore, the provision for the woman. Probably, against this

background the writer of Proverbs 18:22 wrote “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favors from the Lord”

Woman, on her own is provision personified, for she was created out of need, that is, she was to provide for the need of the man, and the man in return supplies her own needs too, for everyone must learn to cater for the things they value, especially when their survival depends on it. This is a mystery, just as two becoming one is.

Hence, there are individual responsibilities for the survival of the union. Failure in these responsibilities will tell on the marriage and on the individual couple. Details of these responsibilities will be given much later.

v.       **Protection** - The drama that surrounds the fall of man in the Garden of Eden has received different shades of opinion and interpretation, the most popular I have heard was the inability of Adam to protect the woman(Eve) God has given him which made her vulnerable to the Serpent' device. Although the narrative may not expressly agree with this interpretation, but it is expected that the man should be able to protect his wife from any attacks and assaults from any quarters.

One of the things we can humanly deduce from the account of the institution of marriage in the book of Genesis is aloneness of the man in the Garden or what one can simply call loneliness. That God found solution to this in itself is a weakness, and everyone born of a woman is born with at least one or more weaknesses. It is in this area of weakness every man and woman especially needs protection.

In fact, the Bible calls the woman “weaker vessel” that needs utmost protection from the man. We have received the news and reports of men and women in today's world who have not only exposed their spouses to danger, but have gone as far as literally using their hands to murder their own spouses. Abraham and Isaac both out of fear of survival denied their wives leaving them to their own fates respectively at various points, thereby making them vulnerable. Their wives should have been someone else's if not for divine intervention. (Gen. 12:11-19; 26:6-11)

What they both failed to do for their wives were what the pagan kings succeeded to do- protecting Sarah and Rebekah. So a husband should protect his wife and wife should protect her husband especially in the area of each other's weaknesses. Watch each other's back!

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IDEAL MARRIAGE

Furthermore, we also must consider briefly the unique characteristics of marriage as planned and intended by God. My prayer is that the Lord himself will grant us success in our marriages having gotten this understanding in Jesus name. Amen

i. **It is an institution founded by God i.e. it is the sole idea of God Himself - Gen.2:18.**

Great wonder Jesus, the express image of the living God, performed His first miracle at a marriage ceremony in Cana of Galilee. (John 2:1-11)



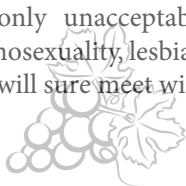
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In the above exposition to the discussion on marriage as recorded in the book of Genesis, the first thing you will discover is that marriage was an idea conceived by God alone. Man was not the one who suggested it to Him, the man Adam as earlier mentioned was only busy going about his usual daily business, until God discovered in him the need to give him a partner. This is a perfect example God has given to us all, that is not in consonant with how we go about it today, because the world seem to be in rush to get things done like never before.

Believe me, to discover God and destiny, and then wait for God to determine when and who we would marry is always the best option. (Pro. 3:5-6). Also, God is the only one who knows the best woman and the best man for you, as He confessed and determined “I will make him a help suitable for him” (Gen. 2:19)

ii. **It is created for male and female, and not otherwise -** Gen.2:22. It is only godly and holy for a man and woman to be joined in holy matrimony, and not the other way round. Today the world has come to experience all kinds of perversion that people called marriage. The proliferation of gay right is almost now synonymous with government policy everywhere in the world today. As men and men, women and women, animals and human being are not only permitted to marry each other, but are also given immunity under the laws of some countries to protect them from public assault and humiliation.

This is certainly not only unacceptable to God, but it is equally detestable as homosexuality, lesbianism and bestiality are all affront to God. They will sure meet with the wrath of



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God as did Sodom and Gomorrah, Egypt and the Canaanites.  
(Gen.19, Lev.18:22-23, 1cor.6:9)

iii. **It is created for one man and one woman** - Gen.2:22, 24.  
“Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made it into a woman... therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” monogamy the type of marriage where a man only marries one woman (wife) is the only perfect will of God. Although, other forms of union, such as polygamy and concubinages are all equally recorded in the bible, but this is not to say it is the acceptable will of God.

Polygamy is an umbrella name for both polygyny- a man marrying more than one wife at the same time, the culture Africans have come to accept today as the norm, and polyandry - a woman marrying more than one husband at a time, the culture which has become a norm in some parts of Asia.

From La'mech whose story the bible recorded as thus “Then La'mech took for himself two wives;” (Gen.4:19a)

There are two important things we must observe from the story of this man: first, this happened after the fall of man, so it is easy to conclude that it is one of the evidences that man was no longer what he used to be in the Garden of Eden, but now needed help. Secondly, it was recorded that 'he took for himself two wives' and not that the Lord gave him two wives. This stands in sharp contrast to what God did for Adam in the garden while in the original state. “Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a Woman, and

He brought her to the man.” (Gen. 2:22). The message here is simple, God gave one wife to man, man took two wives for himself.

To the story of David who committed murder so as to add wives, (2 Sam.11:2-27) polygyny has always been seen to be synonymous with one atrocity or the other.

As its progenitor and initiator, Lamech committed murder (Gen.4:23-24). David, one of its full propagators, equally committed murder, also Solomon who sealed it with idolatry and apostasy was not free from crime (1Kings 11:1-6). Even today, the major spiritual warfare most of us are confronted with is all the bi-products of this unholy institution.

Monogamy - one man one wife has proven to be indeed the only perfect will of God for man. As it breeds peace and sanity if its principles are all understood and practiced, even though it can be turbulent most times if God is not given a place of honor.

However, polygyny is neither condemned nor commended in the Bible. It may not stop people from going to heaven either, but God's perfect will for marriage, is one man, one wife. (Gen.2:24)

iv. **Marriage was designed to give mutual sexual satisfaction** - Prov.5:15-19. Sex was designed for married couples alone, i.e. to be practiced within the confines of marriage. This is notwithstanding all the perversion of pre-marital sex, extra-marital sex and body denial that is ravaging the society and many homes today. God is pleased with sexual

relationship between husband and wife, but frowns at it when it is practiced between two people who are not married. (Heb.13:4b). Husband and wife should obey God by not denying each other this pleasure, (1Cor.7:1-3) as this has become the point of disagreement in many homes today. Detailed discussion on this will come much later.

v. **Marriage is a permanent relationship broken only by death** - Mal. 2:16, Matt.19:4, Rom.7:2-3. While the marriage institution has been plagued with more divorce cases, separation and division in the recent times than any other time in history, the truth is that God hate putting away (divorce), because He designed marriage to be a permanent affair. No matter what happens and how people feel about it ... God's solid foundation stands firm- 2Tim.2:19 and He will not compromise His standard for anyone's sake, for He is no respecter of anyone.

Therefore, husband and wife should always look for every means possible to resolve their issues before it escalate into irreconcilable differences where two or three people or probably the entire family will have to intervene. Let "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord... Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her."- Eph.5:22-25.

While you think of divorce or separation, also think of what becomes of your children, how distorted the plans about their future will become, remember how disappointed the people you invited for your wedding would be, and above all, think of how traumatic life will become for you as a single parent or a divorcee, please, cleave together.

I remember a story I was told about a man who was a General in the Nigerian army and planned to divorce his wife with whom he had four kids with. On the day of their verdict that the Chief Judge was going to rule on their case, their four children were present in the Court room, the Judge shocked everyone present in the court room when he burst into tears in the presence of all of them. This happened just as he looked into the eye balls of the four beautiful and innocent children with which this couple was blessed.

He was blunt to tell the couple “I was not shedding tears for you, but for the future of these four innocent young lives that you are about to throw into Jeopardy”. Some may have a differing opinion to say that it doesn't matter, but the judge understood better than many people who may have been so privileged to watch the drama.

Marriage is a foundation for every family, and God has big plans for all families on earth, such as what He achieved through the family of Noah (Gen.7:7; 9:19). Hence, God detests that family should break apart.



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*So the LORD God caused the  
man to fall into a deep sleep  
and while he was sleeping, He took one  
of the man's ribs and closed up the place  
with flesh. Then the LORD God made a  
woman from the rib he had taken out of  
the man, and he brought her to the man  
- Gen 2:21-22.*



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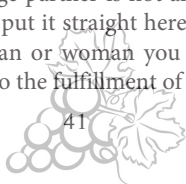
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### THERE IS A NEED TO FIND AN IDEAL PARTNER

**H**aving explored the God's concept of marriage and how it relates to the first man- Adam, and that God was the one who chose Adam's partner for him, it then becomes imperative for the believers to accept this not only as the standard, but also to draw from this living example, as there are similar examples in the Bible which we can learn from.

The choice of a marriage partner is not an issue to be handled lightly. I feel to quickly put it straight here that a marriage is as good as the kind of man or woman you choose to spend the rest of your life with also the fulfillment of destiny depend



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largely on this, longevity and prosperity of every man and woman are as well connected to this. This is the reason why everybody must marry right.

There is one great need that everyone who wishes to marry right must meet, and that is; THE NEED TO BE LED BY GOD.

Given any circumstance, every child of God must understand that if God truly is his/her father, the choice of marriage partner is not what you make outside His will.

And If I may ask that brother and that sister, are you sure God is leading you to that marriage with that person you have proposed to get married to, or are you just going there for the fun of it, or to satisfy your lust or parents? Listen! It takes more than love or age factor to make that decision. It is a life time commitment, therefore you got to be patient with God and you to decide. Adam, not minding his age and his comfortable job went about his business until God saw the need to give him Eve.

It takes more than old age and a good job; you need to hear from God directly before you say “yes I do”. There are more things to consider than just physical look, educational background, and social standing. Many who went for physical look are presently not finding it easy; I mean they are really crying foul. The fact that you both attend the same church doesn't make a person right or wrong. There is a right woman for every man and there is a right man for every woman which only God can determine, for He said, “...I will make a helper

suitable for him” (Gen.2:18b). Marriage can only be sweet when there is suitable helper or partner, and it will be bitter when it is equally the other way round.

The fact that a woman or man is good in some areas doesn't mean she/he is good for a wife or husband. The Bible says “charm is deceptive, and beauty is vain, but a woman who feareth the Lord, she shall be praised” (Prov. 31:30). Being born again doesn't even make him or her God ordained husband or wife. Although, it must be somebody who will help you to seek and love God better, after all, the light (Christians) should not have any fellowship with darkness (Unbelievers) 2 Cor.6:14, which is why being born again is a must- be considered factor, but it is not an end in itself as far as the will of God in a marriage is concerned. Therefore, not every born again you see on your way is your wife or husband, for every born again Christian has a God ordained wife or husband.

Like I said many years back, that who you decide to spend the rest of your life with will either help you get to where you are going, or hinder you from getting there.

Marriage and destiny are intertwined as shown in the earlier studies, which has to be somebody with whom you will fulfill destiny together, not the one who will stand in your way of destiny. Like I said many years back, that who you decide to spend the rest of your life with will either help you get to where you are going, or hinder you from getting there. May God help us in Jesus name (Amen). I have equally discovered in the recent times that longevity or brevity of life have now got so much to do with the choice of a marriage partner, as we have seen many who have gone to their early graves as a result of who they resolved to marry.

The Bible is a book that is full of many events, some of which are examples, while others serve as lessons for life. The same Bible is explicit about the choice of marriage. God specifically gave direct injunctions to his own children concerning whom they should, and who they should not marry.

Remember that when the sons of God saw the daughters of men and they got married to them, the result was more wickedness, and more evil on the face of the earth. (Gen. 6:2-6) Why because women were responsible for drawing their hearts away from God just as they did to Solomon hundreds of years later. (1Kings 11:1, 2).

Ever since then, God has given express injunctions as to the kind of marriage that should hold. Deut. 7:1-4. Abraham made his loyal servant to swear he will not marry a wife for Isaac among those whom God has rejected. Gen. 24:2-5.

The days of Nehemiah witnessed some sorts of segregation and separation of these gentile men and women from their Jewish spouses whom the Lord God had commanded the people not to intermarry. Not only were they intermarried to them but that these unions had led to mixed races, much defilement and sacrileges and above all, just like in the days of Solomon- apostasy before Nehemiah stepped into the scene. (Neh. 13:23-28)

As seen in the Bible, wrong choice of a marriage partner has led to many unpleasant situations like;

Increased wickedness on the face of the earth- Gen. 6:2-6 Aborted destinies/glorious (Samson- Judges 16:6-31)

Loss of peace at home and at work (Abigail- 2Sam.25:3-30)

Turning one's back against God/apostasy (Solomon- 1Kings 11:1-2)

Sudden death or death of a spouse (Ruth- Ruth 1:3-5)

Broken homes and divorce (Deut.24:1-3; 1Cor. 7:15)

Unfortunately, many people today are of the view that God has given up in making marital choices for men and women, leaving them to make the choice all for themselves. The reason for this assumption however, was that Adam indicted Him, God in the fall by saying "it is the woman you put here with me, she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." (Gen.3:12).

This view is not only incorrect, but an excuse away from the established standard of God as recorded in the book of Genesis, in as much as we consider other events that played out in the institution of marriage of Adam and Eve authoritative and are yardsticks to measure God's original plan for marriage even after the fall, then God should be fully involved in the choice of a marriage partner if truly we want His perfect will to be done in our marriage, which includes letting Him have His way in choosing a partner for us.

This also falls within the purview of a passage I have personally considered to be my golden scripture. - Prov. 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." I think what this passage is

saying is simple and straight forward; it means, we should put God first in every crucial moment of decision, not minding how much we know or how much we trust in our own sense of judgment,- seeking His will always.

Marriage is no man's idea, but God's. It therefore becomes imperative to follow his master plan to the letter. He has the manual for every aspect of marriage including the choice of a marriage partner. In all our ways, most importantly in choosing our marriage partners He is ready to go to the length that we give Him, more so, you are not left with any choice other than involving God, and that is if you really wish to marry according to His will. God is still in the business of giving to those who ask Him. (Jam. 1:17) This is notwithstanding many people marrying out of God's will, and facing the consequences today.

There is nothing as good as marrying according to His will. I will like to reiterate again that our sense of judgment is not enough in choosing a marriage partner, not even love is enough, unless God is involved. In my own case, I made bold to say that God chose for me, and am enjoying the dividends up till now, so do many others who have done it in God's way.

There is a need to expressly hear from God before you conclude on whom to marry or say I do to.

At this junction I would like to give some ideal tips, as well as certain established principles as to how to determine the will of God in choosing a marriage partner.

You remember the school days when we usually talked about life partner, when it was obvious that we had a long distance

to cover to arrive at the future. But I have corrected this view several times within the singles forum to say, 'you must have a clear cut vision about your future before you think of a future partner'. I see a need to reiterate that one has to secure a future before thinking of having a future partner, and that goes to mean that you have secured a relationship first with God who is the link between your TODAY AND YOUR TOMORROW, this is as shown earlier in the study through the life of Adam. Gen.2:15

Unfortunately, after many rounds of counsel teeming number of our youths still repeat the error. Many of them become husbands and wives due to the mistake of pregnancy out of wedlock. Pregnancy or not, there is a God ordained husband or wife for everyone, if pregnancy has bounded you with someone, then I pray for God's mercy for you.

## FACTORS THAT MUST NEVER INFLUENCE YOUR CHOICE

People have been compelled by various factors to settle just with anybody, because of many of the under listed below. To them just anyone would do factors:

**Church/Ministry Membership factor;** as long as you must marry someone of the same faith and religion, especially when the Bible has ruled that Christians should only marry Christians (2Cor.6:14), do not make the mistake that the person must be a member of your church or Christian ministry, or the same group in the church. It may work for others, but it doesn't work for all. Many church denominations have built a doctrine

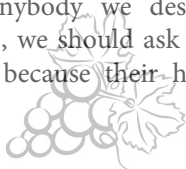
around this and have made it a yardstick, that all their church members must marry each other. This may be a church policy to retain membership or church growth, but it should not be upheld as a church doctrine. Experience and keen observations have shown that this has made some people remain single perpetually since there is no one who is ready to marry them in their church or denominations.

### **Please singles! Be wise**

**Parental influence or pressure factor;** these ones fall into the unfortunate category where their parents are either putting pressure on them to get married by all means, or influencing them to marry a particular individual due to many biases such as; tribal, economic, or friendship.

Many parents have insisted that their children must marry from their own tribes, friends, business or political associates or even somebody who belong to their social standing or caucus. As much as I have in many cases advocated parental involvement or guidance, parents must be careful to be sure that they allow God guide their decision, and that their decision is in the best interest of their children and not just sentiment.

Many of such marriages have ended in sorrows, tears and confusion especially if they are both married outside of the will of God. If there is anybody we desire that our son or daughter get married to, we should ask God if they are really meant for each other, because their happiness in marriage matters.



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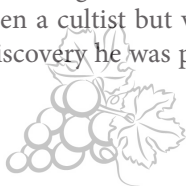
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Jacob was never satisfied with nor loved Leah and her children all through his life because she was a wife of deception; he was lured into marrying her. But he loved Rachel and her children because she was a woman of his choice. (Gen.29:21-28). So parents, let's be sure we are working for our children's happiness after all.

**Age factor;** many have allowed their age to influence their decision into just going to settle with anybody. This is especially so with women who put many things such as child birth, menopause, and people's opinion into consideration. They have allowed themselves to be robbed either by their own fears or people's opinion that will always let them know they are getting too old, therefore, they should simply go and settle down with any man they see on the street.

Sisters, please do not let your age tell you it is time to get married, let the will of God be done in your life. Many will marry early, while many will marry late, what matters is how far and how well the marriage will end up being.

I feel sad to tell a story of a sister who got wedded a week before my own wedding, as a matter of fact, she single handedly sponsored the wedding, since the brother didn't have a job at the time. And after the wedding they moved into the same apartment she was staying before the wedding. Few months away from the wedding, she came to discover that the husband has not just been a cultist but very ritualistic as well, and at the time of her discovery he was planning to use her for money ritual.



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What led her into the marriage was the fact that she considered her age, and that she might not have anyone to marry her in the long run. She struggled to see if she could mend things as she was thinking what people would say, and the fear that she might not see another man to marry her at that age, but unfortunately things became very unbearable and she had to quit the marriage after two years of pains, agony and what you would call inhuman treatment by the husband.

Hay! It is better to wait now than to wait later after the marriage has probably crashed.

Another testimony that will make you to know that it really worth waiting, is the story of a particular sister whose all siblings have been married. After all her younger ones have been married, she became very troubled and concerned. Whenever she prayed, God will tell her to wait for her own time to come, and her own time means, she has to wait for all her younger ones to marry. At a time she became so confused that she went about consulting men of God who all confirmed what the Lord told her.

Good enough, this sister waited and traveled to London at a time, there she met this brother, a British citizen who is a bit older but have never been married too. Today they are both happily married, living in London with their kids. As a matter of fact, her first born were a set of twins.

Please, single it's worth waiting for the right time, and God's time.



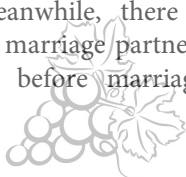
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**Peer pressure;** this is simply 'all my mates are married and have all given birth to children's' syndrome. A lot of young ladies today have suddenly begin to live with guys who don't love or care about them just because all their mates are married and have all given birth to children. The fact that all your peers are married with kids does not suggest that it's time for you to get married too.

I remember a time in my life when almost all my peers and colleagues in the ministry are either legally or illegally married, and a lot of people came to me to say hay, what are you watching, are you going to remain single or what? I would simply tell them that at the right time I would be married. And when the right time came, they all celebrated and embraced it. For it is always good to do the right thing only at the right time.

Please tell yourself that your friends' time should not determine yours, and that their success is not your success. You are different.

**Years of Courtship:** Some people have assumed that the number of years they spend together in courtship set the stage for longevity and prosperity of the marriage, or that it is a pre-requisite or the determinant factor for the rightness or wrongness of the marital choice. I must be sincere that neither of the two is correct, whom God chooses for you is the only right person. Meanwhile, there is always the right approach to choosing a marriage partner, and there is a right approach to courtship before marriage, both should not conflict with each other.



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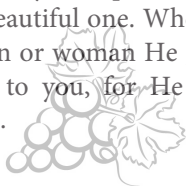
We have heard different stories of people who have dated each other for a period of five, seven or more years before they finally settled. This may be after many years of having sex together, or probably many rounds of pregnancy abortions.

Courtship is an integral part of marriage, but it is not a pre-requisite for making the right choice. More so, detailed discussion about courtship will come in the following chapter.

**Physical appearance/Attraction:** “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” –Prov.31:30.

As much as every man desires a beautiful woman, and every woman desires a handsome man, it should be done cautiously. More so, some want it big, while some like it slim, and as far as the scriptures is concerned, human beings are free moral agent with the capacity to discern, determine and choose what seem appealing to them, which is why we can recognize who is beautiful and who is ugly, but the fact is, God want us to submit our will to His.

Just as you desire to have a beautiful wife or handsome husband, please desire a good and beautiful marriage much more. More over, the beauty of a spouse is not a guarantee that the marriage will be a beautiful one. When you learn to accept the will of God, any man or woman He gives you will be very beautiful or handsome to you, for He has made everything beautiful in His own time.



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My friend in Ghana had always described to me the kind of woman and the features he wanted in any woman he would ever agree to marry, but when his wife eventually came, all her features stood in contrast to what my friend wanted. The question then becomes whether he would come to accept or love her, but as he come to accept her as the WILL of God for his life, the woman has become a miss world to my friend, as she becomes more beautiful to him by the day. This is exactly how it turns out to be when you come to learn to accept the will of God for your life, every woman becomes beautiful, and every man becomes handsome.

Do not go for outward beauty; go for inward beauty. Do not go for good look; go for God-look. Do not go for the make-up go for the character, for it pays to see through the eye lens of God. (1Sam.16:7)

**Financial status:** the Bible emphasizes “But Godliness with contentment is great gain.” 1Tim.6:10. Although as earlier mentioned, the man who is thinking about marriage should have been a man indeed, not just in look but in mind and emotion, weaned from his mother's breast to establish a permanent relationship with God, already on his journey to fulfilling destiny with a place in that same of plan of destiny to fix a woman, then let such talk about marriage.

However, he may be financially stable to a large extent, but this is not an end in itself, but simply a means to an end. A lot is happening, as many sisters take generosity for love. The fact that a man has money to throw around does not suggest that he would have a successful marriage. Same goes to brothers who are always on a search for the daughters of

wealthy people in the society or ladies who are already well established to their own detriment.

The point is, it is not necessarily bad to marry a well to do man or lady, if you are so blessed to have such, good luck. But let this not be the premise on which you base your marital choice or happiness. Great things always start small, while some start their journey with much wealth and affluence, some begin very low, and then pick up with time.

**Meanwhile,** it is not entirely a bad idea to get married to one who is rich and wealthy as mentioned above, but it is not good when that becomes your major criteria to determine your choice, as the people we often overlook or look down on always turn out to be the will of God. Begin with whoever God says you should begin with, whether rich or seemingly poor today, God knows and owns tomorrow. Don't wait until you have a fat bank account before you consider yourself marry able or marriageable.

There are cases of sisters or even brothers who end up regretting their actions for ever attempting to marry someone “Big”, one mistake about this could be very disastrous. So control your appetite for wealth and affluence.



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*“Trust in the LORD  
with all your heart,  
and lean not on your  
own understanding;  
in all your ways  
acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct  
your parts”.*  
- Prov.3:5-6(N KJV)



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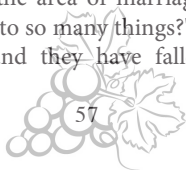
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### THERE ARE STEPS TO TAKE

One message that is commonly preached too many times today by preachers and teachers that is never consistent with the Word of God is; 'God will never choose a wife or husband for anyone, since Adam accused God of giving him Eve who eventually caused his fall'. This is not only heretic but fallacious given many scriptural verses that address doing-it- the Lord's way.

The question I have posed to such people continuously is that, 'if you trust God in all other areas of life and He gives you guidance, why not in the area of marriage, especially when it is a determining factor to so many things?' A lot of people have believed this heresy and they have fallen victim of wrong choices.



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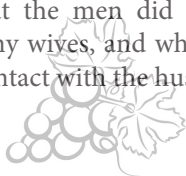
Marriage is an issue that determines life or death, success or failure, blessing or curse, destiny fulfillment or non-fulfillment, depending on what one chooses, so it's worth seeking the consent of God, and waiting on God for.

Another wrong approach to this is the match making games. There are many organizations today that are in the business of match making. As beautiful and simple this can also be, thousands of people who were match made ended up not marrying each other, while those married have simply discovered that they have made the biggest mistakes of their life. Moreover, in my entire ministerial life, I have not seen a single couple that is a product of this venture, this is not to down play the effort of those who are in the business. But I must still confess that I have not seen a single one that survived by this proxy, maybe there are some, but I have not come across any.

This is equally not to say that there is one specific or direct route to this, but God has given us living examples in the Bible, through different occasions using the lives of prominent figures in the Bible (1Cor. 10:11).

## STEPS IN MAKING IDEAL MARITAL CHOICE

The below Biblical examples are what we are going to base our principles of making ideal marriage choices. In each narrative recorded what the men did that brought them in contact with their destiny wives, and what the women also did that brought them in contact with the husbands of their destiny.



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Just as the scripture says “He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord” (Prov. 18:22), the one who does the finding is the man, and the one who should be found is the woman, hence the need for positioning.

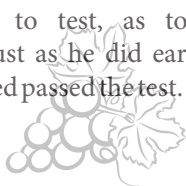
In the principles of choice making however, there are some that are common to both, and some are peculiar and unique to each.

## **EXCEPTIONAL BIBLICAL EXAMPLES**

### **ADAM AND EVE'S EXAMPLE**

The story of how the first man in the Bible and on earth successfully got his destiny as explained in Gen.2:21-22 “so the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made the woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and brought her to the man. The man said 'this now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of the man.’”

This is what many refer to as “deep sleep principle” and it is how the first man got his wife; going through a deep sleep process until God performs the operation that led to appearance of his help meet (Eve). God then equally put Adam's prophetic eye to test, as to whether he would recognize the woman just as he did earlier in naming all the animals, and Adam indeed passed the test.



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## FUNDAMENTAL LESSONS TO LEARN

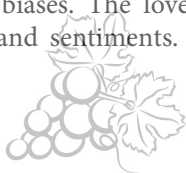
- A. Going by what has been discussed earlier, before the miracle of the surgical operation on the side of Adam that produced Eve, the Bible records that God planted a Garden in the East ward of Eden and then brought the man (Adam) into the garden and instructed him to cultivate and nurture it. In other words, the Lord God had perfected two things for the man, the principle every man should learn from. First, he planted a garden to accommodate both the man and the woman. Second, he instructed him to cultivate-meaning, to work and earn his daily living in that garden. A huge time has been spent to discuss this in the beginning of this book.
- B. Every true child of God must by every available means be in consonant with God. And he or she must know how to talk to God and hear from God (Rom. 8:14-16) this was seen displayed in the life of Adam, and those who cannot by themselves hear from God should seek counsel from their prophets or men of God. Caution should also be exercised for it is not every prophet who can give you guidance on this. Note that one thing that has been mentioned repeatedly is that there is a man and woman prepared for you by God to help you fulfill destiny, and that is the bone of your bones and flesh of your flesh. Not just a good or beautiful woman or handsome man. Neither is it a question of being the best in certain area of human endeavor, or just being a wife or husband material but being the ordained person with

which to fulfill destiny together. Therefore, don't go about asking whether a particular person is good for you, rather ask if that is God's ordained wife or husband for you.

- C. It also means that every man or woman who truly is trusting God for a bone of his/her bones and flesh of his/her own flesh must first completely die to all selfish interest, and personal feelings, mere sight searching for a soul mate, quit physical eye searching, look beyond beauty and stature, economic status and social standing, walk by faith and not by mere sight for whoever God is bringing to you just as the Eve to Adam.

For instance, every young man/lady sure has a picture of the kind of wife or husband they want to settle with, but they still must submit the choice and will to God's final approval, just like I did and today, I can boldly say I am a blessed and fulfilled man by the reason of the woman God has given me. Therefore I say to those who which to toe the same line that Whatever God says, does or gives is the best.

The problem with many of today's Christians is that they have not mature to a level of aligning their will with God's in all area of life, especially as touching marriage, hence the tribal, racial, physical and Church denominational biases. The love and the will of God surpass all biases and sentiments.



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## CAIN'S EXAMPLE

Several questions have arisen as to the identity of the wife of Cain the first son of Adam. Since there were just few people living on the earth by then, and of course, the Bible only mentioned the family of Adam at this time in history of the world.

Scholars and theologians have argued from different angles about the origin of Cain's wife until they come to the conclusions that Cain married his own sister. This argument is based on the record of Gen.5:4 "after Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters." Therefore, Cain married one of the daughters of Adam which is his biological sister since there was no any other family living on earth at the time.

## ABRAHAM AND SARAH'S EXAMPLES

Abraham also married Sarah his niece. This was acceptable at that time in the then known world because it was a common practice among the Ancient near eastern communities of Bible times until incest (sexual relationship between members of the same family) became seriously prohibited among God's people (Lev.18:5-20).

Besides, it was because of this same reason that the Lord placed a ban on the generations of the Moabites and the Ammonites to the tenth generations from being included in the congregation or the assembly of God's people, because they were the products of the Lot's daughter's act of incest with their father. (Gen.19:31-38; Deut.23:3)

However, in some parts of oriental countries, people still marry their siblings even up till date, but this is fundamentally against the will of God.

## ISAAC AND REBECCA'S EXAMPLE

In this example as recorded in Gen. 24, two agents featured in the choice of a wife for Isaac- Parent (Abraham), an intermediary (Eliezer). This example is unique in the sense that these two agents and channels are what people often rely on in those days to choose a wife. Parents were usually very concerned about the kind of wives their sons would be married to, hence their interest and involvement. Although, the role of parents in the choice of marriage is gradually being faced out in the modern and recent times, but their contribution and approval is mostly required.

In those days, parents due to their wealth of experience or probably due to prophecy or other reasons single handedly choose wives for their grown up sons. In the case of Abraham, two things were involved; first, is a strict order from God to Abraham's lineage not to marry from the pagan people of the land (Canaanites) except from the covenanted lineage of Abraham. Gen.24:3; 28:1, 6-7). This is one of the principles many of today's Christians don't take seriously as they choose to marry just anybody, especially Christians marrying non Christians.

Second, is that there is a covenant between God and Abraham and his generation that must guided and guarded jealously, not because he was simply choosing a wife for Isaac his son out of selfish motive like many of today's parents,

whose motive many a time is ulterior. Many parents today have succeeded in destroying their children's lives by forcing them into many ungodly marriages owing to many selfish reasons.

Abraham made his servant to swear, he will not marry an ungodly wife for Isaac his son because there was something to protect, and this is not completely a bad idea when parents understand they have a genuine covenant with God.

Just as Jonathan Edward is a living example of this understanding, when he made sure that all his children married Christian disciples who were raised right under his own roof. Today, Jonathan Edward's family is the only family that has produced more successful and productive people in American history than any other families.

Other agents through whom this is done in those days are the intermediaries; these are special people who convey the intention of a would-be husband to the would-be wife. When a man or family has an interest in a particular lady from another family, they raise somebody (intermediary) who goes into research concerning that family and the lady. Questions that border on character, health and hidden records are asked before the marital intention is made known.

This is common among the Yoruba cultural group of Nigeria and other groups in Africa. In the same vein but slightly different background was Eliezer sent to Abraham's country and relatives to bring a wife for Isaac. Eliezer who have then come into a full relationship with the God of his master-Abraham, did not lean on his own understanding but

acknowledged God (Gen.24:10-21; Prov.3:5-6) who surely led and guided him to the right woman. This is another argument against the notion that God doesn't choose wife for people. The proponents of this argument are always people who chose for themselves not letting God in order to defend their actions. I say it again! God is still in the business of choosing marriage partners for His own children, let him choose for you.

### JACOB- RACHEL'S EXAMPLE

So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother...then Jacob made a vow, saying "if God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking...so that I return safely to my father's house, then the Lord will be my God.." (Gen.28:1,2,20,21)

Similar to the above example, Isaac in a bid to also protect the covenant lineage of Abraham specifically instructed Jacob on the type of woman to marry, and where to pick a wife from. Like Eliezer, Jacob committed his journey into the hand of the Lord and found Rachel in a similar place where Eliezer found Rebekah- by the Well of water running errand for their parents, and taking care of the family's business.

### LADIES/SISTERS NEED TO LEARN:

The wells of water in those days are exceptionally deep and constructed in such a manner that one need to climb steps

down-ward to get water, still Rebekah in her kind attitude fetched water for the thirsty team of Eliezer who had gone through the scorching sun of Near East desert including their Camels.

This was an exceptional and unusual kindness and high level of hospitality from an ordinary lady like Rebekah considering the number of people that constituted the team of Eliezer plus their Camels which according to research drinks more water than any other animal on the face of the earth.

On the other hand Rachel was a Shepherdess- a job that was exclusively for men in those days not like today where women do all kinds of Job that men do. In those days, certain works were reserved for a set of particular gender, but Rachel and her sister took up this Job and were doing it effectively well, both feeding the family flocks and leading them to the well of water.

It should be noted therefore, that the two ladies Rebekah and Rachel mentioned in the narratives were not just lay- about, but ladies of proven Character with serious commitment to family and business. This is the kind of exemplary life style our sisters must emulate to make them worthy or findable. Don't just wish for a godly or noble man, you need to be one yourself, for likes attract likes.

## PRACTICAL TIPS

- Develop a correct heart disposition, I.e, you maintain a cordial father to son/daughter relationship with God to an extent that you can trust him for your need. (Rom.8:14-16)

- Recognize how He speaks to you personally either through audible voice, dreams, vision or knowledge of the heart, word of Knowledge and Prophets. Job 33:15, Jer. 23:28.
- Set up no idol or standard for yourself. Ezek. 14:1-4, 1Sam 16:6-7
- Be closer to your Bible, for it is only through the Scriptures you can discern His will for your life. (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:9)
- Have a mentor you can always trust for guidance and counsel. 1Sam 3:1-11
- Wait on the Lord and trust Him with all your heart. Prov. 3:5-6
- Above all, if all men have spoken to you concerning a person, you still need to confirm it yourself.



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*“Marriage should be  
honored by all, and the  
marriage bed kept pure,  
for God will judge the  
adulterer and all the  
sexually immoral”  
- Heb.13:4*



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## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### IDEAL CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP AND WEDDING

**P**reparation towards marriage does not end at the table of choosing the right partner, in fact, that is just a step forward. In addition, there is more to courtship than how it has been viewed and practiced today.

What people call courtship today is far and completely different from what it means and what exactly it's been set out to achieve, hence, it is pertinent to note that when a courtship is properly conducted, it can eventually lead to a good marriage, because, all that is needed for you to connect to a

all that is needed for you to connect to a godly and happy marriage is depended upon how godly and sincere your courtship had been

godly and happy marriage is depended upon how godly and sincere your courtship had been.

However, not all godly courtship will culminate in a marriage no matter how long it takes, as many relationships should better be advised to terminate in courtship and need not end in marriage due to reasons like; constant fighting, unfaithfulness of either of them, incompatibility in vision and purpose for life, vehement objection by either of their parents if in Africa, or unwillingness of a spouse to change from certain ungodly attitude. And everyone should understand that a broken relationship in courtship is better than a broken marriage.

It is pertinent to reiterate that the point of discussion here is an ideal Christian courtship. Therefore, it has its *modus operandi*. An ideal Christian courtship is done in accordance with Biblical principles and standards.

## **A. THE CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP**

An ideal Christian courtship therefore, should be understood to mean a period between when a brother and a sister agree based on God's leading or revelation to be husband and wife till they finally settle down together as husband and wife. What is unique about this kind of courtship is that it is time bound and marriage is the eventual destination.

But since they are both led by God to be husband and wife is there a need for courtship? And if any, what should be the duration? As earlier revealed, success in marriage goes beyond just having the right or godly partner by the side. That

is just the first phase of success as there are more to marriage than having the right person.

Let me emphasize that there are many things to do in courtship than just sticking around, as many things that will hinder the success of the marriage are best resolved during the period of courtship than in marriage.

There are many things people practice in the name of courtship today which make it far from being Christian courtship. For instance, many people have sex together, live together, and do virtually everything married people do, enjoying the rights and privileges exclusively reserved for marriage in courtship. All these are definitely not part of Christian courtship. Those who engage in such practices are using their today to destroy their tomorrow.

The fact that two people are in courtship does not mean they are married. Pre-marital sex and pregnancy should be discouraged. It is not ideal, the Bible says we should do “everything decently and in order” (1Cor.14:40). Being pregnant before marriage does not show decency and order, rather, is like a case of putting the cart before the horse. Many marriages are not supposed to hold at all, were it not that pregnancy has set in, as two people that are not meant for each other ended up being together because of the pregnancy.

It should be known that some relationships are as good as ending them in courtship for broken courtship they say is better than broken marriage. This is due to many deceptions, irreconcilable differences, and many questions that cannot be given answers to. This is why the period of courtship is a

period of inquiry and prayer, other than the unreasonable things people have reduced it to.

## FEATURES OF A CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

As earlier mentioned, period of courtship is a period of opportunity to put things in their proper order. It is a period of real preparation for the reality of things to come. Marriage is a revelation of many things people pretend about. So, it is not a period of mere picnic and outings, but serious preparation and laying of solid foundation for the desired marriage. "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"-Ps. 11:3. The intending couple should undertake:

### \* **Courtship of Enquiry- Eph.4:25-26**

An ideal Christian courtship is not a closed mouth courtship, but an opened mouth, opened eyes and opened mind courtship where you do the necessary findings, questioning and thinking about the person you want to be married to. Don't be intimidated by the person's position, personality or academic qualifications to an extent that you will find it difficult to ask the necessary questions.

Neither should you be mesmerized by the feeling of affection towards the person to the point where you will later tell yourself love is blind.

Enquire about family background and culture, academic background and past relationships. Open your eyes to observe and your mind to think and process your thought

about the brother or the sister. Ask question about health related issue, such as sexually transmitted diseases, genotype, HIV status and abortions. Probe into Job or business success and source of wealth, if the person finds you marry-able, there shouldn't be anything to cover or hide from you.

Many people live fake and deceptive life, Living with hidden and dangerous habits such as drug addiction, smoking and drunkenness, unhealthy sexual habit like gay and lesbianism, gluttonous eating habit, clubbing and night crawling, etc. All these should be thoroughly investigated. As many of these habits are unisex habits which have nothing to do with whether the individual is male or female. So the examination cut across board without limitation or boundary.

Most importantly, the intending couple should understand that the truth told at this level of the courtship will determine the faithfulness and trustworthiness in their marriage, so they should try as much as possible to be open to each other.

#### \* **Courtship of preparation**

The period of courtship can be likened to a football team preparing for a tournament, where the success of the game is determined by the amount of energy and effort put into the training sessions. Marriage requires a wholistic preparation, as every aspect of human life is involved. Lk.14:28-29; 1 Chron.22:5; Prov.16:1. Therefore, preparation should cut across the following:

(a) **Spiritual Preparation:** overarching tools in this regard, are prayer and the word of God, prayer does not end in searching and finding the right partner. There is a

popular song which goes thus “Prayer is the key 2ce, prayer is the master key, Jesus started with prayer and ended with prayer, prayer is master key”. As a matter of fact, prayer begins from the day one you realize that one day you will become a married man or woman and should be continued in courtship and throughout marital life.

The period of courtship is the period to seek the mind of God for further revelation on the person you are going to marry. A period to come together to deal with countless number of issues such as sexual immorality, evil habits that have the potential to destroy the foundation of your marriage. The period to deal with family related issues such as strong holds and demonic family altars.

Research has shown that almost all the families of the world have one spiritual issue or the other which eventually becomes the root cause of the various battles people fight in marriage. The intending couple must during the period of their courtship discuss and deal with anything they discover in their individual family together.

Even when it has been revealed by God that you are meant for each other, you still have some battles to fight together. “When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you are entering to possess...then you must destroy them totally...Breakdown their altars and smash their sacred stones...” - Deut.7:1-6

There should be constant moments of meeting together in prayer and study of God's word to determine the true purpose of God for your marriage, and to prepare your ways into great and fulfilling marriage, all these can only be possible when you both stay pure and holy. Attend spirit filled programs, seminars and prayers together to fortify yourselves all these are part of spiritual preparations you must have towards the final journey.

- (b) **Social Preparation:** 1 Pet.3:2-5 one good aspect of courtship that is often being neglected is the social aspect. This goes beyond just going for a picnic or just going to eateries to eat junks. It entails taking opportunities to meet people your spouse cherishes, getting to knowing people he or she is involved with and the kind of friends and family members you would both later have, as there have been a lot of deceptions in this regard. More so, this must be well discussed so it doesn't lead to compromise or immorality.

Attend occasions and social gatherings together as you may equally take this time to discover the true lifestyle of your would-be spouse and as to whether he/she will make a good friend in marriage or not so you then learn to adjust. See if he/she will be comfortable having you around, or proud of introducing you as the husband or wife to be.

Having studied your partner's social approaches, then plan and pray to God on how you can adjust and

measure up. Don't say it doesn't matter, as things like dress code, hair do, table mannerisms and manners of approach are what have created problems in many marriages today.

I have heard couples complain about petty issues like; “she doesn't know how to dress”, “She is dirty” “he lacks manner of approach and comportment”. As trivial as these things may appear to be, they may generate big problems.

Please! A would-be couple should not neglect this vital aspect of marriage preparation in their courtship. Getting to know more of each other through observation and study should be the goal of every courtship, not taking each other to bed to have sex and impregnating each other, instead of studying to know each other better. But be sure it is all done in moderation.

- (c) **Mental Preparation:** This aspect is connected to the mind and intellectual process. A little bit of education no matter how will help in any relationship and Children's upbringing.

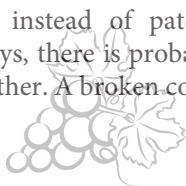
Especially in a situation where one of the two is more educated or literate than the other which may always be the case, the period of courtship is always a period where you can seek to help each other. With humility and respect for each other's feelings without making jest of each other's inability or weakness and a deep commitment to each other's success beginning from this point will work wonder,

If you have both discovered the will of God for marriage, help each other to prepare well. Moreover, courtship should be so purposeful that it be able to solve certain problems that may pose a threat to marital peace. Discussing and seeking the means on how to help each other get over certain life challenges should be the dominant factor in courtship.

Attending life changing seminars, taking short courses, enrolment into adult lessons, reading short stories and books on marriage together can do a lot of help. This must be so, because some of the complaints marriage counselors grapple with is lack of mental compatibility. Such as his/her reasoning faulty is now.

- (d) **Physical Preparation:** It is also during courtship that there should be sincere appraisers and discussions on physiques in terms of weight gain and weight losses. In the case of bodily infections and defectiveness, they must both agree on how to go about medical and spiritual solutions.

But cautions must be taken in doing this, as they must both make sure they don't begin to exceed godly boundaries in seeking solutions, and that certain things that cannot be changed should rather be left alone or cope with. And if some things are considered too unbearable, instead of patching them up, it is better to part ways, there is probability that you are not meant for each other. A broken courtship is better than a broken marriage.



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- (e) **Financial Preparation:** 1Tim.6:6-10, one area through which the devil deprives a lot of couples fulfillment and joy is the aspect of finance. The Bible says “the love of money is the root of all evil”, either lack or love of it can create unending struggle in any marriage, as such, during my pre-marital counseling sessions with prospective couples, I do a lot of justice to explaining the issue of financial handling in marriage.

Questions such as, “can we keep a joint account?” “Must he or she know how much I earn as salary?”, “what if he/she spends too much or lavishly?” “What if he doesn't belief in spending money?” and the likes are the questions I tackle most often. But to the intending couples in courtship, they must lay it bare in all sincerity on how they will earn and also spend their money.

Finance must never be a secret or hidden issue in marriage. You should be as truthful as possible to each other. Discuss how you will both handle your finances, discuss past debts and investments, discuss how you will both take care of your needs, projects and extended family needs. Remember to put God first in your discussion, especially your belief on tithing and offering giving.

Above all, let everything be done in love and in the fear of the Lord, with openness and sincerity, this is the only way to get the best out of whatever discussion you are going to have in this line of discussion. Detail

on financial management in the family will come much later.

- (f) **Parental Preparation:** Ps. 127:3; Pro.22:6, it is also important that the period of courtship should be a moment to get down to the issue of child bearing and parenting. In order not to bring forth children for trouble, part of discussion in this area should hinge on the number of children you will both wish to have, how to raise them, the kind of education exposure you would like to give your children.

God desires that parents give and bring forth godly children, raised in godly environment, in order for the couple not to fail in this God-given mandate, they will do well if they prepare for this noble task. Full discussion on this will equally come much later.

- (g) **Companionship Preparation:** Gen.2:24; Eph.5:32, Eccl.4-9-12. Although the relationship must not be consummated until the wedding night. That is, the courtship has not led to having sex with each other, but thing they must begin to see as a priority is how to have genuine companionship.

This is a state of harmony, not willing to do anything apart from each other. Planning and practicing partnership where they begin to see each other as part of each other. Giving up of right and personal identity to please each other - (but be sure you are not pretending), buying gifts and investing into each other's career and personal development are all ways

to prepare your journey into marital partnership and companionship. But exercise moderation by avoiding things that can arouse each other's sexual urge.

- (h) **Sexual Preparation:** One may ask that, “if sex is not allowed in courtship, why is it an important thing to prepare for?” the answer to that is, as earlier mentioned, preparation must be wholistic without exception of one. Although, lines of demarcation must be drawn by those who are really serious and committed to pure courtship and sexual purity in order not to fall into the sin of fornication.

Moreover, this aspect of discussion must be prolonged to the very end of the courtship which should be just few days to the wedding and it must be done with your counselor. I remember an intending couple I counseled sometime in the past came to say that they have had some sessions of pre-marital counseling in their church. But they needed me to counsel them specifically on the topic of sex and sexuality, and of course it was just two weeks to their wedding.

- (1) **Wedding Preparation/Planning:** Luke 14:28-29, wedding preparations and planning are very crucial as parents, families and clergies must be informed and involved in the planning and preparation procedures towards a successful wedding outing.

The major aspect of this planning should be listing, costing and budgeting, and making sure you don't do

things to impress anybody but doing everything to glorify God alone. A lot of intending couples in a bid to impress people have run into serious debt and financial crisis. Plan to do things moderately less you become a victim of hunger and depression after your wedding.

You can make consultations and ask necessary questions on how to have a low key wedding. And if your family is so bogus to have a large celebration, there is nothing evil about that but you must still consider that wedding is just one of celebration out many days you will still have to live together, so think wisely.

These key aspects of preparation should not be neglected or handled with levity, as they have constituted major problems in many marriages today of those who do such; whereas to many couples who have been exposed to this wisdom or have had a proper courtship, it has saved them a lot of stress in their marriage. A stitch in time saves the nine they say.

\* **Limits of Christian Courtship- Heb. 13:4**

The period of courtship can be the most tempting; therefore there should be high level of moral discipline and integrity.

Nevertheless to achieve this, certain guidelines must be observed;



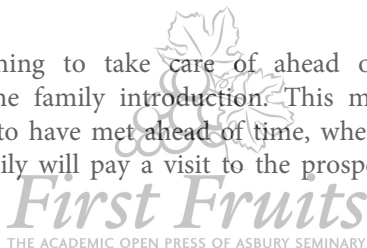
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- Avoid unnecessarily prolonged period of courtship, hence, I recommend 6month to one year period of courtship. Eccl.3:1
- Avoid being together alone in the secret or dark area, most especially behind closed doors. 1Cor.14:40
- Avoid unnecessary and prolonged holding of hands for you are not yet husband and wife. 1Cor.6:18-20
- Avoid sleeping on the same bed. 11Sam. 13:1-16
- Avoid kissing, touching and fondling of each other's sensitive parts and sexual organs.
- Avoid wearing of the same cloth or same pattern of attire
- Avoid going to his house to sleep over or run house chores (ladies)
- Avoid going to places to spend or pass the night together.
- Avoid double dating- don't be in relationship with two persons at the same time, it is a game of chance, therefore it is unchristian. 1Cor. 14:33
- Remember it is a Christian courtship; therefore honor God in your courtship. Heb. 13:4

## **B. THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING**

Having addressed the fundamentals of the Christian courtship, it is imperative to establish that every courtship should culminate in a marriage. And before a couple can be called or addressed as husband and wife, a wedding has to take place.

One major thing to take care of ahead of other things therefore is the family introduction. This means that both families need to have met ahead of time, when the intending husband's family will pay a visit to the prospective wife's



family with certain gift items (not bride price). It is during this visit they now discuss all that has to do with their children's wedding and a date will be fixed.

However, there are three ways to conduct a marriage ceremony;

- (a) **Traditional Marriage/Engagement:** This is where the bride's family will formally and officially give the hand of their daughter out in marriage, and the bride price will be paid according to the family's demand. This is also where the couple will receive the parental consent or approval and family blessing upon their marriage plus the exchange of ring as a token of the love that exist between them. Then there will be feasting and merriments.

A shining example of this in the Bible is between Isaac and Rebekah, Gen.24:54, between Jacob and Leah and Rachel, although the case of Jacob is not a perfect example, but it is one of such. (Gen.29:16-30). And marriage at the Cana of Galilee attended by Jesus, his mother and his disciples (John 2:1-10). Usually, it is a week long program in the Jewish tradition, and once the engagement is sealed, it is considered a bond between them. And it varies from culture to culture depending on what yours demand.

- (b) **Court or Registry:** This is in accordance with the civil law of the land. Here a legal register will be signed by the couple and at least two witnesses from both families and certificate will be given. This is probably

at a local government area or a magistrate court. It then becomes a crime to marry again while still married under the marriage Ordinance, and can only be broken by a legal divorce.

Date will be given ahead of time, in some countries 3 months notice during which the intending couple's names will be published for public scrutiny.

- (c) **Church Wedding:** This is when the couple walks down to the altar to receive the blessing from the Lord and for the witness of fellow believers. It is called solemnization of the Holy Matrimony.

It involves informing and inviting your church pastor ahead of time and inviting families, friends and well-wishers to your church for this glorious occasion. This is a day every godly parent dream to witness in his/her life time- giving out one's daughter to a husband before the Lord and a host of others. Every child must also dream and walk to bring this once in a life time experience to pass, by living uprightly and modestly.

When church service is conducted, marital vow is exchanged between the husband and the wife according to the Church tradition by a church official and the Holy Communion will be administered. Integrity questions are often asked to ensure the integrity of the marriage right from the word-go.



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Questions like, 'is there anybody in this congregation who will not want this husband and wife to be joined together? let he/she speak up or to remain silence forever. This will be repeated three times, and at this time, those who have led reckless and wayward life style often die and resurrect at this moment. When there is no response from anywhere and anybody in the congregation or from any quarter, then the officiating minister proceed to the next level to now join the couple together.

Plans and provisions are made ahead of time by the would-be couple and the family at large to put things in place for the church service and the entertainment of the invited guests. There is always a grand reception for the invited guests, where food and drinks will be served, with photographs taken.

However, I always advice in every premarital counseling sessions that the intending couple be courteous of so many things especially how they spend for the wedding that will be held just for a day and forget that they will need money to spend when eventually they get married. And more so, the size of your wedding does not determine the joy and happiness of your marriage, so take caution.

Wedding is just a day, so mind the glamour, do not spend to impress or oppress anybody. Be careful of what you spend your money on, and how you spend just to entertain your visitors, remember you have so much more to spend money on in marriage. So

minimize your budget to suit your pocket, and do not go about borrowing just to please your guests.

Having explained all these dimensions of joining two people together for an eternal journey of marriage, it is worthy to state that these three are recommended to all Christians. So that at the end of the day, all- the family, the judiciary and the Church would have witnessed to the fact that they truly married as husband and wife till death do them part.



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*For this reason a man will  
leave his father and  
Mother and be united to his wife,  
and they will become one flesh.  
The man and his wife were  
both naked and they felt  
no shame.  
- Gen.2:24-25*



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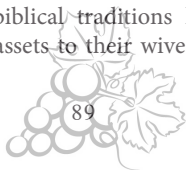
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### BONDING - BECOMING ONE FLESH

One major aspect where a lot of couples have lost it at the beginning, and where many marriages have failed to be marriage at all is the area of becoming one flesh. This is so because many people who are in marriage today have been misinformed either by their own parents or other people who have told them that there is nothing called openness in marriage.

Many men come from such background where they have been told never to reveal their minds to their wives, especially when it has to do with their financial status. Some outdated and long time anti- biblical traditions have informed men never to declare their assets to their wives, and same goes for women.



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By so doing, there is no trustworthiness, and openness in many homes including those of many Christians! The Bible confirms categorically that 'he who finds a wife finds what is good and has obtained favor from the Lord', and help that is suitable unto him. (Prov. 18:22, Gen.2:18).

Here, the wife or woman is likened to good and help, but the names some men inherit from their father or the world around them for women are; "necessary evil", "hired killers", "murderers", "Betrayers", "Devil" and so on, and therefore, no woman is worthy of trust or is reliable.

On the other hand, 'for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church...Eph.5:23. Biblically when it comes to marital affairs, men are likened to Christ not just in headship or leadership but in every act of benevolence. Unfortunately, the names women are used to calling men are "impostors", "Lion", "Players", "Bad elements", "Cheats", "Devils" and so on.

With these, it has become so difficult to trust and be open to each other. However, "...in the beginning it was not so." Matt. 19:8

Marriage is not marriage until it has experienced openness and transparency

The will and the plan of God really is that husband and wife become one in all sphere of their relationship.

As difficult and as impossible it may seem to people, it is the bedrock of marriage. Marriage is not marriage until it has experienced openness and transparency. This must be pursued and maintained by all means before you can say you are doing the will of God in your marriage.

God has a lot of concerns with the way some couples relate with each other- Mal. 2:13-17, He really desires that they become good partners, one in spirit, in faith, and in covenant. But unfortunately, many, especially leaders of God's people have failed to realize that God is much more interested in what is happening in various homes than the service in the church, because, your relationship with your spouse is a determining factor in whether your service and prayers go down well with God or not.

Hence His indictment of the priests (Pastors, Believers) of God:

Another thing you do: you flood the LORD'S altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one?, Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. "I hate divorce" says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment" says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. -Mal. 2:13-16

Apparently, this lack of oneness in many marriages has done a lot of disservice to both our religious and our national life and has wreaked a lot of damage to our children's upbringing. Obviously where there is no unity between husband and

wife, there will be hindrance to prayers, slow progress, lack or no meaningful development, retardation of children's growth and development.

Without any iota of pretense or feigning ignorance of the many sacrifices involved or the fact that many in the process have met their waterloo, but it is the only way to go, and the will of God for every marriage as indicated in the scripture above.

The true definition of Biblical marriage is “two shall become one”, it is the pursuit of this that brings fulfillment. As earlier discussed under the sub-topic God's purpose for marriage, marriage is never a one man show; it is an affair of two people that must of a necessity translate to the fusion of these two people into one indivisible body.

One can only enjoy the true blessing and benefit of “help meet” or “help suitable for him”, or “two are better than one” only when “one flesh” and “one bone” which is the agenda God sets for marriage is achieved.

As earlier discussed, God has designed the institution of marriage in such a way that no lone ranger who forsakes his wife or wife who forsakes her husband to do things all alone gets blessed by God. Until the man and his wife are indivisibly united, they cannot attract God's blessing.

Looking at the scripture cited above, certain phrases like;



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- (a) '...will leave his father and mother...'this simply means that many who would have been partakers of this holy blessing are yet to leave father and mother. Refusal or inability of either of the two parties in marriage relationship to separate from the influence and decisions of their parents make things very difficult for the two of them.
- The man and the woman must have been both matured and independent enough to make certain decisions on their own before coming into the marriage. This will make leaving and cleaving easier especially the man. Hence, certain qualities like; freedom from parental control, self-reliance, capacity for independent decision making, being financially independent, that is your parents are no longer the ones feeding you and giving you pocket monies as the case may be, all these must have been resolved before the decision to marry. These are the pre-requisite for cleaving and bonding in marriage.
- Once you enter into the marriage relationship, it is now you and your spouse who owe every decision, failure to understand this may spell woe for that marriage, and may as well cut you off from God's blessing, as He now recognizes you and your spouse together, and no longer with your parents.
- (b) "united" or "cleave unto" the first one give rise to the other, as one needs to do 'leaving' before the "cleaving unto". And that is why every single lady and gent out there should be careful in forming a marital union with anybody who is still tied to his or her parents' apron. If

you are leaving, leave for real; physically, mentally, emotionally and otherwise so that you can properly cleave unto or be united to your spouse. And this is not to say you are abandoning your parents, as you will still need to perform your filial responsibility to them and offer them all the needed support- both solicited and unsolicited.

- (c) And then, "...they will become one flesh" if you will notice the progression of how all these are synthetically woven together, you discover that one step lead to another. In that, proper severing (leaving) of tie from parents leads to "cleaving unto" which in turn now leads to the two becoming one flesh in all area. This is the hallmark of every godly marital relationship, where the husband and wife are now one and no longer two in all respect. I remember one time that I was in Port-hacourt, Southern Nigeria for a marriage conference: somehow I encountered the Lord where He gave me further injunction and revelation on the assignment ahead, as I meditated over that revelation and not talking to my wife yet about it, she told me the following day through text message how she could not sleep all over the night because she was meditating, thinking and praying about the assignment ahead. When I read her message, I was moved to tears as I noticed two hearts now beat together as one.

This is a divine plan of God, as He will want the couple to have the same vision of heaven and life. Becoming one flesh will aid the release of many unforeseen blessing and progress.

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- (d) “The man and his wife were both naked, and felt no shame” then the big word “naked” literally, nakedness to a sane and moral mind is sacred thing that can and should not be easily come by, but unfortunately it is the easiest thing to come by toady, especially in the media.

As such in marriage, nakedness should both be held sacred and with trust. In a lay man's language, nakedness can also mean openness, a situation of no holds back, nothing hidden, nothing secretive. This captures many area of an individual's life, so in marriage, nakedness and openness should be practiced to maximum level, not just in the literal sense of it where couples are no longer ashamed to see each other's naked body especially in bedroom, but in every and other sensitive areas such:

1. Sexual relationship; Be open to each other in sexual matters like past sexual mistakes and experiences, your desires, fears and weaknesses without either of the party making mockery or fun or holding it against each other. This will make your love and trust for each other deeper and sexual life more effective.
2. Financial and material possessions: in my years of counseling, travelling, speaking and teaching in different conferences and seminars, I have discovered that most men react so negatively to this issue of financial openness. Only 10%-15% of men I have spoken with including a high level public official of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who was at one of my

conferences in Abuja have agreed to this teaching of financial openness to their wives. Many believe that the best possible way to keep their prestige and respect to their wives is by not letting her into the knowledge of how much they earn as salaries or how much they are worth at all, as this may even lead to their untimely death. All these are fallacies and mundane concerns that should not be heard among Christians.

Remember that God now sees you as one and no longer two, therefore do not deal with each other half-heartedly or treacherously, but whole-heartedly and truthfully. Mal. 2; 13

3. In matters of faith and intellect, many think the way to live above their spouse is when they are higher in faith matters or knowledge. When they have higher revelation or special knowledge or intellectual property, "...what do you have that you did not receive?, and if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not"- 1 cor. 4;7, whatever you have, it means you have received it somewhere, it is for the two of you, therefore, share it.
4. Your thoughts and aspirations: let your spouse understand your fear and aspiration for life, so as to help each other achieve it. In many cases where the husband or wife is seen pursuing a solo agenda without carrying the other party along, it generates rancor and division in the family. Whereas if there have been openness in this line, there would have been sharing of burden and collaboration of effort to overcome all challenges and accomplish all goals.

5. In relating to parents and family members. Ruth 1:16, marriage has not only join the couple together but also the family. Since you are now bones of the same bone and flesh of the same flesh, each other's parents have automatically becomes the responsibility of the two of you. Decisions about how each family would/should be cared for must now be taken together.
6. In relating with each children. What happened in the family of Isaac should be a lesson to all and sundry. Gen.27:1-46, there is no reason why husband and wife should not relate with each other openly concerning issues that border on their children, playing hide seek games, using children as a weapon to punish each other will not only lead to war in the family but destroy the good relationship between children, and their parents. Husband and wife should try as much as possible to relate with each other before relating with their children.

Here are some tips that can promote openness among couple.

- Rely on God's grace to do it.
- Sincere and genuine love for each other.
- Sincere and genuine communication
- Trust and faith in each other.
- Sleeping and doing things together (Taking bath together, eating together, and taking walk together.

Note; having been opened to each other however, caution must be taken so as not to use some of those things that appear as secret against each other or to witch hunt each other in any form or at any point of disagreement, and this should not also drift you apart but make you deeper into each other.



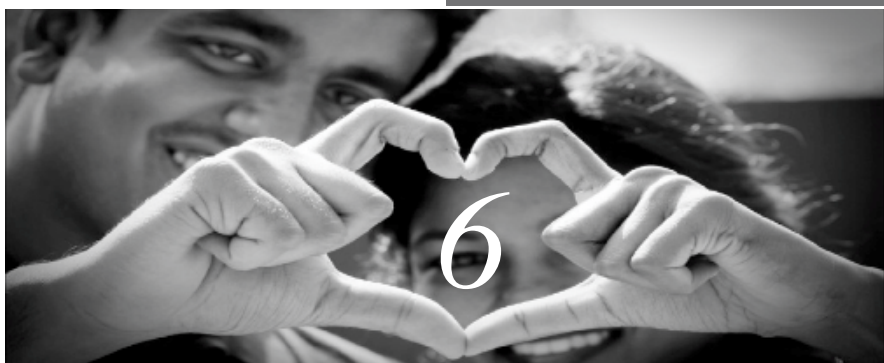
*“Husbands, in the same way be  
considerate as you live with  
your wives, and treat them with  
respect as the weaker partner  
and as heirs with you of the gracious  
gift of life, so that nothing  
will hinder your prayers”  
- 1 Pet.3:7*



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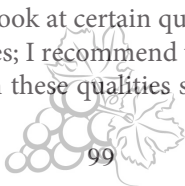
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN IDEAL HUSBAND

**H**aving taking ample time to explain the matters that border on bonding or becoming one flesh, it is pertinent also to know that the husband and the wife have some respective roles and responsibilities to perform. This understanding and the willingness to fulfill these roles lead to marital fulfillment and happiness.

First we need to briefly look at certain qualities of the man who will later fulfill these roles; I recommend that every man should look at his own life with these qualities so as to know whether he is measuring up.



- A man who is willing to be like Christ- Eph. 5:25, the Bible likens first and foremost husbands in the family to Christ, in expression of love and all manner of sacrifice, selflessness and benevolence. Just as Christ in His salvific work of the world and His continued assignment to the church, so also the man. To make this possible therefore, a man must submit his life to the leadership of the Lord and master Jesus Christ whose footsteps he will now follow to fulfill his marital role.
- A matured male adult- a man is not just a man with mere sexual male organ, but one who is matured enough to handle issues in his own life when they arise.
- A leader of both him (self) and others- a man must be able to lead first himself in moral, character and self- control, and he must as well be able to lead others in these. Such a man would fit into role of a husband.
- A lover of himself and others- this does not suggest self-centeredness, but knowing what one wants for oneself and also others. A man who does not know what he wants for life may find it difficult to fend for others. Therefore, knowing what you want first for yourself qualifies you to desire same for others, such as wife and children.
- A responsible father figure- several men today have impregnated ladies and have denied being ever responsible for such, many have even denied the paternity of their own biological children. All these are signs of irresponsibility that disqualifies one from being truly a man. Part of the nobility of a man encompasses responsibility and fatherhood.

- If all these can be settled and addressed by any man, then such a one is welcome to the world of great and caring husband.

### **The roles of the man therefore include:**

1. **Head over the home:** 1 Cor.11:3, Eph. 5:23. the Bible talks about Christ “In Him the whole building is joined together”- Eph.2;21, in the same vein, everything in the home hinges on the man. The man must be able to provide leadership for both his wife and his children in all areas. It is the man who takes authority from the master Jesus and dispenses it evenly in his home. The man should exert this authority over his wife and children but should be cautious while doing this so that he doesn't become too dictatorial and overbearing. He must see to the fact that decorum and decency in the fear and love of God characterized his home. Above all, he must assume his place as the priest of the family leading his family to God from time to time both at home and in church. As such, the man needs a lot of vision to lead his wife and children, also to pilot the affairs of the home.
2. **Love Dispenser:** Eph. 5:2:25, another aspect where the man should imitate Christ in his marital life is in the area of expressing and dispensing an unconditional love towards his wife and children. Often time men are in the habit of making excuses for not loving their

wives, demanding one thing or the other like submission, food and sexual provisions. As long as all these things are your right, your love towards your wife should cover for all as the scriptures says, "love covers many sins", also, "love is patient", "love is kind", 'it does not harbor any evil', and above all, "love never fail" 1Cor.13:1-13

Therefore, what the man shows his wife is not just sexual love but love with genuine proof in all areas of giving of comfort and helping hand in the kitchen or domestic assignments, share and care for children you both gave birth to. Also, making every effort to bring the best out of her, through continuous purging and pruning and washing in the word of God and prayer so that you enjoy her fruits.

It also comes with great dividends to love your wife as the husband, as you will enjoy divine blessings and providence, you enjoy her services, obedience and submission.

3. **Provision:** 1Tim.5; 8. The husband must strive at all times to provide basic amenities for his family. Not just 'chop money' but necessary things both for his wife and children, he should not starve his wife financially and sexually. The man must constantly pay attention to the family's needs especially that of his wife like, hairdo, good clothing and periodic moment of fun and picnic.



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These God-given roles and responsibilities to the man do not in any way negate or override the supportive roles the woman would play in the family since they are now one and no longer two.

And above this, many women have different aspirations of what to be probably before and after they are married which necessarily may not contradict the assignment given to the husband. It is the duty of the husband to provide every support for his wife. We have seen and heard of cases where husbands are responsible for the funding of their wives educational, political, and professional careers, even their businesses, and the husband must ensure that his wife succeeds in whatever she does giving her every support.

4. **Protect and handle her as weaker vessel:** the Bible calls women “weaker vessel or partner”- 1 pet.3:7b this is what make them more vulnerable or susceptible to different forms of attacks, and as such, the husband must stand in his place of protection to defend and protect her from;
  - a) Spiritual and physical attack
  - b) Verbal and emotional attacks
  - c) Attacks from Family, relative and friends as the case may be. All these are the areas where the woman needs protection when the need arises.
  - d) Under no guise or any circumstances should the husband raise his own hand to beat his wife.

Likewise, it should be far from the man that he will raise his own hand to hit his wife or abused her in any form. Today some men have reduced their wives to mere punching bags and also unleashing all kinds of violence and abuses on them. Women have been reduced to common sex toys and objects in some parts of the world today. The number of domestic violence on women is on the increase globally, girl child trafficking, early marriage should stop as all these are affront against God on women.

The story of how Abraham denied Sarah in Egypt, and how Isaac did the same to Rebekah his wife in Gerar (Gen. 12:10-20, 26:6-11) is one of the most shameful act of any man in the Bible and anywhere that is generally not acceptable. As a man don't put your wife through danger and then back out for selfish reasons, Jesus Christ loved the church and gave himself unto her, the husband should also learn to do same today.

5. **Sexual satisfaction:** Prov. 5:18-20, every husband should try as much as possible and as much as his energy will carry him to satisfy his wife sexually. The Bible teaches and allows this. Detail about sexual fulfillment between the husband and the wife will come much later. The husband should understand that the wife has sexual need that he must meet.

Usually men are the ones who are at the receiving and enjoyment end of many sexual activities in marriage. A godly man will not only satisfy himself but must

equally seek a way to help his wife enjoy it too. And also, sex should not be a weapon to punish your wife. The Bible teaches that neither the husband nor the wife has authority over their body but both. Just as the man has no authority over his own body but the wife, so also the woman has no authority over her body but the husband. (1Cor.7:1-3)

If all husbands will see the above as their true roles and responsibilities to their wives and children in marriage, then the world will be a better place. And homes will be more peaceful and loving, and children would also learn and grow with good and better moral values.



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*Wives, in the same way, be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence o your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah who obeyed Abraham and called him her master (Lord). You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

*(1Pet.3:1-6)*

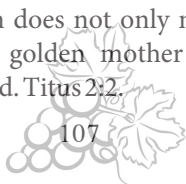
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN IDEAL WIFE

**A**s earlier enumerated and explained of a man who will fulfill his conjugal roles and responsibilities to his wife in obedience to God and promoting peace and harmony within his home, so also a woman who will do same must readily possess some characters that qualifies her as a virtuous woman.

Being a virtuous woman does not only make one a godly wife to her husband, but a golden mother to her children and trainer in the house of God. Titus 2:2.



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The book of Proverbs chapter 31:10-31 enumerated certain virtues for women to learn from, these are as follow:

- (a) Verse 10- A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
- (b) Verse 11- Her husband has confidence in her and he does not lack anything of value (good appearance, good food and good sex). Emphasis mine.
- (c) Verse 12- She is helpful and encourages her husband.
- (d) Verse 13/1 She is hard working and does not give herself to laziness
- (e) Verse 15- She rises early to pray and to work
- (f) Verse 16- She is a good manager of resources.
- (g) Verse 17/18 She helps and supports her husband financially when necessary.
- (h) Verse 19- She is skillful in many areas of artisanship.
- (i) Verse 20- She is kind and given to hospitality.
- (j) Verse 22- She dresses well to look gorgeous and attractive to her husband
- (k) Verse 23- She makes her husband look really and presentable.
- (l) Verse 26- She speaks with wisdom and does not nag.
- m) Verse 27- She is neither idle nor a busy body
- n) Verse 28- She is a pride of her husband and children.
- o) 29/30- She is committed to the Lord's services.

Beyond the above listed virtues and qualities every woman must possess just like the man to qualify her as godly wife and a role model for that matter, it must first be established against many popular but twisted opinion about women that the original intention of God for the woman is that:

- i. She is an help 'meet' or 'suitable' for the man.- Gen. 2:18
- ii. She is the Bone of the man's Bones and the Flesh of his Flesh. - Gen. 2:23
- iii. She is 'Good Thing' and 'Favour from the LORD'  
- Prov.18:22

Just like the man, there are many roles the woman is designed to perform first towards her husband, then her children. Having enumerated God's configuration of the woman that she is an help meet for the man, bone of his bones, flesh of his flesh, something good that happens to anyone who marries her, and favor from the Lord, and also all the virtue she must possess so as to tightly fit into that role, then she must see the following as her God giving roles and responsibilities towards her husband and her home.

1. **Help Meet or Suitable for the husband:** Gen.2:18, God created man and placed him in the garden of life and saddled him with the responsibility to care and nurture the Garden. (Gen.2:7,15) As God soon noticed loneliness, helplessness and vacuum which are all inabilities in the life of the man that could hinder him from fulfilling his God given assignment, He then quickly and purposefully created the woman as his helper.

As this is true till today that every man has a God given assignment to fulfill here on earth, so also it is true that the good Lord has created a woman and placed a woman by his side to help him fulfill this assignment. This assignment may reveal itself in Ministerial

Calling (Ex.4:18-26), godly aspirations and dreams (Gen.37:11-11, 41:41-46), Bringing up godly Offspring- Children in the image of the Lord Gen. 5), depending on where and how God is leading the woman.

It then behaves of the woman to also catch the vision and prayerfully seek to understand how best she will help the man to fulfill this God given vision. A woman should not stand in the way of the man, but must make herself available in every way to help him. This is her primary assignment which qualifies her as a true burdenbearer.

Far and above this, the man has several other needs which is why the woman is placed beside him. These needs are so numerous that they manifest in other areas like; Spiritual, Economical, Emotional, Sexual and Food-wise. These are areas where the woman is expected to be of great help to the man.

It then behaves of the woman to also catch the vision and prayerfully seek to understand how best she will help the man to fulfill this God given vision

But what if your husband is doing illegal business or involved in criminality as a means of livelihood? Your duty in such a scenario is not to join or support him, or neither are you to expose him, but to continue to talk and plead with him, and seriously help him prayerfully until God touches his heart and realizes how wrong his actions are. (Prov.21:1-3).

Note: For any woman to reach her goal, and fulfill her dreams, she must begin by following and supporting the dreams of her husband, it is in this she also realizes and fulfills her own dreams. Unfortunately a lot of women have failed in this knowledge by thinking that it is when they live outside of the control of a man they can fulfill their dreams. Your dreams as a woman are embedded in your husband's dreams, his fulfillment is your fulfillment- 1Tim.2:15

2. **Submission to the Husband as unto the Lord:**

1 Pt. 3:1-6, Eph. 5:22, note first and foremost that a woman who cannot submit her will and her vision to the authority of her husband cannot stay in a marriage, just as the man will now in turn submit his own will to the authority and Lordship of Jesus Christ. Therefore, there are many areas where the wife must necessarily submit to her husband. As a counselor and conference speaker, one major issue I have come across too often is women going into careers, professions or businesses that their husbands are not in support of. This is common today, as a lot of women have as a result of this development pulled out of their marriages to pursue a solo life and thereby settling for single motherhood/parenthood. In this modern time of quest for gender equality, women liberation and financial empowerment, where an average woman is becoming more economically empowered more than men.

All women must come to the understanding that as they take the decision to get married and also wish to

stay forever in that marriage, they are also going to submit to their husbands' authority and headship over them, and that failure to get this message right may spell doom for the marriage. And this also should not be mistaken for slavery or bondage, but that you are simply obeying the LORD your GOD who says through the scripture 'so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything'- Eph.5:24

The Bible says 'as unto the Lord' as a woman, you must believe that your husband, no matter who he is the God delegated authority over you. Just as the Church submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is the woman commanded to submit to her own husband. She should therefore understand that when she submits to her husband, she is automatically submitting to the Lordship of Jesus, whatever you do to your husband is Jesus you are doing it unto.

The authority and headship of the husband over the wife is like that of Jesus Christ to the church, therefore should be respected and carried out even if the man is an unbeliever as long as she is married unto him (1Cor. 7:12-15). Also, it is in the best interest of the wife that she obeys this command by submitting to her husband just as it is in the interest of the church to submit to Jesus. This comes with varieties of benefits and dividends; like winning the love and support of your husband at all times, attracting God's blessing and favor upon your children (1Kings.1:15-52). Through submission and homage, Bathsheba won the throne for Solomon her son.

3. **Home Keeping:** Like woman in Proverbs 31, it is the duty of every woman to ensure that she keeps her home in the best form of cleanness and tidiness. Making sure it all at its best all the time to accommodate both her husband and visitors. Many men have abandoned their homes today for guest houses and hotel rooms due to the dirty habit of the women they married. Some cannot just withstand strange odor or un-kept floor. Therefore, to make your home habitable for both your husband and visitors, learn the good habit of cleaning, because even your husband you think doesn't care love a clean and conducive environment.
4. **Provide Good Food:** Prov.31:14. A constant supply of good and well packaged food will not only keep the mind of the man at home but will keep his body and soul at home. It's therefore a God given duty of every woman to learn the best cooking skills anywhere she finds it just to keep her home, husband and children. Wives should understand that the second most important thing to a man after sex is food, she should therefore make herself available and to adjust to the taste of her man. Both in the house and in the office make sure the presence of your cooking is felt. Provide him a special dish at home, and special food flask to the office. Be sure he doesn't leave home without breakfast, if he is a type that doesn't subscribe to breakfast: create other measures to meet his needs. Let your husband and your children testify to the fact that you are the best cook in the world.

Adjust your timetable to meet this need. Don't be carried away by your job to the detriment of your home. God will bless your effort in Jesus name. (Amen)

5. **Good and Ideal Sex Partnership:** 1Cor.7:4a”The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband...” sexual partnership is one of such key areas where the woman must obey God. It is a God-given duty to every woman to meet not just need but to satisfy the husband sexually.

Sexual desire in man is usually far greater than that of the woman, as such many wives see this as bothersome, and so they always resist some of the advances of their husbands. It is therefore in her best interest to satisfy the man sexually at home so that she doesn't push him to seek fulfillment elsewhere. Because when women turn down advances of their husbands, they produce angry and nagging husbands who will now want to go out and experiment with another relationship.

Hence, the woman should always be eager to satisfy her husband when the duty calls and often time initiate sex too for no man would want to be denied sex for whatever reason. However, men should learn to show understanding when certain cases, like sickness, tiredness or unhappiness arises in a woman.

6. **Prayer:** I initiated a program in the past tagged, 'Mothers Do Pray'. This program was a product of two

things; one, many women who prayed in the Bible got great results. Two, many situations surround the family and the nation that need interventionary prayers of mothers. I have always believed that when mothers pray especially for their husbands and children, God does not turn a deaf ear to their cry. There is nothing like the power of a praying woman in the family.

So, I always encourage wives to include in their routine praying time, just like Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley. Wives should understand that problems in marriage are better solved when they raise their voices unto God in prayers than when they raise their voices against their husbands in tears, protest, or rebellion.

In the same vein, child's upbringing has so many connections to prayers, so every woman should make it a point of duty to pray.



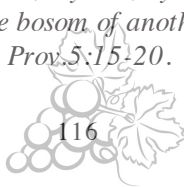
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*Drink water from your own Cistern, running  
water from your own well. Should your spring  
overflow in the streets, your streams of water in  
the public squares? Let them be yours alone,  
never to be shared with the strangers.*

*May your fountain be blessed, and may you  
rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe,  
a graceful deer-may her breasts satisfy you  
always, may you ever be captivated by her love.  
Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress?  
Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?*

*- Prov. 5:15-20.*



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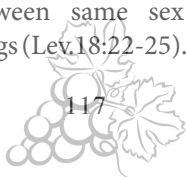
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### SEX IS FOR COUPLES

**I**t should first be established and reiterated emphatically that Sex is for the Couples and not for the unmarried people, not for boyfriends and girlfriends and not for the people in courtship, hence it is only given to be practiced within the confines of marriage.

Most importantly therefore, it should be understood without a doubt, that sex as designed by God is between a man and a woman, and not between same sex people or between animals and human beings (Lev.18:22-25).



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## What to Understand About Sex

Dag Heward-Mills in his book *Model Marriage*' submitted as follows about the gift of sex in marriage.

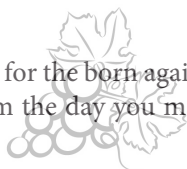
"...sex is beautiful, sex is holy and that God talks about sex. It is described in the Bible. The Bible has a lot to say about sex. Sex was created by God and not by the devil. Sex has been so misused and perverted by the devil and the world that the impression has been created that sex is ugly and sinful. We are learning from this study that on the contrary, sex is God's wonderful creation.

Sex enhances the love between the husband and the wife. It brings couples closer together. Most hard feelings melt during/ after sex

When practiced within the confines of God's will, sex can only lead to more joy and peace in marriage. Sexual intercourse can be very pleasurable and enjoyable to both men and women. However, it is an art that must be learnt and developed. Sex is not about scoring 10 out of 10 for your performance, it is about having fun with your partner and showing care. So couples should relax and be prepared to learn about a new world.

Sex enhances the love between the husband and the wife. It brings couples closer together. Most hard feelings melt during/after sex.

Regular sex is a privilege for the born again Christian couples. It is God's gift to you, from the day you marry till old age. Make use of this gift.



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## **The Wedding Night/Honey Moon**

Since sex is to be practiced only within the confines of marriage, it is therefore commendable to begin by studying how a wedding night should be for the couple, and since every newly-wed couple look forward to that night.

It should be known that even the Bible makes a provision for honey moon to the newly-wed couples for at least a year, (Deut.24:5) in old times, couple should see it as their right to spend the very first night of their marriage together, depending on the availability of time and work policy of every organization they work with permits. But it indeed worth it to spend some private times together so as to get to meet with each other and know each other intimately.

This can be done taking a vacation, trip or rent a hotel accommodation just for the moment. You can both as well plan your leave of office towards this time.

However, it should be noted that you cannot achieve sexual fulfillment together just in a night or within the few days of your wedding. Also, there are little fears, exaggerations, and misconceptions about the whole episode of the Honey Moon, especially to the first timers. As earlier mentioned you will learn through the process and overcome all your fears in due course of time and that is if there is any.

### **Tips to A Fulfilling and Memorable Honey Moon**

- Get a good accommodation area.
- Upon arrival at your accommodation; pray to thank God

together for the success of your wedding ceremony and your first night together.

- Do not be at a rush to do anything for you now belong together forever.
- Get good food to eat and then go for a brief walk and fresh air, appreciate nature like the moon and the breeze, say some good and sweet things to each another.
- Upon arrival in your room; take off each other's clothes gently, and easily. Be sure not to make any sarcastic comment about each other's body, like, "your breast is too big or too small" 'your buttocks is flat or big', 'your tummy is too big', your penis is too small or too big', instead, appreciate each other's body's structure and size.
- Go for a good and nice bath or shower together, then you can initiate the move by caressing and kissing each other.
- Also, do not also be at a rush to have intercourse almost immediately, enjoy each other's touch to the maximum before penetration at all.
- The mind is the greatest sexual organ, if the mind is unsettled the game will not flow, so work on each other's mind all the time to ensure peace and comfort of the mind so that the show can flow. Locate and caress each other's sensitive and exciting areas. E.g. for the Bride; Hair, Ear lobes, the Neck, the Nose tip, Lips, the Breast, the Nipples, the Thighs, the Buttocks, the Vagina, the Clitoris, the Labia Minora and Majora, the ten fingers are all sensitive areas to touch a woman with either your fingers or the tip of your tongue to turn her on or make her reach orgasm.

While for the bridegroom, mere sight of a woman's naked body can turn him on, but the Penis, the tips of his breasts

(nipple), the Buttocks, the testicles, the back of the neck and caressing his body generally can as well get him higher sexual arousal.

In the case of a virgin, go with lubricant like, Vaseline, or Olive oil to make penetration easy as she may experience discomfort and pains while trying to break the Hymen (a thin piece of skin that covers the virginal opening/entrance). The man should apply this on his own penis and on the woman clitoris or labia. More so, he should take it gently and slowly while penetrating to avoid hurting the wife. As a virgin expect some little pains and discomfort while the man is penetrating and some bleeding as the hymen is broken after penetration.

As a man who is a first timer, be sure you locate the vagina and not the urethra opening or anus to avoid unnecessary stress and the bride also should use her hand to guide his penis into the vagina. The bride who is a virgin may not enjoy the penetration being the first time, but a man will especially during the moment of ejaculation (the release of the sperm into the bride's body).

For easy penetration the bride should lie on her back with her legs widely opened (if so important, with a pillow under her buttocks to raise the hips and make the vagina more visible).

The Next day; wake up to pray with some Bible studies, go for picnics, take memorable pictures, do some shopping and then back to your hotel room for more chats and more sex. Have it in different areas of your hotel room like the bathroom, on the floor, on the Bed using different positions and styles, walk around naked in the room and sleep, watch movies and play

games together, hold, touch and fondle different part of each other's body. Do these continuously until you go to your home.

I wish you a fun filled honey moon, and then enjoy your marriage thereafter.

### **Importance of Good Sex among Couples**

- (a) Good sex habit leads to intimacy and stronger and deeper relationship among couples.
- (b) It is a proof/test of their relationship together.
- (c) Regular and good sex prevents adultery.
- (d) It is an expression of their good feelings and love towards each other.
- (e) It can settle scores and disputes between couple.
- (f) It releases tension after a difficult task and heal menial diseases.
- (g) It is always a happy ending to some quarrels, but not a substitute for quarrel.
- (h) It is a good way to start a day or prepare for a difficult task.
- (i) It Leads to child bearing

### **Types of Sex and Sexual Positions**

There are different types of sex and positions experts have discovered and recommended over the years for couples to always have memorable and sensational sex. It should be noted therefore that the major reason why some men or even women have extra marital affairs today is because they are tired of same type, positions and style of sex in their

bedroom. Hence we recommend that couples should try as much as possible to introduce some new impetus into their sexual life.

**Sex as Duty:** 1Cor.7:2-4. Husbands and wives are duty bound to each other irrespective of situation or circumstances to meet the need of each other sexually. But they should also ensure that this type of Sex is done out of a mere sense of duty, whether it is enjoyed or not so long I have fulfilled my God-given duty to give him/her my body, without any iota of excitement, fun or happiness. The woman should not only lay flat down without any movement and the man does it without smiling or saying thank you to the wife there after. It should be understood that this is the kind of sex that is done in the older generation without any iota of fancy which led many older generation to be polygynist. And this is done basically using the 'Missionary position' (the woman lay down flat and the man sleeps on top of her). Unfortunately in this age of sexual escapade, this is the only method of sex some couples are still used to.

But even at that you can still both carry out this duty joyfully, judiciously and happily to satisfy each other by adding some color and glamor and excitement to it making it an unforgettable event. Note that this is a duty, and as woman you need not complain or murmur.

**Sex for Reproduction:** Since it is only through sex that reproduction or child's bearing can take place, husbands and wives should always give it all it takes to make each other happy during this process, especially in couples who are trusting God for the fruit of the womb. They should ensure

wonderful gift of God to when they need to have a baby. Meaning that, sex is done only when the couple needs another baby in the family. Ovulations are counted and monitored for pregnancy to occur, after which the couple now goes on sabbatical until the need arises for another baby to come. This is the misconception that led some of the older generation to result to polygyny.

This is not a good one for the couple who wishes to fulfill the mandate of God and have fulfilled sexual life. Sex is not only design for child birth but to be enjoyed among couples. Failure in this regard has made some end up having extra marital affairs. When looking for baby is even a more reason to have regular and consistent sex together, when not looking for baby, go for family planning and enjoy life together.

**Sex for Pleasure:** God created sex for husband and wife to have desire and pleasure in each other. As stated in the scripture cited above (Prov.5;15-20) that the act of sex must be a pleasurable one among husband and the wife, and that in fact, the husband must have pleasure in every part of his wife's body. It then means that they must always take their time out to derive pleasure in each other to enjoy sex for real as a gift from God. And again this is the type of sex every couple must aspire to desire.

Here maximum excitement is experienced when the wife is putting all she has got into it to reach orgasm. The man is really prepared to take his wife on the journey of never forget. This can be done always, and it can also be done once in a while, where the couple can take a trip away from home and all distractions leaving your children behind with their Grandmas/Aunties.

that they have regular sex together especially during the ovulation of the woman until God answers their prayers.

But what should not happen is a situation in which some couples out of ignorance or extremism have limited this

It is not an outing for display of sexual performance or prowess, but to really catch fun and renew the Love of your marriage. In this tour, practise and experiment with different kinds of sex positions and styles. This may not be on a tour alone, but also in your house while you simply take some time out of busy and loaded routine.

**Sex for Excitement** - as earlier mentioned that God gave husband and wife the gift of sex to be enjoyed, derived pleasure in and above all to be excited about. Many a times, you see the woman wearing a frowning face when the husband makes sexual advances to her, some even during the very act of sex. Sex is something to be excited about at all times and at every given situation, because the Bible teaches that the husband should derive pleasure and satisfaction in the breast of his wife, in the same vein, the woman should be excited in giving her husband her body for satisfaction.

Do things that can always lead to sex together by exciting and amusing each other using different creative means, like, touch each other in sensitive places, crack jokes together, be nice to each other, for instance, the husband can help the wife to do some domestic chores to relieve the wife from tension and pressure, and then take bath together. All these are preambles to sexual excitement.

Different techniques and styles of sex making should be introduced and not just the basic missionary position. Try other positions like Doggy or back pass position-the husband enters the woman from the back, Jockey position- the woman is allowed to be at the top to do what the man will usually do while the man is fondling her breast and touching and caressing her buttocks at intervals. In this stance sexual excitement can be achieved among couples and this can always bring them closer together.

### How Frequent/Regular Should Sex Be Among Couples?

Dr. Heward-Mills in his book *Model Marriage* proposed what he calls the Sexometer to measure not just the frequency of Sex between couples but to also show the healthiness of each marital relationship represented in the chart. In other words, sexual life of couple is a proof test or true reflection of their relationship. If they are happy and excited, it will show in how frequent they make love to each other. And if otherwise, it will also show in how irregular and infrequent their sexual life is.

Frequency	Relationship
Twice a day	Typical of a very, very happy couple/marriage
Daily	Typical of a very happy marriage/couple
Every other day	Typical of harmonious/working class couple
Once a week	Typical of a marriage going through pressures
Twice a month	Typical of unhappy/quarrelsome couples

Once a month	Typical of couples uninterested in each other
Once two/ three months	Typical of couples in total disharmony/ unfaithfulness
Once every six months	Typical of marriage in virtual breakdown/ separation
Once a year/two years	Typical of a marriage with Divorce in view

### **Tips for Sexual Fulfillment/Harmony among Couples**

Note: Mutual Sexual fulfillment/harmony is not automatic. It takes a gradual process and step-by-step approach. Also, the mind is the greatest sexual organ; use it well by having good mindset towards sex.

- Openness/Nakedness to each other.
- Kindness/Happiness towards each other all the time.
- Dip expressions of love and feeling towards each other
- Helping each other in difficult times and in daily assignments.
- Good appearance and nice/fresh odor. Brush twice daily and use nice scent or perfume.
- Good hair styling/romantic wears
- Daily hugs, kisses, petting, pecking, touching, fondling of each other's sensitive areas can turn the light of sex on continually.
- Romantic behaviors like, bathing together, eating and watching good movies together can set the sexual fire ablaze.
- Cool, clean and nice bedroom environment is a big plus to sexual stimulation.

- In bedroom, the couple should gradually, slowly undress each other.
- Husband should know the wife's G spots like, the breasts, nipples, buttocks, tummy, hips, thighs, lips, ear lobes, clitoris, labia, and off course the vagina. Touching, kissing, fondling and caressing these areas will turn a woman on quickly.
- Wives should understand that the sexual urge and desires in men are higher considerably to that of the women, and that a mere sight of the woman's naked body would turn a man on almost immediately. So wife can use this to a great advantage by making sure that all is well with her body by using good medicated soaps and cream to maintain a good skin. This does not rule out the fact that places like the Penis, nipples, buttocks; testicles are also good areas to invite the man to the peak of sexual activities.
- There should always be good rounds of fore play before the coitus (penetration) to ensure that the woman reaches orgasm.
- A show of interest by the woman before and during sexual activities.
- The woman can as well initiate sex, not thinking it has to be the man always.
- Always choose special places for sex like, the bathroom, living room, on the chair, bedroom floor, but not in the front view of your children.
- Good food or good eating habits
- Appreciation and thanksgiving to each other, before, during and after sex.



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### **Sexual Turn Offs.**

- Verbal or Physical abuses like, harsh or unkind words, beating, hitting and battering of the woman.
- Mental or Emotional trauma.
- Lack of care or show of concern/affection
- Hunger or poor eating habit.
- Poverty and lack of basic amenities
- Stress and tiredness.
- Alcoholism and drugs addiction.
- Quarreling and fighting.
- Troubled or unstable state of the mind
- Anger
- Unfaithfulness in a spouse.

Sex is a gift of God to legally married couples, its wrong use or perversion in today's world does still not make it sinful in the sight of God. Couples should make use of this gift to promote love and harmony in their marriage.

Note: the study on sex is aided by Dr. Dag Heward-Mills' master piece, Model Marriage, A Marriage Counseling Handbook plus the author's other resources.



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*“For the love of money is a root  
of all kinds of evil...”*  
- 1Tim.6:10 NIV

*“... but money is the answer  
for everything”*  
- Eccl.10:19 NIV



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## The Ideal Christian Marriage....

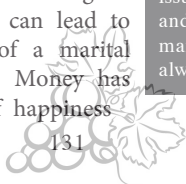


### MONEY MATTER IS A SERIOUS MATTER

**T**hese two passages of scriptures represent what roles the money play in everyday life and every typical marriage. Inordinate love or greed for money can breed all kinds of evil in the society and among loving couples. And when money is equally allowed to play its judicious course, it can be an answer for many good and great things in life and in marriage.

The right or wrong handling of money in a marriage can lead to longevity or brevity of a marital bliss and relationship. Money has always been source of happiness.

In pre-marital counseling rooms, a lot of time and energy is devoted to monetary or financial issues due to its delicate and strategic place in marriage but I have always been of the...



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and harmony to couples who have learnt to put it in its proper place in their marriage, while it has generated rancor, disharmony, sorrow and sadness among couples who give undue and unholy attention to it in their marriage. As much as the role of money cannot be over emphasized or under estimated in any relationship, couples should as a matter of importance and urgency right from their courtship days discuss how they will best handle their finances.

In pre-marital counseling rooms, a lot of time and energy is devoted to monetary or financial issues due to its delicate and strategic place in marriage but I have always been of the opinion that the attitude of individual will judge how it will play out eventually.

Good attitude towards money will lead to a good financial handling of money in marriage, and bad financial attitude like greed, selfishness and recklessness will equally take its toll in the marriage. Certain reasons and negative experiences of life and family background have made a lot of people to decide right from the word go never to open up to their spouses on financial matters, or worst still share a joint finances or accounts with their spouses.

Testimonies of wives or husbands who killed or maimed their spouses just to have all the money they jointly owned is something to be worried about. But the fact that people die of motor accidents has not made people to stop buying or driving vehicles. The fact of many cases of divorce today has equally not stopped millions of people across the world from getting married.

Moreover, many men are in the habit of saying 'my money', 'my hard earned money', the answer to that will be, what if

the woman does not cook your food, wash or iron your clothes, give you good sex and make the home habitable for you, would you have function maximally to work for the money? It means she is playing her part and fulfilling her role, so it is therefore not your money but “our money”. In the case of women who earn more than their husbands, it does not give you any reason for you to neglect your duties or become unnecessarily arrogant towards your husband, however, the money belongs to the two of you, as you are now one and no longer two.

So, our mindset, attitudes and approaches towards the issue money are big factors.

Therefore, husbands and Wives should come to such decisions like:

- Money will not determine our happiness or sadness
- Money will never be powerful enough to drift us apart
- Money will rather bring us closer than separate us
- It is not going to be My money, but Our money
- Saving, Sharing and Spending will be our joint decision.
- Each will consider the family need above personal need.
- My responsibilities are our responsibilities.
- We would not have any money or personal belongings each of us don't know about.
- But above all, the man should still be given the headship come what may.

### Principles of Financial Harmony in the Family

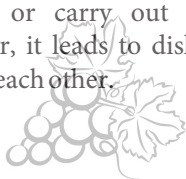
1. Make giving to the Lord's house and kingdom investment, and paying of your tithe a priority- Prov. 3:9-10

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2. You are now one not two; therefore whatever belongs to one belongs to all. - Matt.19:6
3. Be open and transparent to each other in earnings, possessions and investments. - Gen.2:25
4. Have open discussion about money always
5. Share joint finances (if possible joint account, but not necessarily), do joint businesses, carry out family projects and own properties together - Eccl.4:9-10
6. Address your needs together - Matt.19:6
7. Respect each other's opinion and decision, but the wife should always submit to the husband at every crucial points. - Eph.5:22
8. Do not compare yourself with others in property acquisitions. - 2 Cor.10:12
9. Spend, Share and Save together.
10. Do not give in to pressure or lack of finance in the home.
11. Never forget to invest.

Note: Couples who share joint finances and run joint ventures often achieve very fast than those who run solo financial life and run separate businesses. Understand that two are better than one at every given time. And the reason why you are placed beside each other is to achieve great things together, so take good advantage of your being together to achieve good and common courses.

Don't run a business or carry out projects without the knowledge of each other, it leads to disharmony, loss of trust and loss of confidence in each other.



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*“Therefore each of you must put off  
falsehood and speak  
truthfully to his neighbor,  
for we are all members  
of one body”  
- Eph.4:25*



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## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### LET'S TALK - COMMUNICATION

**T**he major cause of marital breakdown and disharmony in many marriages is lack of effective communication. The devil has cheated so many couples to the extent that husband and wife no longer talk or greet each other at home, some for weeks, some months and some for years.

I was shocked at a time while ministering in a program where I mentioned cases of husbands and wives who no longer talk or greet each other probably for months or years. Surprisingly, a woman interrupted me by saying her uncle has not been in talking terms with his wife for nineteen years.

But understand this:  
Conflict or disagreement  
is inevitable in marriage

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Communication is the only means of conflict resolution between the husband and the wife that will save their marriage from third party or family and friends interference. If the husband and wife jettison this beautiful platform or do not know how to use it well to their own advantage they will have to be consulting people for every little matter in their home.

So many little arguments that could have been resolved using this medium can degenerate into huge irreconcilable differences that will set many homes ablaze and apart.

Husband and wife should know that they can resolve their differences without them leading to argument or necessarily raising voices at each other. Women always often burst into tears or invite a neighbor, or better still call her parents or her husband's friends whenever there is an issue in the family, even some men do so. All these are signs of immaturity and both are not capable of handling their own home or settle their own problems.

The act of effective communication should be so learnt by every couple that it doesn't matter what may crop up in their relationship they will always overcome on their own without any external interference.

There are key areas in marriage where the couple cannot but probably be at loggerheads or run into conflict if not effectively communicated or well managed. The areas are; individual differences, family, finances, Career, sex, habits, hobbies (like watching television, singing round the house or staying glued to books etc.) and children.

What then is communication? Experts have simply put communication to mean: the act, concept or state of exchanging data or information between entities. But within the context of marriage, it is a means for the husband and wife to bare their minds on issues of concern, and also resolving their conflict without necessarily leading to arguments or fights. Communication can be verbal or non-verbal, overt or covert, in other words, what can be said or what can't be said.

You realize that in many occasions in marriage women are usually the talking type, while men don't say much. But in some instances, the talking women may not be talking but expect that their spouses should have gotten the message, and in a situation where this is not happening, anger ensues, emotions are bottled up and verbal explosions become the order of the day.

But understand this: Conflict or disagreement is inevitable in marriage. Some couples learn how to talk through it and talk it over, while others resort to heated arguments. You must choose the formal- talking through and over all issues, and neglect the formal- heated arguments all the time.

Conflicts can be major or minor, it is definitely not a sign that you have married the wrong the person, they simply affirm that you are human. Once you have discovered and accepted this reality, you must now find an ideal way of resolving them without leading to arguments or raising your voices at each other, or the worst still having to invite a third party which can be detrimental to your marriage, as that will mean that you are no longer capable of handling your own problems and also that you are exposing your marriage to external influence or attack.

Communing to resolve conflicts and differences should be the goal of every communication and not to express anger or pick a fight. And also is not a platform to win any argument or contest but to simply seek solution to a problem. Therefore, every couple should learn the characteristics and techniques of good communication, communicating with each other without necessarily picking a fight or having to argue.

Most importantly, every couple should discuss the best option that suit them so that they learn to resolve their conflicts and disagreements as fast as possible without leaving any for too long to degenerate into irreconcilable differences. (Eph. 4:25-27).

However, the following are valuable tips or nuggets that explain the act or art of communication in a marriage:

- Communication is an open and no holds bar discussion between husband and wife.
- Communication is opening up to each other without fear of restriction.
- Communication is an aid to resolve conflicts without arguing, abusing or fighting each other.
- Communication is a means to win each other's heart,
- Communication is a means or platform to discover how to live together in peace or harmony.
- Communication is opening up deep wounds in order to receive healing to them.
- Communication is seeking to understand each other's mind.
- Communication is learning to reach a compromise (finding or meeting at middle ground)

- Communication is reaching or taking decisions together.
- Communication is bringing healing and relief to each other.
- Communication is learning to resolve conflicts together without third party interference.
- Communication is not an end in itself, but a means to an end.

A lot of couples will ask; what are we going to be talking to each other about?.

The answer is, have you contemplated talking to each about the following;

- (a) Talk to each other about what happened in your daily activities either at your place of work or anywhere at all. Learning and sharing each other's experiences deepens your devotion and commitment to each other.
- (b) Talk freely and openly about your feelings towards each other or about something else. Knowing about each other's feelings open couples to special areas of need and intervention.
- (c) Talk about your Dreams, visions, aspirations and plans together.
- (d) Talk about how to raise your children together and plan for their future.
- (e) Talk about your families and relatives together always and how to care for them.

At least, couples should start this from a particular time in their courtship and continue in marriage. This may not be very easy at the beginning due to individual differences and personality traits, but it will surely get better as you make it an habit to talk to each other every day, every time and always.

Through this process, you will learn the following: how to appreciate each other's opinion, how to apologize to each other, how to talk gently and humbly to each other and above all learn to give preference to one another.

Remember the essence or goal of communication in marriage is to facilitate togetherness and intimacy, so make it a big deal and a matter of priority.

## **FACTORS THAT PROMOTE GOOD COMMUNICATION**

However, there are many factors that engender good and fruitful communication between husband and wife. These include:

Quality Time- husband and wife should ensure that in spite of their busy schedule they create time to talk, discuss and resolve all of their issues. I have always said that any issue left unattended to can degenerate to irreconcilable differences, hence, give priority to communication. Do not go to bed until all issues are resolved, remember, "...Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." (Eph.4:26b,27)



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Openness and Transparency- many a time, the reason while some couple find it difficult or have deliberately refuse to create time or platform for communication is due to lack of openness. Surprisingly, many couples are simply afraid to open up to each other. Anyone who is really serious about the issue of communication must as well be ready to do away with secrecy and unnecessary privacy such as pin codes on phones or any gadget at all. (2Cor.4:2)

Courtesy- this is an expression of good manners, or right manners of approach to issues which are mostly seen in verbal expression:

Godly and kind words like, please can we talk about what happened today, I am sorry for what happened, I never knew you were hurt, how can we resolve the issue? Can I be of help? Are all good starters for a good communication and not abusive words, always shouting and insulting.

Friendship- the Bible says “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”(Prov. 17:17). Friendship is always the beginning and the bedrock of every good and profitable relationship. Whatever good that will come between two people will always be a product of two people.

Also, in many cases, you notice that whenever anything happen to any of us, our friends are always the first person to be contacted, even in moments of crucial decisions, we trust our friends more than any other. I have seen friends who do almost all of their things together, including getting married on the same day, buying and building their houses beside each other and using the same brand of cars.

If such kind of shared life exists between two people who shared nothing more than friendship, then husband and wife do not have any choice other than being friends.

When friendship is sought and promoted between husband and wife, communication will be the least among many things they will have ever struggle to achieve. Many couples struggle in communication because they lack friendship.

## **HINDRANCES TO GOOD COMMUNICATION**

There are many factors also that can hinder good relationship and communication; among such are the ones that will be below:

- Anger and hot temper
- Negative and bad utterance
- Shouting and always arguing to win
- Doing all the talking and not listening to the other fellow
- Bursting to tears and always keeping quiet
- Opening up past issues all the time.
- Wrong approach or wrong timing
- Counting offences and unforgiving

## **RESULTS OR FRUITS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

Although communication is not an easy task, but those who labor to achieve it will eat the good fruits it will produce. Prov.12:14; 13:2, 18:20.



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Good communication produces the following fruits:

- Deeper intimacy
- Healing of old wounds
- Trust and faithfulness
- Peaceful home
- Friendship
- Openness and transparency
- Healing and joy

In conclusion, your marriage is as good as your communication, and also, the level of peace you desire in your marriage is dependent on how much time and energy you are willing to invest into your communication.

Communication is golden, go for it, and try hard to achieve it.



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*Sons are a heritage from the Lord  
children a reward from him.  
Like arrows in the hands of a  
warrior are sons born in one's youth.  
Blessed is the man whose quiver  
is full of them. They will not be  
put to shame when they  
contend with their  
enemies in the gate.  
-(Ps. 127:3-5) NIV*



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## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



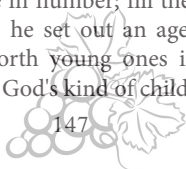
### PARENTING IS A MANDATE

**T**his scripture has three literal meaning; its first meaning is that children are from God, and they belong to him. Secondly, they are like weapons of war in the hand of their parents. And finally, they are blessings to whosoever owns them.

After God has created the man and the woman, he blessed them saying.

There is how to train,  
there is how not to train,  
depending on the training  
of the trainer himself

Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it  
Gen 1:28- NIV by this he set out an agenda for mankind to  
increase by bringing forth young ones in multiple forms to  
populate the earth with God's kind of children, in order that



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they might subdue the earth. The synonym for the word subdue is to moderate. This by implication means that while carrying out this divine mandate of fruitfulness, it should be with utmost moderation. Like Paul enjoins that we do everything in a fitting and in orderly way. (1Cor.14:40)

In other words, do not bring forth indiscriminately and without control. Give birth with plans and control. Bring forth according to the measure of your mental, social, physical and financial capability. Do not bring forth for trouble and suffering, engage and apply modern and scientific birth control.

Children are God's heritage, weapons of war and treasures to him who gives birth and train and tutor them well. They are God's means of populating the earth, and his weapons of destruction against His enemies. That is why every parent is but a vehicle to bring them to the earth, and a partner with God to help them fulfill their God's giving purpose and destiny. It has been established earlier that the purpose of God for marriage is predominantly companionship. More to this, is a mandate to raise godly offspring that will further propagate the kingdom of God and extend it to the gates of their enemies?

However, the Bible has a blue print on how to go about this noble course in Prov. 22: 6 as follow "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." NIV

This is a clear message, that every child has a way he/she should go, and the responsibility of each parent is to train him/her in that way.

Moreover, parenting is more than a job, first it involves training. And no one can ever give what he/she doesn't have. This is to say that whoever that must train others must first have gone through the process of training himself.

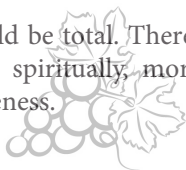
There is how to train, there is how not to train, depending on the training of the trainer himself. There is spiritual and physical approach to training, and as a matter of fact, there is in the recent times more than just these two approaches to a child's training.

Hence, every parent and child's trainer should note and understand the following;

That Child's training should begin from conception, as it has been scientifically proven that baby hears even when it is in the womb. So life begins at conception. (Jer.1:1-5)

Therefore, no matter the position, the truth is, abortion is unbiblical, God is against it because it is murder and termination of an innocent unborn baby's life and God will not hold guiltless anyone who engages in abortion.

- Children have different challenges and needs at every stage of development that parents must get acquainted with.
- Children born in every generation have different and peculiar struggles.
- Child's training should be total. Therefore, every parent must raise the child spiritually, morally, mentally and physically for effectiveness.



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Therefore, parenting must be total, and it must be effective.

### **What then is effective parenting?**

To be effective is having the power to produce a required result, while parenting is a process of raising and educating a child from birth until adulthood.

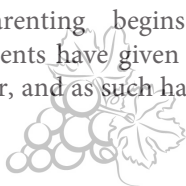
To simply put, effective parenting is the power to raise and educate a child from birth to adulthood until a desired result is achieved.

Parents must learn that there is a way God wants every child to go, and the devil also has designed a way for every child, the duty of parents therefore is to ensure that the child goes in the way of the Lord and not the devil.

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. - Prov.22:6.

As a children's teacher who has paid close attention to children for many years, I have discovered and taught that every aspect of a child's life should be taken into cognizance in the course of parenting and training. Many children have stunted and distorted growth due to deficiency in a particular aspect of their life.

More importantly, parenting begins with a sense of responsibility. Many parents have given birth to children they cannot be responsible for, and as such have abandoned them to their own fate.



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Africa has the highest number of child's poverty, child's labour, child's malnutrition, and the highest number of out of school children in the world. This is primarily because we lack planning, both as a people and as governments. This is in terms of birth and population control.

Many have often used Gen. 1:28 as a defense for their ignorance of family planning and birth control. But I made bold to say it is the same God who gave this blessing that gave Abraham in the Old Testament and Zechariah in the New Testament a single child a piece. So birth control is the basis for parental sense of responsibility, give birth to only the number of children you can care for. Do not give birth for trouble.

One of the scariest things in today's world of child upbringing is the stupendous amount of money many schools now demand. The minimum amount of money to pay to receive good education from any school now even at the Kindergarten level is ten thousand naira (#10000). Some schools especially the private schools in the Lagos metropolis and any other area in Nigeria now charge close to a million naira per annum for nursery and primary education.

Feeding and accommodation are other fundamental things parents should give proper consideration and attention to if they really intend to be responsible.

In a nut shell, give birth to the number of children you can adequately provide and cater for. Do not give birth to children in guise of "be fruitful and multiply", only to put them on the streets either to beg for alms or hawk for money in order to make their own living.

It is better to give birth to a few number of children and give them proper and adequate training than to give birth to several and abandon them.

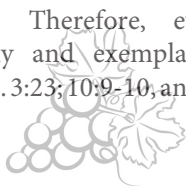
### The Ultimate in Parenting

There are ultimate things parent must first attend to, and these are as follow;

Salvation- every child needs early salvation. By this I mean to bring a child to a point where he/she realizes early the need to confess Christ as Lord and personal savior, and most importantly the need to have complete trust in God. Help your children to lead godly and accountable life as early as possible. It gives you peace in the end as parents.

The Bible is filled with examples of children who had been dedicated and devoted to God right from their infants and who all ended up being great personalities, such examples as, Jesus of Nazareth, John the Baptist, and Samuel in Shiloh and the host of others.

Early salvation experience is good for every child, so, parents should help their children have this experience early enough so that they live for God and His word all through their entire life. But like I did mention that it is difficult for anyone to give what he or she doesn't have. It takes parents who have experienced genuine conversion/salvation to lead their own children to salvation. Therefore, every parent should endeavor to lead godly and exemplary lifestyle for their children to emulate. Rom. 3:23; 10:9-10, and Eccl. 12:1.



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The primary reason for early conversion of a child is to ensure that he /she grows in God and His wisdom and to have assurance of good future.

The Word of God- In Psalm 119:9 the psalmist says this “How can a young man keep his way pure? by living according to your word”. It is so important that our children are introduced and are trained in the word of God. This gives them sense of security and confidence wherever they go in life. More so, their success depends on it, this is word of the Lord as declared to Joshua. (Josh. 1:8)

This is equally in line with the commandment of God to the Israelites concerning their children.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates Deut. 6:4-9 NIV

The Lord gave the nation of Israel the word, and commanded that they also pass it on to their children. This is why at a later part of Jewish history, every child at fourteen must have been able to memorize and recites the Torah, especially the shema- “hear oh Israel, the Lord your God is one God”. This gave the reason why Jesus was already at the temple by age twelve. (Luke 2:46-47)

Therefore, it becomes incumbent on the parents to ensure that children do not only have early exposure to the word but to make sure they grow in it and imbibe it in their system.

Discipline- in parenting, discipline is multi-dimensional. Multi-dimensional in the sense that it seeks to pay attention to many aspects of the training and upbringing of a child.

There is the spiritual angle to discipline, such as fasting, praying, and meditation in the word of God. Also, there is moral side of discipline that a child must be allowed to go through, it is in this he/she develops a better value system and strong character.

Meanwhile, one important aspect is the physical discipline where a child is drilled to become a better person. The bible says, "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him". Prov. 13:24. Therefore, physical discipline includes not sparing the rod as at when necessary and when due.

Education- as earlier alluded to, giving a child good education is another fundamental responsibility of every parent. More so, education is a fundamental right of every child under the United Nations charter, therefore, I implore parents never to give birth to the number of children they cannot conveniently cater for.

One of the most expensive and important legacy any parent can give a child is education, especially a good one. But unfortunately, today, we have had parents especially fathers who are so care free when it comes to the education of their children.

One of my pastor friends had once told me that he has always charged his church members never to take the education of their children for granted. Especially to mothers, that if it will cost them their wrapper just to educate their children, they should not hesitate. Parents should also understand that one of the reasons why they work is to be able to give to their children if not the best, but at least something better than what their own parents have given them.

Therefore, every parent must strive to give their children the best.

Prayer – the bible says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. Psalm.127:1 Prayer is an effective and ultimate key every parent must possess and hold unto, because no matter the level of your effectiveness and versatility as parents, you still need to invite God into the journey of your children committing them to God in prayers.

History records that Susana Wesley, the mother of John and Charles Wesley spent one hour per week, some per day praying for each of her children while their father worked as clergy. At the end John and Charles among others grew up to become spiritual giants in the eighteen century. This is what effective prayer does to a child, securing a glorious and spiritual future for the children. Any parents who engage the force of prayers can be assured of a secured tomorrow for their children.



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No matter the notoriety of a child, prayer is a major way to help him/her. Effective prayer is the only answer to the problem any child may be facing. A praying parent is one who can be rest assured that he/she has secured the future of his or her children. Raise and train your children prayerfully

Therefore, there cannot be effective parenting without an effective prayer life. Do not curse your children for any reason, no matter the situation, rather, pray for them.

In line with the above are the following responsibility tips towards a holistic and effective parenting:

Parents must watch and screen what their children eat- to begin with, many promising and potential future leaders have through what they ate from infant been deformed in one way or the other. It is incumbent on the parents to monitor strictly what their children eat and drink. At least, this will help the parent: one, to control the eating habit of their children. Secondly, to ensure they eat the right and normal kind of food. And finally, to help every child maintain a good and balanced health that is devoid of incessant sickness. This should be irrespective of their financial status.

Watch and screen what they wear- as we have seen today that the world is no longer how and what it used to be in terms of decency and morality. The world has fast shifted from indecent dressing to nudity and shamelessness where average young people you see on the street simply want to go naked. Unfortunately, many of this dress sense and habit began from individual homes, including Christians' homes. So parent should endeavor to teach and train their children the form of

proper and decent dressing that is befitting of a godly child right from childhood.

Watch and screen who they move with. The Bible says "'Bad Company corrupts good character" (1 Cor.15:33 NIV). It is on this premise that every parent should know who their children are moving with. Even when they are away in schools, we should try to know and must screen with every possibility who they move with.

Watch and Screen the places they visit. Many parents are less concerned about the movements of their wards. They leave them to their fate, this is not the right way of training a child, I understand that there are moment when parents can do little or nothing to protect their children just in the case of Jochebed mother of Moses in Ex.2:3-4 "But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. NIV

In this scenario, Moses was born during the time king Pharaoh had ordered the killing of male children from two years downward, and Moses' mother in defiance kept and watched over Moses for three months, and when she could no longer do so, she committed him to providence asking God to watch over him, and from the story of Moses in the bible, God indeed watched over him by connecting him to daughter of Pharaoh, to Median and back to Egypt the second time.

These are all divine guidance and providence.

Therefore, every parent should understand that such times abound in the journey of everyone especially our children, where God whatever you have taught children becomes what sustains them when you are no longer around them to give them guidance.

Watch and screen what you say to children. The Bible says "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit". Prov. 18:21-NIV. No matter the level of annoyance and vexation, parents should never curse or utter negative words to their children. Unfortunately, some parents have imbibed the negative culture of all sorts of negative confession-saying all the terrible things of this world to their children, the bible says "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit". Matt 12:33

You either make a tree good or make a tree bad by your utterances. In the same vein you make your children either good or bad by what you say to them.

There is power in confession. So also, there is power in what you say to your children. if you say they are good, they will be good, and if you say continually to them that they are bad, they will end up being bad. Words are like seed sown. Please parents, understand that you are also the first prophets to your children. And it is whatever you say to them they end up being.

There was a story of a particular teacher in a bible school who asked his student to carry out an experiment about how powerful words are. He asked each of them to plant two

flowers in two different vases and they will wake up first thing every morning for thirty days to curse one while they bless the other.

Amazingly, the words have their impacts on these flowers, as it happened that the one that was blessed daily came up beautifully while the other one cursed in some others did not come out at all. This is exactly what it means when you curse one child and then bless the other. Parents, please, let us be positive towards our children, including the ones that are not our biological children.



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*"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.*

*- Ruth 1:15-19 NIV.*

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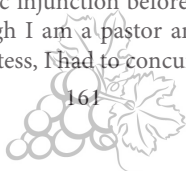
## The Ideal Christian Marriage....



### THE IN-LAWS FACTORS

**T**his is one of the best examples one can learn from when it comes to how to deal or relate with one's in-law (s)- knowing that when you are married into a family, you have them for who they are and what they are including their religious conviction. You may necessarily not practice their religion especially when it is not Christianity, and you must not castigate it openly to their face either.

I remember when I was going to get married and my father-in-law who is a Muslim, insisted that I married my wife in accordance with Islamic injunction before going to wed her in the church, even though I am a pastor and my wife is strong Christian and a prophetess, I had to concur. This is because



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that was the only thing he requested from me to approve of my marriage with his daughter.

Someone may say how could I have assented to such a thing as a pastor, but I must let you know that this is where a lot of people missed it, and they are struggling even up till date. There is a need for you to know that if I didn't assent to his request, he wouldn't consent to the marriage either. And I can tell you that my father in-law and I are best of friends today due to that singular act of fulfilling the desire of his heart.

Many begin unnecessary wars and battles due to ignorance and arrogance. A lot would have been avoided just by a simple act of gesture and show of acceptance of certain customary activities in your in-laws' family, many of which are not necessarily against your faith and convictions.

I need to let you know that good relationship with your in-laws can make your marriage work, while bad relationship with them can put your marriage in a bad light as well. There are cases where families and in-laws have stood vehemently against or in support of a husband divorcing his wife or a wife divorcing her husband due to either good or bad relationships.

Unfortunately, many today do not know the usefulness and the blessing of having in-laws, especially the mother in-laws. Many ladies out of ignorance, pride and arrogance have failed to maintain good and cordial relationship with their mothers in-law, while many have even vowed never to marry any man whose mother is still alive. If you are such a lady, you need to learn from Ruth and more so you will also grow up to become a mother-in-law someday.

Did you know it was Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law who helped Ruth to find hope for life again? (Ruth 3:1-18). Had Ruth deserted her just like Orpah did, had Ruth been rude to her just like many of today's wives would do to their mothers-in-law, there wouldn't have been any chance for her to marry a man like Boaz, or even become a Matriarch in the lineage of David, and eventually our Lord Jesus. (Ruth 4:13-22).

This applies to men too; your good rapport with your both fathers and mothers-in-law can keep your wife under your obedience forever.

Often than not, people while preparing for marriage do either neglect or forget that they are going to be married into a family. Many have also forgotten that in-laws have their roles either in the failure or success of a marriage.

Meanwhile, couple- in-law relationship varies from culture to culture; for you to have a successful relationship, you must learn to put into cognizance what is tenable and practicable within the cultural milieu of the person you are married to. For instance, Africa have the way they relate with their in-laws, no African man would want you as a wife to disrespect any member of his family, not even his younger ones no matter how he loves you.

In- laws factors and contributions to the success or downfall of a marriage are enormous, and they begin right from the time of courtship and continue even into marriage. Some in-laws right from the on-set stand either for or against the success of the marriage, depending on their conviction about the marriage or the attitude of their daughters or sons-in-law.

Many especially the mothers-in-law begin their assessment on their son or daughter in-law from the day he or she is introduced to them and this can form their opinion and their eventual disposition towards the marriage.

As first impression they say lasts long, many ladies have lost the support or favour of their in-laws from the very first day of visitation.

Hear me ladies! It is not out of place when you proof yourself worthy of acceptance by your manners of approach and show of respect even to your husband's younger ones on your first day of visit; including helping them do some house chores, like washing of plates and doing some cooking as the case may be.

Moreover, no man under any circumstance wouldn't want you to show yourself worthy of respect to his family, neither will he be willing to desert his family for you as the case may be; therefore, you have to be careful with the way you relate with your spouses' family. This also applies to men.

Also, you need to remember that when you marry your spouse, you are not just marrying him or her, but his/her family as well for better or for worse. Both of your families will still have one reason or the other to be around you. In some cases, you may have some members of your spouses' family coming to live with you, after all he is their brother or she is their sister or even your parents-in-law that you cannot turn down.

This is when your maturity and accommodation is put to test. Therefore, you need patient and God's wisdom, for whatever

you do and however you relate with them, you must consider how your spouse will feel, or even your in-laws' perception about you, so always work with your spouse to attend to crucial matters. On no occasion should you be confrontational on any issue without carrying your spouse along.

However, I personally wish to recommend that new couples should keep family members at bay for the first few years of their marital relationships. This is because new couples need time to get together with each other and to mature in their relationship with each other.

Love requires time to grow. Therefore, in-laws should keep away from them for a while before bombarding them. Nevertheless, wives feel more comfortable around their own family, so wives' family members may always be the best option in case of any immediate help.

This is why it is advisable for the new couples to always have their own apartments before getting married, however, whether close or far, your family will need your attention, care and relationship. Being married does not suggest being repulsive to your own family, especially to your parents.

Under no guise should you push your spouse against his or her own family, remember you have a family too. Wife honour and respect everyone in your husband's family, remember they have a role to play in the success or failure of your marriage, likewise men. Always remember that you are married into a family.

However, in-laws involvement in a marriage should be a

the down fall of your son's or daughter's marriage. You must know that what God has joined together, you have no right to put it asunder. (Matt. 19:6)

## WIVES/MOTHER-IN-LAWS

No doubt that wives and mothers-in-law are usually known to be at loggerheads, but nothing is impossible to him or her that believeth. The bible says "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down. Prov. 14:1-2, furthermore, in chapter 19 and verse 14 of the same book of Proverbs, it's on record that, "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord". Essentially, it takes wisdom and prudence to win this battle, if Ruth could win the battle and enjoy the blessing and support of her mother-in-law, then the battle is winnable.

Wives should always remember that they will one day end up being mothers-in law, and mothers-in law should also remember that their own daughters too are married to men who would probably have mothers too; therefore, all should tread with caution and remember that "... A man reaps what he sows" Gal 6:7

Wife, treat your mother-in-law as your own mother, and just as you wish to be treated when you eventually becomes one, and mother-in-law, treat your daughter-in-law just as your own daughter, and as you wish that your own daughter would be treated wherever she is.

However, it is pertinent for wives to give a breathing space between her husband and his mother. Wives should

understand that whatever relationship they have with their husbands, their husbands remain sons to their mothers, just as they are daughters to their own mothers too. Therefore, respect the bond rather than try to disconnect it due unholy or unhealthy jealousy.

Note, that it is at this juncture many wives and mothers-in-law clash.

Secondly, wives should learn from their husbands how they can best cope and relate with their mothers-in-law. Instead of trying to discover on your own as a wife how to relate with your mother-in-law, why not ask your husband one simple question, “How best can I relate with your mother to enjoy her company, or what must I do to be in her good book?” Only your husband knows how best you can relate with his mother and relatives to be in their good book, so learn from him and follow what he says. This is a game every woman must learn to play.

And in the case of some impossible and overbearing mothers-in-law, prayer stands to be the most effective tool for winning the battle, as well as counting on your husband's judgment and leadership.

Finally, wives should love their mothers-in-law, and try to accept them as their own mothers. Likewise, mothers-in-law should accept their daughters-in-laws as their own daughters and not make them regret ever marrying their sons.



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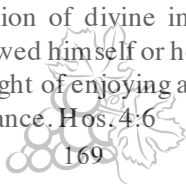
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## CONCLUSIONS



**I**n conclusion, God has created marriage for blessing and not a curse, for happiness and not sorrow, for enjoyment and not encroachment, for compliment and not infringement, and that “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral” Heb. 13:4, therefore, it is never part of God's will for anyone to experience pain, agony and tears in marriage.

So when a marriage begins to experience the other part, it's either there is a violation of divine injunction, or there is somebody who has allowed himself or herself to be robbed by the devil of his or her right of enjoying a fruitful and fulfilling marriage through ignorance. Hos. 4:6



It is therefore pertinent for a Christian to claim his/her God given portion for a fulfilling marriage by refusing to be ignorant of God's laid down principles and procedures in the manual.

Success in marriage has a procedure, and that is why there is no single problem in marriage that does not have a solution in the Bible.

Therefore, in crucial moments and dark hours in your marriage, pray to God the originator of marriage, and consult the Bible the manual for marriage, seek godly counsel and read good books such as this.



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## WINNING PRAYERS FOR SINGLES

### a. Prayer of thanks

- Oh Lord! Thank you for the salvation of my soul in Jesus name
- Oh Lord! I thank you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made in Jesus name- Ps. 139:14
- Oh Lord! I praise you for marvelous and glorious are your works in my life in Jesus- Ps.139:14b
- Mighty God! I thank you because I am single but not forsaken in Jesus name- Is. 62:4
- Oh Lord my God! I thank you for good health and for my well being in Jesus name-
- Heavenly Father! I thank you because I shall not be called deserted or desolate- Is.62:4
- Lord Jesus! I thank you because you are the hope of my glory- Col.1:27
- My Father and My God! I thank you because I will not watch in vain while my peers are getting married
- Father in the name of Jesus! I thank you because you will make a way for me where there seems to be no way
- Finally, Lord thank you for your mercy that is available for my marriage in Jesus name.

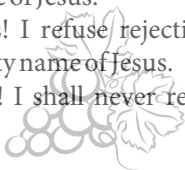
### b. Prayer of Confession, Forgiveness and Mercy

- Oh Lord! I confess and receive forgiveness for every generational sin in the mighty name of Jesus.
- Oh Lord! I confess, and receive forgiveness and mercy over every hidden and secret sin in my life that will hinder godly and ideal marriage in Jesus name.

- Blessed redeemer! I receive redemption for every sin of abortion (if any) committed in my moment of ignorance in the name of Jesus.
- Lord Jesus! I confess and receive forgiveness and redemption over every sin of addiction in the mighty name of Jesus.
- Lord Jesus! I receive mercy over every judgment of sin in Jesus name.

#### c. Prayer of Victory and Deliverance

- My Lord and My Redeemer! I receive deliverance from every familiar and demonic spirit in the mighty name of Jesus.
- Oh Lord My God! I take authority over every activity of the devil and his cohorts against my destiny and marriage in the name of Jesus.
- In the Mighty name of the Lord Jesus! I destroy every evil foundation that is against godly and ideal marriage in my family in the name of Jesus.
- In the name of Jesus! I disconnect myself from every evil pattern in my generation in Jesus name.
- In the name of Jesus! I shall not be a victim of broken marriage in the name of Jesus.
- By the Power in the Blood of Jesus! I delete my name from the records of marital failure in the mighty name of Jesus.
- In the name of Jesus! I thwart every evil plan concerning my marital life in the name of Jesus.
- In the name of Jesus! I refuse rejection, desertion and loneliness in the mighty name of Jesus.
- In the name of Jesus! I shall never remain single in the name of Jesus.



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- In the name of Jesus! I shall never be barren in Jesus name.
- In name of Jesus! I shall never be a widow/widower in Jesus name.
- I shall have peace and comfort in marriage in Jesus name.
- I shall have marital fulfillment in the name of Jesus.



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## NOTES

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## COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**G**oing through this book written by Prophet Sam Olamiji Akibu, I realized it is a gift to this generation. I give glory to God for using this man of God to reveal the timeless secret behind marriage ordained by God from the Garden of Eden.

I came across this man of God about fifteen (15) years ago, since then; he has shown great interest in teaching the word of God relating to marriage.

In the entire world today, less than 40% of marriages last long, the reason for this however is lack of knowledge which can only be achieved through the scripture and messages such as contained in this book, and other related books from other great chosen men of God.

I would therefore like to recommend that this book be read in every home, because I believe a failed marriage is a failed nation, and a successful marriage will lead to a successful nation.

**Evang. Peter Ogunyipe, C.E.O Remigious Tel- Metes Ltd.,  
Nigeria**

Apostle Sam Olamiji Akibu is using the wealth of experience gathered as a known marriage counselor, who has been bothered and greatly disturbed by the misconception of people towards the institution of marriage, putting this great work together, first for people to understand the meaning of

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marriage, and all about the institution, hence tackling the problem associated and emanated from it.

As an individual, who grew and suffered the effect of broken home, I concluded never to get married, but thankfully, my mother intervened and encouraged me. However, reading this book “The Ideal Christian Marriage”, I found answers to many questions that have remained unanswered within me from childhood, and further understood the meaning of marriage as an institution.

I therefore recommend this book to everyone, as you may be surprised to find in it “the very reason why some marriages crashed long before it started, and eventually ended in divorce, and solutions many problems of marriage”

**Salami Olumide Olawale, Equity Assurance Ltd., Accra, Ghana**

This book is great treat, especially its exposition on sex education and other very important topics on marriage. I am happy recommending it to you, please read it.

**Osahon Idehen, Crude Evaluation Engr. NNPC, R&D, PortHarcourt.**



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...God's Mercy has a voice. Come, hear Him speak to your situation

**in conjunction with**  
**Covenant Parish**  
 10th Ave, New York, New York  
 10014

presented by

**Theme:**  
 ...It is not good  
 that the man should  
 be alone  
 Gen. 2:18

**MERCY for MARRIAGE**

**Venue:**  
 CENTRAL CHURCH OF THE FIRST  
 COVENANT PARISH, AFRICA CHANA  
 10th Ave, New York, New York, 10014

**Speakers:**

**Dr. S.D.J. Bala**  
 A Senior Minister, Trinity Church, New York, New York  
 10014  
 Pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, New York, New York  
 10014  
 Pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, New York, New York  
 10014  
 Pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, New York, New York  
 10014

**Dr. S.D.J. Bala**  
 A Senior Minister, Trinity Church, New York, New York  
 10014

**Fri. 23rd January, 2015**  
 8:00pm - 5:00am

...God's Mercy has a voice. Come, hear Him speak to your situation

**in conjunction with**  
**Covenant Parish**  
 10th Ave, New York, New York  
 10014

presented by

**Theme:**  
 But for Adam  
 there was not  
 found an help  
 meet for him  
 Gen. 2:20b

**ANIGHT OF  
 STORY-  
 CHANGE FOR  
 SINGLES &  
 MARRIED**

**MERCY for MARRIAGE**

**Venue:**  
 OPEN GROUND  
 By the River, New York, New York  
 10014

**Speakers:**

**Dr. S.D.J. Bala**  
 A Senior Minister, Trinity Church, New York, New York  
 10014  
 Pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, New York, New York  
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 Pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, New York, New York  
 10014

**Dr. S.D.J. Bala**  
 A Senior Minister, Trinity Church, New York, New York  
 10014

**Fri. 8 Aug, 2014,**  
 8pm-5am

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In our increasingly global world, it is important for the Church to hear the voices of emerging theologians and scholars from different parts of the world. This work, originally published in Nigeria is just one such example. How we read and understand scripture, and how we apply it to our cultural contexts may vary from place to place, but as a Global Church, we need to both listen and understand the viewpoints of other brothers and sisters. First Fruits Press is committed to helping bring such voices to the complete Body of Christ whenever possible

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**About the Author:**

Samuel Olamiji Akibu is a Nigerian Pastor-theologian, evangelist, and a Bible college lecturer. He is the coordinator of Ideal Life Ministries, and Ideal Life Bible College. He is also a consummate preacher, teacher, and a conference speaker whose ministry's gift has reached major cities across Nigeria, Africa, and the United States. Prior to this time, he has served as a Pastor as well as at different leadership positions in his church denomination and across Christian ministries. He holds a Bachelor of

Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Theology and Biblical Studies respectively from West Africa Theological Seminary, Lagos, Nigeria, and he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies (OT) at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, United States where he lives with beautiful wife, Veronica Afolashade and their lovely kids.