

LET'S GET
MARRIED
AND STAY
MARRIED

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to every man or woman who is yet to be married and to all married couples.

Acknowledgments

We cannot travel far without the help and support of men.

I am grateful to:

Rev. Cletus O. Diolu the General Overseer of Faith Victory Church Inc., who gave me the privilege and opportunity to be a teacher and a counselor in the house of God.

My wonderful wife (Josephine) and our children (Esere, Iroro & Omafume).
Your love and support was sustaining.

All those blessed persons behind the scenes, who made the development and production of this book possible.

Above all, I give thanks to the almighty God, who chose me, an empty dusty vessel to pass his message. Who am I? What have I achieved, that he chose me? To God be all the praise and glory.

*Whoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor from the
LORD.*

Proverbs 18:22 (Webster)

Introduction

I have come across too many marriages in crisis; looking into the cause of the crisis, I found out that couples do not know or understand the basics of marriage. The knowledge of the basics of marriage helps right before a man and woman gets married and keeps them married for the rest of their life. Regardless of the complexity or intensity of the crisis that a marriage encounters, a well based marriage will remain and even get refreshed after every challenge.

This book brings out the indispensability of marriage to human existence; without marriage life ends. The nature and attributes of a marriage based (founded) on God; we see the reasons why God initiated marriage and how He constituted marriage from the beginning of humanity.

We discovered that marriage is not a one-time event, but a continuum for life. We found the basic rules, based on the word of God, which keeps a family united and happy.

There is no marriage that is a mistake. There is no wrong man or woman to marry; it's only the presence or absence of the fear of God that makes a man or woman right or wrong for marriage. Even though you thought you married a wrong person because he or she fears not God, worry not, as long as you are married God will make him or her right. Patiently go through this book and you will know and understand how God makes and keeps marriages. Your home will be a paradise that you will need no other.

To the young man or woman who is scared of getting married, it's time. It is time to be complete, to have or be a helper, to have a companion for life that you will enjoy his or her company. It's going to be okay, you will be happy.

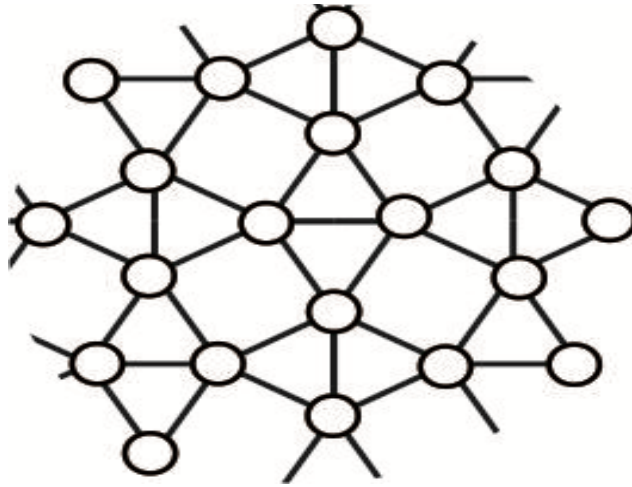
Chapter one

Life

Life is an unending series of family circles, be it plants or animals, we all come from families and we will all basically raise families. Though there are exceptions to this rule, such as eunuchs, pre-mature deaths and those that decide not to raise families, all these are in the minority; in actual fact their number is negligible.

We could also view life as starting from a node which produces a line that ends in another node that produces its own line(s) and each node continues the process indefinitely. Each node represents a union and every line represents off-springs. To get a node two or more lines must meet and stay together to produce another line(s). The number of lines that come together to form a node, tells of the type of union. The formation of the first original node is inexplicable, that is where God is, and also the end of the series is unknown, that is where God is again. That is why God is the Alpha and Omega. He alone knows to what end all this family interconnection will lead to. However I believe he is not living it to chance, He has a desired end which must be achieved. So we have something like the structure below.

Unions & offsprings inter-relation



Key

Off-spring..... —

Union..... O

Chapter two

The First Union

The node in the illustration above is the union, it represents marriage. These unions could be formed from the coming together of two or more off-springs from other unions.

The first union was more of a dimension, God Himself, put His life into molded clay, so to speak;

Gen 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Webster)

That was the beginning of the human life. This is why life has no ending because life started with God, only God knows the end, if any. He is the beginning and the ending, life only changes form in the spiritual and physical but continues indefinitely.

God's breath of life in clay gave a perfect man, a living being called Adam. Adam was a perfect man, with all the attributes of God, from any perspective you would want to look at it, physically, spiritually, belief system, name it.

Gen 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Webster)

Adam was God in human flesh, just like the burning bush; God in flame of fire.

Ex 3:4-6

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Approach not hither: put off thy shoes from thy feet, for the place on which thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face: for he was afraid to look upon God. (Webster)

like Jesus Christ; God in human flesh.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Webster)

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

(Webster)

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I wonder how long Adam lived alone as the only human being, but just as God has heavenly beings who He communes with;

Gen 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ... (Webster)

Intuitively, Adam needed companionship. God, knowing that Adam was complete and perfect, decided there was no need to add to humanity. He made another living being, Eve, from the complete and perfect Adam, keeping humanity complete and perfect;

Gen 2:18

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make him a help meet for him. (Webster)

Gen 2:21-23

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, he made woman, and brought her to the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man. (Webster)

Gen 3:20

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (Webster)

Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship, it was based on God. It was God relating with Himself. Everything about them was God. Thoughts, decisions, actions, inactions, dos and don'ts, were all the same: Just too perfect for today's human comprehension. This perfect relationship was described thus;

Gen 2:25

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

(Webster)

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The aspect of God Adam and Eve did not express was the response to evil, because there was no evil to respond to. They had no knowledge of good or evil, all things were good.

Gen 2:17

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest of it thou shalt surely die. (Webster)

There was nothing like hate, idolatry and witchcraft, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions, dissension, envy and other evil acts, nothing to tempt the flesh. They enjoyed love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It was a perfect manifestation of God in human relationship. These are the characteristics all marriages should have, we may not have attained it but we should aspire to attain that perfection. It was to continue in this way for eternity but an aspect which Adam and Eve never envisaged was to be unveiled; dealing with evil. God allowed this perfect marriage to be tested. He also provided a way of escape and a redemption plan after the fall, so as to get them back to that perfect relationship.

1 Cor 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above what ye are able; but

will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (Webster)

Nothing is truly as strong as claimed until it is tested, like in the case of Job; (Job 1:1-22).

Job was a man from Uz. He was a man that feared God; hence he lived an upright and blameless life. He was wealthy and blessed with sons and daughters. On a day when angels came to present themselves before God, Satan also came along. God boasted about Job's uprightness, being blameless and fear for Him (God). Then, Satan pointed out that, it was because God prospered him, blessed his household and kept everything that belong to him (Job) secured, that was why Job was upright and feared Him (God). So, Satan asked for permission to test Job and God allowed him. From there Satan went to test Job but Job did not fall. Job stood firm in God and did not sway with the challenges.

Similarly, God allowed the serpent to test Eve;

Gen 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made: and he said to the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said to the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know, that in the day ye eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened: and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise; she took of its fruit, and

ate, and gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked: and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made for themselves aprons. (Webster)

All Eve had to do to escape the temptation was to stand on the word of God she quoted (Gen 3:2-3). Not wavering, just stand on the word of God and the trial would have passed. The serpent would have left in shame

God had a redemption plan to return humanity to the original perfect relationship should Eve fall. If Adam and Eve had asked for mercy, God is all merciful but they did not. Thus, they have to go through the redemption process that got to the point where the Son of God, Jesus Christ, came down to earth to die for our sins and return us to that perfect relationship we had with God.

The bible did not tell us how much and how long the serpent maintained communications with Eve, I believe he started sometime before she ate the fruit and continued after she left the Garden of Eden. Much deception must have been put in her; to the point that she did not find other fruits as good for food or pleasing to the eyes but the forbidden fruit. She saw Gods ways as foolishness and desired other seemingly wiser and better ways. Everything that goes into a marriage has an effect on the union. Eves' disobedience was just the beginning of the effect. Once sin comes into a union by one member, it becomes easy for any other members to be swayed along. Adam did not resist because it was given to him by his wife (Gen 3:6-7). I believe Satan had that in his plan. Every external influence on a marriage needs a member of the union to affect the marriage. Their way of life changed. They became ashamed of their nakedness, thus keeping parts of their body away from one another. They could not relate with God. The effect did not end there; it went

down to their off-springs. Adam and Eve passed the evil planted in their union to their off-springs down to us;

Gen 4:1-9

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bore Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bore his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect to Abel, and to his offering: But to Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said to Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And to thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said to Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?(Webster).

It's no surprise Cain acted the way he did, he had been brought up by a mother who had direct communications with Satan and a father that was condoning it. So the effect continued unto generations, up to this day.

God wants man to return to that good and perfect relationship, thus, redemption was brought to man, first by the law then by grace through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Chapter three

Back to the Original

For life to continue, man must marry and bring forth off-springs. Just as the beginning is beyond human comprehension also the end is beyond our comprehension. God started life and only He knows if and how it will end. Thus God is the beginning and the ending.

Rev 22:13

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

(Webster)

We see how God started humanity in Adam, I believe at one time or at the end, man will be like Adam again; God in the flesh, without any corruption from Satan. Getting to this state is all that redemption is about, the plan of God to return man to his original good and perfect living being; that immortal Adam that knows no death, to live forever in perfect relationship with God. I believe this was the plan of God when Eve was tempted by Satan, so that even when Eve falls man would be restored to his original good and perfect form. Man would have lived forever in his corrupt form if Adam and Eve had taken from the tree of life in their corrupted state.

Gen 3:22-24

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man hath become as one of us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he should put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him

forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. So he drove out the man: and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Webster)

If they had repented and asked God for forgiveness, I believe God would have forgiven them and renewed their minds by his word, thereby taking them to their original self.

Rom 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Webster)

Just like us today, when we repent of our sins and accept Jesus Christ to be the Lord of our lives, the word of God transforms us, by the renewal of our minds through the Holy Spirit. By this, in every situation we will know what Gods' will is. This is how we overcome evil. It is only at this point that we have the right to the tree of life.

Rev 2:7

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Webster)

Rev 22:14

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (Webster)

Adam and Eve would have then had access to the tree of life and lived forever. The perfect sweet fellowship between God and man would have been

restored. They only needed to ask for forgiveness then their minds renewed and they would have had access to the tree of life and lived forever. Without repentance and renewal they would have lived forever in their corrupt nature, then man would not be that good and perfect living being God created. I believe God wants man to get to that state where man comes to the acknowledgment that he is a sinner and repents, then decides to follow in the ways of God, thereby bringing about the renewal of the mind. The renewal of the mind makes him an overcomer, where he overcomes any evil and remains in the will of God at all times. Man in this state is ready to take of the tree of life and God is willing to give him access. When all this transpires and man takes of the tree of life, man's relationship with man and with God would have been restored as it was in the beginning before sin entered the world. God's desire to restore this relationship culminated with the death of Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:17-26

And now, brethren, I know that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things which God before had shown by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord, And he will send Jesus Christ, who before was preached to you: Whom the heaven must receive, until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets, since the world began. For Moses truly said to the fathers, A Prophet will the Lord your God raise up to you, of your brethren, like me; him shall ye hear in all things, whatever he shall say to you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul who will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. And all the prophets also

from Samuel, and those that follow, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. To you first, God having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. (Webster)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. (Webster)

All man has to do is to repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Repentance is a state of recognizing and acknowledging that you have done wrong and deciding to do those wrongs no more. One may wonder, what are those things one does that are wrong? Anything done outside the word of God is wrong;

Rom 3:10-18

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood. Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes. (Webster)

Matt 19:17

And he said to him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

(Webster)

Ps 119:9-16

BETH. Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed to it, according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect to thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. (Webster)

You may now ask, are all things in the word of God? Yes! If you study the word of God which are in the scriptures (the Holy Bible), you will come to understand that everything and every situation is in the word of God.

2 Tim 3:15-17

And that from a child thou hast known the sacred scriptures, which are able to make thee wise to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished to all good works. (Webster)

There is no challenge or temptation that does not have a response from the word of God. The word of God is a sieve which strains out everything that is contrary to the will of God in any situation. Once you can look at every situation through the word of God, the challenge becomes easy to handle.

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After repentance, to be restored to the original relationship with God you have to believe in Jesus Christ. Believing in Jesus Christ is not just a one-time belief but of continuing, settled conviction. Jesus Christ is not just a person, he is the Son of God, and he is the word of God (John 1:14). He is the manifestation of God's word in humanity. The word of God has dimensions that are incomprehensible to the natural man. When you believe in the word of God, you believe in Jesus Christ. When you obey the word of God, you are following Jesus Christ. When everything about you is in the word of God, your mind has been renewed, you are like Jesus Christ, like Adam in the beginning; you have been restored to the original man as in the beginning before man sinned. Achieving this restoration is not done on your own; the spirit of God helps you.

Adam and Eve were good and perfect living beings. They had a perfect marriage until they sinned; they never had issues (conflicts). The scripture portrayed this by them being naked but not ashamed (Gen 2:25). They also had perfect relationship with God;

Gen 3:8-10

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called to Adam, and said to him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden: and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. (Webster)

It was after they sinned that they hid from God, If not, at the sound of the presence of God, they would have rushed to meet with Him. How wonderful it must have been. Their marriage before sin came in, is the best example of a perfect marriage. Two good and perfect persons united, having sweet

fellowship with God. Marriage is actually a union between man, woman and God. Our marriages should be of this nature. It takes a wife, husband and God to have a perfect sweet marriage.

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The marriage of Adam and Eve is similar to a lot of marriages. It starts so well, until a partner or both partners take a wrong step and they both slip; the marriage falls. In the case of Adam and Eve and many others, the marriage does not break up but lost its savour. They did not enjoy the kind of intimacy the once enjoyed, where the bible described as them being naked but not ashamed. (For a man and a woman to be naked and not ashamed tells you that they have a very remarkable relationship). They were still married but had to make do with apron to cover their nakedness. They lost that exceptional relationship.

Gen 3:21

For Adam also and for his wife the LORD God made coats of skins, and clothed them. (Webster)

We find that God made garments for Adam and Eve, despite the fact that they sinned against Him. This should help us understand that God never gives up on us. He is always there to see us through our challenges. He knows that we are facing challenges and He has provided everything we need to overcome. Though, wearing garment was not the original way we were meant to live but God permitted it.

A lesson we should learn from Adam and Eve is that, despite losing the original savour of their marriage, they still stuck together and faced the challenge together; they sowed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. They must have felt uncomfortable with one another on realizing

that they were naked. They overcame the challenge of being naked and still remained together. God met them together and gave them a better garment. For every challenge God has a ready solution. Stick to your spouse at all times, regardless of the challenge, God will meet both of you and everything will be okay. Regardless of who is in the wrong between a couple, God is right there for the couple as long as they remain together.

Also, notice that before Adam and Eve sin against God, they did not find anything uncomfortable about one another; they were free with themselves, though, they were naked. Adam saw Eve as perfect and Eve also saw Adam as perfect. They were seeing themselves through God; the word of God. The word of God tells us that all God's creation was good (Gen 1:31). In Him there is no evil but good. After the sin, they could no longer see themselves through God, but their own wisdom. The wisdom of God was foolishness to them and they were wise in their own sight. Once you remove God from how you view your spouse, you will find many uncomfortable things. By your own strength, knowledge or wisdom you might try to cover these uncomfortable areas but just like Adam and Eve their covering was not good enough. The covering Adam and Eve made was with leaves which would wither away, God had to provide a more durable covering for them. Thus, even when we go astray God does not give up on us; He is there for us but it would have been better if we do not derail in the first place.

Chapter Four

Marriage

In the beginning God.....

Gen 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Webster)

In the beginning it was just God, God alone, God with no one else, no activity, nothing.....just God. I believe, before God created the heavenly beings, He had a longing for fellowship, relationship and companionship. God had a first-hand experience of being alone. I believe this moved Him into creation. He created heavenly and earthly beings to satisfy his desire. But at the end of creation He noticed that His peculiar creation, man, which is in His own likeness and image was alone (Gen 2:18). God knows how it feels to be alone, he has the experience. He knew what Adam was going through. I wonder how long Adam must have lived alone. God also gave him a job to do without a helper (Gen 2:15). Man needed help to work on the Garden of Eden, to care for it, also he needed a companion. God knowing all these brought out a woman from Adam (Gen 2:21-23). All along Eve was in Adam. Adam was both masculine and feminine. The bible referred to Adam in the plural (Gen 1:27). God did not have to create Eve; He simply brought out Eve from Adam, because both male and female were in Adam. When Adam woke up from a deep sleep, he did not know what had happened, but I believe he felt incomplete when he woke up. He noticed some changes on himself. There was something about his body and his bones that was not the same as when he

went to sleep. In his state of wonder, God brought the woman. This was the first marriage. This solved the puzzle and Adam acknowledged her as the bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh (Gen 2:23). Thus with Eve, Adam was still complete yet having a helper and a companion. As it stands there is no unmarried man that is complete. For a man to be complete like the original man God created he must be married. For the sake of having a helper and companion, he will not physically fuse with his wife but they will become one flesh. By 'one-flesh' the husband and wife would be bound together as long as they both live (Gen 2:24). With marriage, man becomes complete as the original man, yet having a helper and companion.

As good as it sounds; a lot of men find it difficult to get married. Man, it is simple. The basics of marriage are to get a woman who agrees to spend the rest of her life with you and you have sexual intercourse with her. Hold it... that is just the basics. God recognizes you both as married, but God also honours the agreements or systems of men that does not go against his word.

Matt 22:17-21

Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute to Cesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Show me the tribute-money. And they brought to him a penny. And he saith to them, Whose is this image, and superscription? They say to him, Cesar's. Then saith he to them, Render therefore to Cesar, the things which are Cesar's; and to God, the things that are God's. (Webster)

Hence other rights should be duly observed, such as bride price payment, church or traditional wedding ceremonies, marriage registration and others as circumstances demand. But the basics of marriage are a man finding a woman who is willing to spend the rest of her life with him and they both

have sexual intercourse. Note a woman should be willing to spend the rest of her life with a man she has sexual intercourse with. From the scriptures, we find that God recognizes every sexual intercourse as marriage.

Gen 35:22

And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: (Webster),

Gen 49:3-4

Reuben, thou art my first-born, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellence of dignity, and the excellence of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it; he went up to my couch. (Webster),

1 Chron 5:1

Now the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel, (for he was the first-born; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birth-right was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birth-right. (Webster),

To Reuben he just slept with his father's concubine but to God he slept with his father's wife. His father (Jacob) also understood what his son did and cursed him (Gen 49:3-4).

Another instance was a case with David;

2 Sam 12:11-12

Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thy own house, and I will take thy wives before thy eyes, and give them to thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.
(Webster)

This was a prophecy against David, when he slept with Uriah's wife and got her pregnant; to cover up all he had done he arranged for Uriah to be killed. After Uriah was killed, David took Uriah's wife as his wife. The prophecy was fulfilled thus;

2 Sam 16:21-22

And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Go in to thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred by thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong. So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. (Webster)

If you noticed, when the prophecy came, it was the wives of David that would be slept with, but on its fulfillment it was his concubines. We see a concubine as just an object of sex, God sees her as wife of the man she has sexual intercourse with. You man, the day you have sex with any woman she becomes your wife.

1 Cor 6:16

What? know ye not that he who is joined to a harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. (Webster)

Whether you like it or not, that is how God sees it.

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I believe, when an unmarried person has a sex drive, it is an instinct placed by God to drive that person to get married. This drive reminds you that you need to get a partner and get married to that person. When you find that person, it pushes you to get married to that person. When you eventually have sexual intercourse with that partner you are married. For married persons, sex drive is a push for marital renewal with your husband or wife. Sex is not for fun, it is God's way of fulfilling his purpose for humanity in making every man complete and perfect. Though, at appointed times, sex is required for procreation.

Any woman that wants to have sex with a man should realize that she should be ready to spend the rest of her life with that man. And the life with the man starts from the moment she has sexual intercourse with the man. She is married to the man. Any woman who does not have this at the back of her mind and indulge in sexual intercourse is same as a prostitute. This is the reason why it very important to perform marriage rites; so that it will be clear to the man and the woman that they are going into marriage. The marriage rites usually involve one form of ceremony or the other, depending on many factors. This ceremony helps to bring the awareness of what the man and woman are about to go into.

Marriage is not meant to be a one-time encounter or for a particular period, it's a life time relationship. Hence, a woman must give her consent to a life time union, she and the man will become one flesh. Notice all the parts of the body are one flesh. The nose cannot just rip off the body that it no longer wants to be a part of the body. Thus, when a man and a woman are married, they cannot be separated because they are one flesh. There is no place for divorce. Though, Jesus Christ gave an exception to this rule;

Matt 19:9

And I say to you, Whoever shall put away his wife, except for lewdness, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoever marrieth her who is put away, committeth adultery. (Webster)

This also portrays the fact that once a man have sexual intercourse with a woman he is married to her. If a married woman sleeps with another man, she is automatically married to the man and divorced from her husband.

Thus, Jesus Christ agreed to a divorce in the case of adultery.

Notwithstanding, there is room for forgiveness and reconciliation;

Hos 3:1-3

Then said the LORD to me, Go yet, love a woman beloved by her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD towards the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for a homer of barley, and a half homer of barley: And I said to her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee. (Webster)

You must not divorce your wife on account of adultery; you can forgive her if she repents.

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Marriage could be of various types e.g. monogamy, polygamy or polyandry.

- Monogamy is a marriage where a man marries one woman to form a family. This was the original design of marriage before the fall of Adam and Eve. As with the original, it's only when God is in the union that

we have a perfect union, with the attribute of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control.

➤ Polygamy is a type of marriage in which a man marries more than one woman. Through the scriptures (Holy Bible) I have not seen where God or any man of God, condemn this form of marriage, neither do I condemn it. Having said that, I have observed through the scriptures, circumstances which permit polygamy;

1. All parties in the first union must give their consent to the marriage of the second and subsequent wives.

Gen 16:1-3

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children: and she had a handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, Behold, now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee go in to my maid: it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. And Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. (Webster)

Abrams wife Sarai, initiated the marriage and God never rebuked Abram for taking a second wife.

2. Also we see in Jacobs's marriage;

Gen 29:16-30

And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah was tender-eyed, but Rachel was

beautiful and well-favored. And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed to him but a few days, for the love he had to her. And Jacob said to Laban, Give me my wife (for my days are fulfilled) that I may go in to her. And Laban assembled all the men of the place, and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in to her. And Laban gave to his daughter Leah, Zilpah his maid for a handmaid. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done to me? did I not serve with thee for Rachel? why then hast thou deceived me? And Laban said, it must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the first-born. Fulfill her week, and we will give thee this also, for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel, his daughter, for a wife also. And Laban gave to Rachel, his daughter, Bilhah, his handmaid, to be her maid. And he went in also to Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

(Webster)

Jacob had Leah his first wife and by custom with the consent of Leah who must have known the custom before the marriage, Jacob married Rachel. God did not rebuke Jacob for this but blessed him through Rachel.

3. In other cases in the scriptures the women knew they were not going to be the only wife. Thus, they gave their consent before the marriage with their husband.

My friend if you are hoping to use these cases from the scriptures to marry more wives, mind you, your first wife must give her consent and if you truly love her, you will not coerce her into giving her consent. Out of love for you and the union she will give her consent if need be, to bring blessings to the union. Also note;

1 Tim 3:1-2

This is a true saying, If a man desireth the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

(Webster)

Your place in the level of leadership in the church will be stunted; you cannot become an overseer (bishop) or even an elder;

Titus 1:5-6

For this cause I left thee in Crete, that thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of riot, or disorderly. (Webster)

Just like monogamy, if God is not in the marriage there will be great chaos. All parties must have the fear of God. The number of wives in a marriage does not guarantee a blissful marriage. I have seen blissful monogamous and polygamous marriages but it is not for me to say, it is for the couples to testify. I may see a pleasant picture from the outside but within could be something different. A marriage cannot be adjudged successful unless the couple testifies honestly that their marriage is blissful and this testimony must be consistent up to the time of their

death. By all account, marriages that are rooted in God are sure to be successful. I have seen marriages that were adjudged successful yet ended with the couple separated, in other cases they had to divorce. For a marriage to be successful is an ongoing process; challenges will be thrown at the marriage; only a well rooted marriage will overcome every challenge thrown at it. The only sure base to root any marriage is God; be it monogamous or polygamous.

- Polyandry is practically prostitution, a situation where a woman has more than one husband;

Lev 19:29

Do not prostitute thy daughter to cause her to be a harlot: lest the land should fall to lewdness, and the land become full of wickedness. (Webster),

Eph 5:22-24

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let wives be to their own husbands in everything. (Webster)

The husband is the head of every marriage. There can be no two or more heads on one body. Where you have more than one head, the body will be confused on which direction to take. Thus, all other heads but one, has to give way or die off the body to have a single direction. In the same vein, it

is stupid to use one umbrella over another on a rainy day. Please any woman practicing this form of marriage should STOP NOW.

Chapter Five

Getting married

To have a marriage, a man and a woman need to find each other suitable to unite with. Both parties need to be prepared for the union. In the case of the man, he has to be prepared for the union physically, socially, mentally,

spiritually and in all major affairs of life. Above all he has to be wise. To be prepared physically is to be physically matured, especially the reproductive organs. To be prepared socially is to have a social standing that will give confidence and pride to the union. To be prepared mentally is to be ready to take up responsibilities that come with marriage. To be prepared academically is to be knowledgeable in the affairs of life. To be prepared financially is to be able to provide the material needs of the union, there are other areas in which man should be prepared, and we cannot list them all. All these areas of preparation are not as important as the fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom;

Prov 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. (Webster),

Ps 112:1-4

Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. To the upright there ariseth light in darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. (Webster)

When a man fears God he will be prepared in all other areas;

Matt 6:31-33

Therefore be not anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or, with what shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Webster)

For a man to be prepared for marriage he just needs to fear God, know the word of God and live by the word of God. When we were born into the families of our parents, we grew under their love and care. We were instructed, directed and disciplined by our parents. All our decisions were based on the fear of our parents. At this point we are good children of our parents but the word of God says a man shall leave father and mother (Gen 2:24). To leave father and mother, is not necessarily to part with your parent, which may involve moving to your own apartment; having your own business or job; making your own decisions without consulting your parents and so on. All these are okay, depending on the situation. Leave father and mother is a change of decision base. You no longer make decisions based on the fear of your parents but based on the fear of God. Some men change their decision base to, peer pressure, social demand, financial status, religious requirements, custom & traditions and so on. All these bases are not life sustaining, they change with time, they are not reliable, they will surely fail you at one time or the other. The fear of parents is a good base while you are a child, but it cannot sustain you when you need to take up responsibilities; it is only sustaining when you are dependent on your parents. To be a man you need to take up responsibilities, decisions based on the fear of your parent can not sustain you at this stage. Even when you are a child, the fear of God should be in you because your parents are human and are not all knowing. In some cases they could give faulty counsel. The fear of God is paramount. With the fear of God good, sustaining and reliable decisions are made; all other requirements to be a man follows naturally, be it social relevance, mental stability, knowledge, riches, name it. The fear of God is all a man

needs. We grew up to know our parents, their physical appearance, attitudes, likes and dislikes, every aspect of our parents. Though there are some areas we may not know, there is always a limit. This knowledge helps us to know the will of our parents. As a child because of the fear of our parents, in every situation we find ourselves, we consider the will of our parents to decide our line of action(s). Similarly, to fear God, you have to know the will of God concerning every situation, and to know the will of God you have to know Him. You have to know everything you can about God. It is impossible to know God completely but the desire and effort to know Him should be present. God knows the importance for us to know Him that is why He made Himself known by His word; God and His word are one and the same. His word is the substance from which all things came from and all things stand and revolve (John 1:1-14). Thus, knowing the word of God makes God present in your life, and the power that comes with it. Making that decision to live by the fear of God not by the fear of parents or others is being born again.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, Verily, verily, I say to thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (Webster)

When you live under the tutelage of your parents and other influences (school, society, other groups and factors) you are born of the world. When you decide, hence forth you will live under the fear of God, you have been born into the household of God, which is the kingdom of God. From then on you are a child of God. Just as when you were born of your earthly parents, you had to know your parents, so as to know their will concerning issues; also you have to know God, your father, as you are born again. You have to know the word of God, He and His word is one. To make this simpler, God made his word flesh, human, so that we can associate His word with our everyday life

on earth. His word became flesh, Jesus Christ. Thus, accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God and believing in him is being born again. Believing in Jesus Christ is, believing in the word of God, for Jesus Christ is the word of God. The word of God has also been handed to us through the scriptures, the Holy Bible (2 Tim 3:16-17), also

2 Peter 1:19-21

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; to which ye do well that ye take heed, as to a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (Webster)

A man ought to study the scriptures to know God. The more a man knows God, the more he knows the will of God concerning him in any situation. Studying the scriptures is more than going to church, listening to gospel songs or even reading this book. It involves personal search of the scriptures to be personally convinced that the word you have heard or read is true (Acts 17:10-11). Knowing the word of God is not enough, you must do what the word says you should do;

Luke 8:5-8

A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bore fruit a

hundred-fold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Webster),

Luke 8:11-15

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side, are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, who, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, who in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

(Webster)

What you get from the word of God makes you prepared in other areas of life, be it social, financial, academics, wisdom, power, name it. You bear fruits in all areas.

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The woman needs also to be prepared for marriage. All a woman needs for marriage is submission, to her father then to the husband at marriage; both submissions should be in God. From when a woman is born her father is her lord, and God honours it;

Num 30:4-6

If a woman also shall vow a vow to the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth; And her father shall hear her vow,

and her bond with which she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond with which she hath bound her soul shall stand. But if her father shall disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows or of her bonds with which she hath bound her soul shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her. (Webster)

She submits to her father for as much as she does not sin against God. As a woman grows up, she must come to the realization of the place of God over her life. When God made woman from man, God himself brought back the woman to the man (Gen 2:22). Eve yielded herself to God. She allowed God to do as He pleased and followed Gods direction towards Adam. A woman needs to know God and fear God, just as a man is to fear God. By this she will know the will of God and follow him to meet who she is to spend the rest of her life with. Thus a woman needs to be born again. Knowingly or unknowingly to her, God will lead her to the man who she will be his helper and companion for the rest of her life; the man, who her father will transfer lordship to;

Num 30:7-9

And if she had a husband when she vowed, or uttered aught from her lips, with which she bound her soul: And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds with which she bound her soul shall stand. But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make of no effect her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, with which she bound her soul: and the LORD shall forgive her. (Webster)

Every woman should submit to their father in God, that is, they should submit to their fathers completely to the extent that it does not go against the will of God. Hence, for you to know the extent to which you obey your father you must know God, His will and fear Him. With these, woman you are prepared for marriage; for this is the same principle that will help you when you are married. You will submit to your husband in God. Other customary considerations may be considered too, such as age, maturity, customs & traditions and other factors; the word of God is above them all, they change with time but the word of God is the same forever, the word is sure and gives the basics. Getting married is actual getting to know God. Because when a man and a woman know God, all other things will fall in place for them to get married.

When couples fear God, it brings a kind of connection. It is not the popular 'love at first sight' which does not guarantee a successful married life. The fear of God helps the couple to consider God in all their ways and it helps to keep the couple together with a single mind. We know that being born again brings about a renewal of the mind; both minds (of the man and woman) would be renewed to a common mind. That common mind is a mind from God; the couple will be of one mind. The mind will give them similar goals and aspirations. They will find true love and happiness.

A man and woman that are born again are both of God's kingdom; thus they will be of like minds. They will seek first the things of God's kingdom and every other thing shall be add unto them

Chapter six

Meeting Your Spouse

How and where you meet your spouse does not matter, but your decision on who you want to marry, that's what matters. Some people have criteria they list for who they want to get married to. Such criteria as height, beauty or handsomeness, educational attainment, financial status, social class, family back ground, race, tribe, the list is non-exhaustive. There are also conditions they place before marriage such as, when to have children, how many children to give birth to, how to carry out home management, financial management, frequency of sex and so on. All these criteria and conditions are

not really bad depending on the situation, but they don't really give the best spouse. With time your criteria and conditions may change. Furthermore, your agreement to all the conditions does not make a successful marriage, even if both of you keep your promise; worse off, one or both of you may renege on his/her promise. The sure criteria to look for in any man or woman you want to spend the rest of your life with, is the fear of God. The fear of God is different from being a good boy or girl, religious, church going and all that. The fear of God is a way of living; God is considered in every decision that is made.

1 Cor 2:14-16

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged by no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (Webster)

You may ask; how do I know that my spouse fears God?

John 14:15-17

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and will be in you. (Webster)

Rom 8:16

The Spirit itself testifieth with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Webster)

The spirit of God which is in you will witness to you that your spouse is a child of God. No length of courtship will do it.

When you meet someone who has the spirit of God in him or her, the spirit of God in you will witness to you that he or she is a child of God. You may not get the witness immediately you see the person. It may involve some interaction and time. In that time you will see the manifestation of the fruits of the spirit and there will be a witness within you. Mind you the witness within you is more important than the outward manifestation you see. In some cases, immediately you see your spouse you hear the witness within you, before any interaction. God speaks to his children, you just have to listen, hear and understand. Never be scared on whom to choose as your life partner, if you are a child of God just listen and obey, you can never go wrong.

Chapter seven

The Wedding

The wedding is the ceremony in which the man and woman get married. The marriage rites are performed during the wedding ceremony. The wedding helps the couple to be aware and sure that they are going into marriage. The ceremony also announces the marriage of the couple to the public or whoever may be concerned. This is very important so that the public will regard them as married and avoid any embarrassment.

The ceremony varies by tribes, customs & tradition, church denomination and so on. Registration with government may also be involved. These entire human requirements should be met as much as possible, if not, there could be reproach and the marriage will not be as blessed as it ought to be. All the ceremonies do not make the man and woman married in the sight of God, though. They couple only make vows to spend the rest of their life together and God honors it. The real marriage takes place when the man and woman have sexual intercourse, usually at the wedding night. This is when God sees them as husband and wife. Consider these cases from the bible;

Gen 24:51-54

Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken. And it came to pass, that when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: He gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things. And they ate and drank, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose in the morning, and he said, Send me away to my master. (Webster)

Gen 24:61-67

And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahai-roi; for he dwelt in the south country. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at evening: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and behold, the camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted from the camel. For she had said to the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to

meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (Webster)

Notice, it was when Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother's tent and made love to her that she became his wife, regardless of all that transpired before then. The presentation of gifts, eating and drinking were all part of the wedding ceremony, the real marriage was when Isaac met Rebekah.

Also, in the case of Jacob when he married Leah and Rachel (Gen 29:16-29). With all the people that gathered, the size of the wedding ceremony between Jacob and Rachel, Rachel did not become the wife of Jacob but Leah; because at the end of that day, Jacob did not have sexual intercourse with Rachel but with Leah. He had to go through the process again for Rachel.

Come to look at it, as far as I know the only thing common in every marriage, the world over, is sexual intercourse. A man and a woman can co-exist for as long as possible; without sex, there will be no marital connection between them. Sexual intercourse is the seal to any marriage.

Jesus Christ was not a joker when he told the Samaritan woman to call her husband;

John 4:15-18

The woman saith to him, Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith to her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said to her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five

husbands, and he whom thou now hast, is not thy husband: in that thou hast spoken truth (Webster).

As far as God is concern, since she has had sexual intercourse with the man she was living with, he became her husband and Jesus Christ saw it that way. Because God does not go against any system of man that does not go against his will (Matt 22:21). Jesus Christ had to explain to her, thereby revealing her past life. All the five men before the last one performed the wedding ceremony of their marriage but the man she was with had not, hence not recognized as her husband by men. Thus Jesus said "Thou hast well said, I have no husband".

Hence, it is important to note that the wedding ceremony is as important as the wedding night (sexual intercourse), God honours them both.

Chapter eight

Stay Married

Now that you are married, God's standard is that you are one flesh, that is, you will stay married. Circumstances may arise that would dissolve the marriage but with a solid marriage foundation the circumstances will pass leaving the marriage intact. Challenges could easily break up a marriage depending on the state of the couple; the state of the couple is with regards to their individual relationship with God.

Take the case where both couples are not born again; in such marriages the base or foundation of the marriage is not sure. The man could base his belief system and decisions on anything, could be his father, laws of the land, customs & traditions, peer pressure, finance, anything. All these bases are time dependent and sure results are not guaranteed. Hence, there is bound to be changes and failure. This could be disastrous to any marriage. The woman could also base her belief system and decision making on something else. This will lead to divergent view in several situations, a recipe for marital disaster. The marriage will be porous to all kinds of detraction and conflicts. Some or all of the following will manifest;

Gal 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like:... (Webster)

The sure way for the marriage to stay strong is for both couples to have a common base, where they base their belief system and decision making. God is the sure base for any marriage. The unbelieving couple does not have to separate but replace their base with God. Each couple must be born again, and then Jesus Christ becomes the lord of their lives. God becomes the foundation of the marriage. The Holy Spirit then takes over each partner and the marriage is blessed. The fruits of the spirit start to manifest in the marriage;

Gal 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

(Webster)

Though the fruits of the spirit will not just start manifesting with the snap of the fingers, but it will manifest with knowledge and obedience to the word of God. This knowledge of God's word brings about the renewal of the mind with the help of the Holy Spirit. It is this renewed mind, which is manifested outwardly, that is the fruits of the spirit.

In the case where one of the spouse is born again and the other is not; a born again man should not divorce his unbelieving wife, for they are one flesh but if she decides to divorce him and go, the man is not guilty of wrong doing. Neither should a born-again woman divorce the unbelieving husband but if he decides to divorce her and leaves, she is not guilty of any wrong.

1 Cor 7:12-16

But to the rest I speak, not the Lord, if any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she is pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman who hath a husband that believeth not, and if he is pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving departeth, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases; but God hath called us to peace. For how knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? (Webster)

The manifestation in a marriage where only one partner is saved is similar to that of which both partners are not saved. The unsaved partner would bring all these manifestations into the marriage just as Eve brought the fruit for Adam to eat (Gen 3:6-7). Hence, the saved partner must be a covering to the marriage through the ministration of the word of God and prayers. This is necessary because the unrighteousness of one partner will be a source of unrighteousness to the family and it will affect the children too. Just like in the case of Adam and Eve (Gen 4:1-9). Eve did not repent of her sin which Satan lead her in to and I believe she never stopped communicating with Satan. With such a mother, what would you expect from one of her children, Cain? As a saved partner do not relent on ministering the word of God to your family and upholding them in prayers.

The saved partner should not expect an automatic fix. In some cases the unsaved partner gets converted in a very short while and the marriage starts to enjoy the fruits of the spirit. In other cases it may take a while. The saved partner should know that he or she is the word of God the unsaved partner reads. Thus even if the partner does not study the word of God, the life of the saved partner will speak the word of God to the unsaved partner. It could be very challenging but at the appointed time the unsaved partner will be saved, except God does not will it.

△△△

A body is one flesh though it has many parts. Every marriage is a body with the man as the head. For the body to function properly and make any achievement, all the parts of the body must work together. For the union to be one flesh and remain one flesh, the husband and wife have duties and responsibilities to the marriage. The whole duty of a wife in a marriage is to submit and respect (reverence) the husband;

Eph 5:22-33

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives, as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife, loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself: and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Webster)

Submission is very important because there can be no two captains on one ship. Regardless of the wife's status, physically, financially, socially, academically or otherwise, she should submit and respect her husband completely. A wife should have learnt submission and respect by practice with her father (If she did not learn it with her father, the fear of God will teach her). At marriage the husband becomes the wife's father, so to speak, that is why the wife's name is changed. The husband is the new lord. The importance of submission is best seen when the husband and wife have divergent view on an issue. It is best for the wife to air her view and allow the man have his way, as long as his way does not contradict the word of God; for

the husband may be the lord but Jesus Christ is the 'Lord of lords'.

Submission ensures that the man takes responsibility for any failure of marriage or failure in any aspect of the homes well-being, be it financial management, home management, health care, name it. Also he should be given all the credit for any success. A wise man will not take all the credit, he will give some to his helper and other members of the family but he should be allowed to do this on his own accord. This makes running of the home easy, smooth and enjoyable for the man, who is the head of the family.

Furthermore, the wife has to respect her husband. The woman should in every way make the man feel his place as the head of the family. This should be expressed in greetings, food presentation, tone and posture when relating with the man and in other ways that show respect.

On the part of the husband who is the head of the union, he should give direction, purpose and protection. At any point in time and situation he should be able to give clear direction on which the family should go. He should also have a clear purpose for his actions and inactions. This is important because if it is lacking the wife takes over consciously or unconsciously, or somebody or persons takes his place. This was the case with Adam, he allowed Satan into his marriage, destroyed the relationship they enjoyed with God, their good and perfect marriage, even down to the two first children of the marriage.

The husband should also protect the marriage from aggression. Aggressors may be physical or may not be physical. The physical aggressors may include thieves, molesters, killers, deceivers, bogglers and the likes. The non-physical aggressors include; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and the likes. The

husband should be watchful of all the aggressors with the help of his wife but he should know that it is his responsibility.

The husband should love his wife, this is reciprocal to the submission and respect the wife gives the husband. He should always see her as the weaker vessel and attend to her with care. He should make the wife feel loved. She should not be treated like a slave because she is submissive. She is not a slave but a helper. He should show her love. Love can be shown in many ways but the husband must try to ensure that his wife appreciates what he does to show her love. In some climes, it includes giving gifts, providing her needs and desires, taking her shopping... just making her feel loved.

The man should also provide for his family;

1 Tim 5:8

But if any provideth not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. (Webster)

The man should be able to provide food, shelter, health care and other things the family may need. This establishes his place as the head of the family. Provision for the home is usually met with finance, thus a man should always have a means of income for the family. Let's get it right; the means of income must not be directly through the man, but it's the man that sets up the means of income for the family. In many cases, the man has a job or a business from which he makes money to meet the needs of the family. In other cases, it is a combined effort from the husband and the wife, where the wife complements the effort of her husband with her job or business. In yet other cases, the wife assumes the duty of the finance provider of the family. In any case it is the man who sets up the system for the provision of finance to the family. It is he who permits the wife to complement or to assume the

place of finance provider; considering economic realities and opportunities available. This he does to meet the financial needs of the family and maintain an acceptable standard of living for the family. With the economic realities and opportunities available if he insists on being the sole financial provider, the standard of living of the family may go too low. Thus, accepting his helper to step in is not relinquishing his responsibilities or failing in his responsibilities but he is still carrying on with the help of his helper. Only a foolish woman will receive the credit as the financial provider when her husband is alive.

Sex is a major factor in the harmony of any marriage. Both partners are of the obligation to satisfy one another;

1 Cor 7:3-6

Let the husband render to the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife to the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan may not tempt you for your incontinence. But I speak this by permission, and not as a commandment. (Webster)

Married couples should have regular sexual relations. This gives a kind of marital renewal. Abstinence by one partner deprives the other partner of his or her God-given right. Both the husband and wife have equal conjugal rights and exclusive possession of the other. Hence the husband do not have the right to deprive his wife of sex when she desires, neither does the wife have the right to deprive the husband; having said this, both partners should show understanding at all times.

Please let us try to understand sex in marriage very well. Every couple can satisfy themselves sexually without the use of artificial means. To achieve this both partners should come to the understanding that as from the time they are born again they become virgins, even if they have had sexual intercourse in the past. (2 cor 5:17) tells us that from the time we give our lives to Jesus Christ old things are pass away and all things has become new. A lady who has had several sex experiences with different men in time past, from the moment she gets born again she becomes a virgin. All they sexual escapade should be forgotten completely. Never to be referred to in any form or manner. You have been divorce from those unions, because both of you did not remain together, but met someone else. None of those experiences should be brought to the matrimonial bed. The same applies to the man. Your husband or wife becomes your first and last sex partner. It is because of this fact that a lot of people go into several sexual relations before the finally settle down for one. Mind you God is not asleep, if you have that in mind; you will reap what you sow.

Couples may not feel satisfied sexually at first but both partners will learn, and in time they will find satisfaction. Never push your partner to satisfy you based on your past experience, completely wipe off the past, be patient and learn. You will satisfy your partner and your partner will satisfy you; you were made one for the other, a perfect match.

Chapter nine

Paradise at Home

Paradise in the mindset of a lot of people is a place where they go to after death, if they are in right standing with God. Many religions are based on this belief. Thus, they are careless of their lives on earth and focus more on the life after death.

Base on the word of God (The Bible) there was paradise on earth; Adam and Eve lived in paradise on earth. God must have had a reason for placing man in paradise on earth, despite the fact that there is paradise in heaven. We believe Gods intention is for man to live in paradise at all times. Adam and Eve were in paradise in the Garden of Eden, we can be in paradise in our homes too; the Garden of Eden was home to Adam and Eve.

When you have paradise at home, you will have a better understanding of heaven and when you get there, you will not be a stranger; you will still be at home.

We don't have to die and go to heaven or be raptured to get to paradise; we can have paradise in our homes. Adam and Eve were not in paradise because of the beautiful trees, plenty of food, harmless animals, clean environment and all that beautiful imaginations of paradise. They were in paradise because of the pure manifestation of the fruits of the spirit of God (love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance) amongst every creature in the Garden of Eden;

Gen 1:31

And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Webster)

This was manifested among the trees, birds, lions, frogs, waters, rocks, skies, grass, name it, amongst every creature. Adam and Eve manifested it as well. There was so much harmony everywhere in the Garden of Eden. That can be your home. The Garden of Eden is not far, it is with you and it can be your home. As a married couple you can make your home the Garden of Eden. All it takes is to truly love God, fear him, you and every member of your household. Start Now...

If you have not decided to love God and fear him, believing that he sent Jesus Christ to come and save us from our sins, you can do so now. Say this prayer:

Father, the creator of all things, I believe you sent Jesus Christ to earth to come and die for my sins. I repent of my sins, from now and forever, I will live my life according to your word, following Jesus Christ. Help me in doing this, in Jesus name. Amen.

My friend, you are saved!

Congratulations! You are now a child of God.

All you need to do now is to know God, so as to know his will and to serve him according to his will. Form a habit of studying the word of God (the Holy Bible) and obey the word of God. Also you should fellowship with other believers; start attending a Bible believing church. To make your home a paradise, ensure to tell every member of your household about serving God and the benefits in doing so;

Josh 24:15

And if it seemeth evil to you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (Webster)

In time you will see the manifestation of the spirit of God in your home.

God will help you in every way when you set your heart to do this. Know that Jesus Christ is with you always.

THANK YOU

Hope you had a great time reading this book. We appreciate your time spent. Also, we believe you have been blessed. Please share this book with every man or woman you know; married or single.

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