



ON YOUR
WAY TO
MARRIAGE
(HOW TO CHOOSE SPOUSE)

TOMI AKALA

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR



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**ON YOUR WAY TO MARRIAGE
(HOW TO CHOOSE SPOUSE)**

By

Tomi Akala

REASON FOR WRITING

I write the words of this book as I feel a divine compulsion to do so.

This is not an academic exercise. This is not an academic exercise. This is not an academic exercise.

PURPOSE OF WRITING

This book has been written in cooperation with the divine reinforcement programme (DRP) operated by the Spirit of the Lord to repel satanic assaults on earthmen at the front of marriage in these desperate last days.

NOTE: This material may appear ideal and may perhaps seem impossible to practise for the 21st century soul. But that is because this knowledge borders on the will of God. And we know the will of God is perfect and peaceful for the spiritual mind but unappreciable and gruelling for the carnal mind.

OVERTURE

The earth plane, to all intents and purposes, is a farm of sowing and reaping. The choices man makes are the seeds, but oh, the harvest of those choices is, more often than not, overwhelming for this dustful-farmer. Choice and consequence is the matter of space and time. Indeed, the billboards on the streets of our cities should simply read “choice and consequence” rather than the made-up faces of entertainment celebrities or the fox-smile of politicians.

Marriage is a major building block in the construction of earth-civilization. Marriage itself is a choice – a choice which necessarily births other choices, the chief of which is the choosing of a spouse. Therefore while this book resonates with the idea that marriage is identifiable as the union between a man and a woman only, it is more concentrated on shouting into focus the important truth that there are things that must be chosen before spouses choose each other. And for the purpose of this writing, those things that must be chosen before spouse are categorised in two sections, namely: Part A and Part B.

PART A

CHOOSE NOT TO BE DESPERATE

CHOOSE NOT TO BE DESPERATE

There is no spell more potent than desperation. Great minds, such as the seer and the strategist, strive to repel the clouds of desperation. Desperation rains down impulsiveness; and the slippery grounds of impulsiveness make mistakes inevitable. So before you begin to eye marriage, resolve within yourself not to be in a hurry.

To choose not to be desperate in the arena of marriage is to make all the choices highlighted in the following pages of this section.

CHOOSE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MARRIAGE IS

Before you charge into a head-on collision with marriage, first acquaint yourself with the purpose as well as the capacity of the institution called marriage. So many people are fixated on the capacity of marriage neglecting to know its purpose. The difference between the purpose and the capacity of marriage is that the former is spiritual while the latter is material; the purpose of marriage can only be achieved by the Divine while the capacity of marriage is for humanity to accomplish.

The capacity of marriage includes procreation, companionship, sexual gratification, social validation, financial security and perhaps more. As alluded to earlier, the foregoing list contains what the human mental, physical and emotional faculties can provide. But as pleasant as the capacities of marriage can be, they are not the purpose of marriage. And marriage prepped to accomplish the capacity of marriage and not the purpose is set to fail. Take for instance a car which was made to transport people or goods – that is its purpose. However, the same car has the capacity for other things. For instance it could be used as shelter during a rainfall, or even to spread clothes on in the sun to dry, or you could make a private phone call inside it away from everyone else. But you would agree that all those are minor uses of the car, and it would amount to waste if the car were strictly put to those minor uses but never driven. So also a marriage able to realise only its capacities but not its purpose is a waste of a lifetime. You may say, “Well, the capacities of marriage are enough for me”. Then, you should consider the fact that so many marriages crumble all around the world even when they have been motivated towards the realisation of any or all of the capacities of marriage mentioned above. It is certainly not news that countless celebrity marriages crash into the valley of divorce every other day despite all the money and “happiness” at their disposal. So also, many career men and women, including lawyers and economists who are some of the strategists of our world, still get knocked down by the great dragon of divorce. All these testify that the capacities of marriage are not enough. But what is the purpose of marriage?

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

The purpose of marriage is defined by the Creator of humankind even before the first earthman was created; and that is true because purpose always pre-dates production. The Creator-God established the institution of marriage to provide mankind with a simplified illustration of His love for the human race. In other words, God gave us marriage to mirror to us in close-up the nature of His patience and kindness towards us. But what is the nature of God's love to mankind?

It is a global anthem that no man is perfect – but even that is an understatement. All human beings are vain and fickle. We are unclean and petty. All of us have entertained very awful and shameful thoughts in our minds. And while many of us have actually practised our most disgusting imaginations, the rest just have not had the opportunity yet or have not been pushed that far. An honest examination would show that all of mankind go about life essentially selfish and self-centred. What is even worse is that most of us would deny this ugly nature of ours and rather assume self-righteousness. But as the sacred Scriptures say, “No man is pure, not even one”. All of us truly have been guilty of one evil or the other. Yet, even when we would not say it out loud, we show by our actions and ambitions that we believe we are better and more important than the next person - we are arrogant like that. Every politician, for instance, thinks he deserves the office more than all the other candidates and would talk them down; and every job applicant thinks he, better than the rest, should get the job; and every trader wishes that all the buyers patronised him, ignoring all his competitors; and every student strives to be the best above his mates in order to have the prime honour or to just win some scholarship – all these are simply different symptoms of the one disease of humanity called the survival of the fittest. So essentially, every man is cannibalistic – eager to feast on the flesh of the bereavement of his neighbour. But even more wicked is the fact that we import our treacherous attitude of self-centredness into our relations with God. We are religious but not spiritual; we go to the Creator, not to worship Him, but to use Him. We admire God's character but we are not interested in being like Him. We sing of His kindness but we keep away our earthly possessions from our neighbours who are in need. However, in spite of this miserable nature of ours, God chooses to be patient with us while blessing us

while blessing us every other day of our lives. He gifts us with trees and plants to provide us with oxygen. His rain gives us food and also coolness. His sun gives us life and warmth. He surrounds us with opportunities to expand our horizon when we are able to apply our minds to learn wisdom from the things He created. He has provided us an anatomy that heals our bodies when we fall sick. He also gives us fruits, wine and sex in marriage to pleasure us and to refresh us, and so on – and all these God does enduring our sins and foolishness while sending us corrections along the way in order to bring us into light and truth. So know this o reader that the Creator-God designed marriage to be a place where a man and a woman learn to cultivate God’s nature of patience and generosity.

The purpose of marriage, then, is to impart humanity with the grace to unconditionally and selflessly love one another. In marriage you learn to love without fear or favour. A man and a woman do not go into marriage to take care of each other, but rather, to take care of the other. In other words, whether or not your spouse is returning your affection or is deserving of it, you must keep showing them affection in all the humility and honesty of patience. No, there is no room for tit-for-tat in marriage. Marriage is a calling to mirror God’s generosity towards wicked and sinful humanity and so, you must continue loving your spouse no matter how undesirable they turn out to be along the way in marriage. And by this, your children, when they come along, will learn from you how to love one another as well as respect people in the world outside of family. When your children see in you a reflection of God, then is the expression true that the parent is a god to the child.

CHOOSE TO KNOW THE CREATOR OF MARRIAGE

The whole assumption of all genuine religions is an effort at finding God. In other words if you are truly religious, then you must lay claim to interest in the Creator-God. And this is pertinent here because marriage in its purest form belongs solely to the religious. Whether you are venturing into marriage to learn the nature of divine love, or you are going into it just to obey the divine commandment, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” - which ever is your reason, God is undeniably at the centre. And if you are going to join yourself with someone else in marriage, it is only wise then that you pursue the knowledge of the God who made the thing in the first place,

especially when He has made it about Himself for that matter.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW GOD?

The knowledge of God is the knowledge of the holy. God is holy, and coming to Him necessarily amounts to stepping into the atmosphere of holiness. As the sacred Scriptures say, “No one can go up to God without having a pure life because God’s dwelling place is high and holy”. But what does it mean that God is holy?

The understanding of holiness which God gave the saints of ancient times, and as recorded in the Holy Bible, is that of uniqueness. In other words, God’s holiness means that He is absolutely different from every other being or thing that is and that could ever be. God is Creator while everything else is His creation. God is in the class of Himself, and He is a class by Himself – no one can compare with Him. As the Scriptures say, “Who is like You, o God? Even among all the higher spiritual beings known and unknown, no one like You is found”. And another Scripture says, “There is none holy as the one true God; because there is no one else like Him”. In His attributes of love, purity, righteousness, kindness, goodness, justice and beauty, to mention but few, God has no match, and the tip of His standard is completely out of sight to all of creation. In fact, God is so exclusive that no one can perfectly imitate Him. And what this means to sinful humanity is that God is hard to please and impossible to impress. And yet, the things God demands from every creature can, and must, only be done God’s way. Hence the Scriptures which say, “God looked down from heaven upon humanity to see if there is anyone good and useful by divine standard, but He could find none who qualifies”. Another Scriptural text essentially says, “How will it ever be possible for any human being to meet up with God’s standard of purity when every man’s nature is helplessly sinful, filthy and abominable?”

But how should humanity respond to the above highlighted understanding of God’s holiness? The appropriate response would be fear. If God, being all-powerful, is hard to satisfy, and yet man must deal with Him, then, common sense dictates that you approach Him in fear and stand in awful contemplation of Him. Remember, that which is bigger than man can swallow man! As the Scriptures say, “Who shall

not fear You, o God, and glorify Your name because You are holy? All people shall come and worship before You because Your judgements are clearly perfect and terrifying”. Another of the Holy Scriptures say, “God is on the throne; let all the people tremble”. Yet another scriptural text says, “God is a consuming fire!” and some other Scriptures say, “Serve God with fear and rejoice before Him with trembling”.and worship before You because Your judgements are clearly perfect and terrifying”. Another of the Holy Scriptures say, “God is on the throne; let all the people tremble”. Yet another scriptural text says, “God is a consuming fire!” and some other Scriptures say, “Serve God with fear and rejoice before Him with trembling”.

But you might question, saying, “Should we not rather love God than fear Him?” Yes, but you see, the beginning of the love of God is fear. In fact, God’s love and His fear are inseparable. A child obeys the instruction of his parents out of a sense of fear. However, as the child matures and understands the parents’ actions, he then cannot help loving and admiring them. Sinful man likewise is infantile in his knowledge of God. And just as little children are only kept away from doing silly and hurtful things by the shadow of danger or by terrifying sounds, so is sinful man saved from eternal destruction by the consciousness of the terror of God. However, as a man draws nearer to his Creator through obedience and purity, he obtains clearer view of God’s nature and he begins to appreciate divine goodness. God loves mankind enough to terrify us away from sin which brings eternal destruction. So we see, then, that fear is the friend of a sinner; and love itself is the foundation of true justice.

Now, realise that this same perfect and dreadful God is He who ordained marriage. And what is more is that, being a Perfectionist He laid down rules to govern marriage. Therefore, if you choose to participate in marriage, then you had better be ready to play by those divine rules. Otherwise, the very marriage which should be a blessing to you will burn and torment you. Let those who have ears hear.

The man you marry, o daughter of man, is a son and servant of the Almighty God – God is responsible for him. And the woman you marry, o son of man, is a daughter and servant of the Almighty God – God is responsible for her. Everyone therefore must fear in the way and

manner they deal with their spouse because the Creator is jealously watching. Just as no responsible father will stand by to watch his child maltreated, so also God, being a righteous judge, will not just fold His great arms for nothing and watch any child of His get cheated or abused by a so-called spouse. The Holy God has appointed a day to punish every irresponsible husband and every irresponsible wife; and while some will begin to suffer for their recklessness in marriage from this life, others have their punishments heaped-up and waiting for them beyond the grave. The truth is that God is perfect and His universe is run by perfect systems. The good God has put in place invisible laws and agencies of retribution to ensure that not even a single bad deed can be gotten away with, and likewise can no good deed go unrewarded. Consequently, a man who deals deceitfully with his wife or withholds love and protection from her does so to his own hurt. And a woman who is rebellious or bitter against her husband poisons her own life.

CHOOSE TO MARRY OR NOT TO MARRY

To marry or not to marry, then, is the question. All things on earth are for man, but man is for nothing on earth. God made many things for man, but man is made for God alone. All that you possess are for your enjoyment, but nothing other than God must possess you – marriage not excluded.

Marriage is a high calling from God to service. You will certainly be responsible and accountable if you sign on for this divine programme. A soldier accepts the call to military service knowing it is a noble calling; but he accepts the call, not with merriment, but with a sense of soberness and duty. A doctor accepts the call to medical service knowing it is a precious calling; but he accepts the call, not with the recklessness of festivity, but with the sense of humility and diligence. A priest accepts the call to divine service knowing it is a sacred calling; he accepts the call, not with the pride of self-righteousness, but with the sense of unworthiness. So also is marriage a noble, precious and sacred calling which warrants soberness, humility and self-denial. Marriage therefore is not something to be chased after with sensual ambitions. It is certainly not what you do on the whims of emotional high – you will soon crash! If you go into marriage for the pleasure of

sex, remember that sickness may come and all the beauty of your spouse's body which you so much covet will pine away, and even your own response to stimuli will vanish – what then? And if you go into marriage for material aggrandisement, remember that poverty may come, or even robbers may strike and all those things your eyes cherish will the wind carry away - what then? Go then into marriage for what cannot perish – God.

Carnal and small minded people make so much of weddings but marriage is a rarely contemplated phenomenon. Man celebrates wedding, but God alone can celebrate marriage because He alone can score it as to success or failure. It truly takes sweat and blood to conquer in marriage. The coward and the selfish stand no chance at all. Before you dive into marriage, you should count the cost – because when you dive, the only parachute you have is faith in the love of God, and the only ground there is for you to land upon is unconditional obedience to God. There is really no absolute guarantee that your spouse will turn out be everything you have ever wanted. As a matter of fact, your spouse might just turn out to be one major cross you will have to carry for the rest of your life. So, do you choose to remain single then?

If you choose to never marry, it had better be for God's glory and not so that you could eat your cake and have it. To choose not to marry also means to stay away from the pleasures of marriage – no bees, no honey. God has ordained marriage to make precious and eternal jewel out of you, but celibacy is also another God's way of doing so. Just remember that whether we marry or whether we stay celibate, we belong to God and we are His royal servants. Whatever you choose then, let God be at the centre of it.

CHOOSE TO ATTAIN PREREQUISITE MATURITY

Life on earth happens on the wings of time and in the bosom of space. Without time nothing matures, but time finds space for the mature. The mature who arrive at the doorstep of marriage riding in the carriage of understanding are the ones only who may expect to find room for accommodation. The prerequisite maturity for marriage – what does that mean?

Maturity is the state of being in which the capacity to play a given role has been developed. Prerequisite maturity for marriage, then, should mean the state of being in which the basic ability to function as husband or wife has been attained. The evidence of maturity is the sense of responsibility.

As a man, you are not ripe for marriage if you have not come to understand leadership and how it applies in marriage. God has ordained that every man who wishes to marry should be devoted to preparing himself to lead his wife by example in all areas. Spiritually wise, the man is to be the priest of the home practising and teaching the laws of God to His family. Therefore, any man whose way is not right before God should not even be taken seriously for marriage because, if his own life is not right with God, how can he teach or lead a woman to live right?

Again, God has ordained that a man leads in marriage by being passionate about defending and providing for his spouse. You see, it is taken for granted that the woman you want to marry has been dwelling under her father's covering where she enjoys both spiritual and social security. It will therefore be counterproductive for her to come away from under her father to be with you if you cannot provide any measure of covering. Simply put, a man who is struggling to fend for himself should not even bother with marriage yet because, the financial demands of marriage alone is enough overwhelm him.

A man who understands leadership appreciates the protocol of authority. A father is the authority over his daughter. So, a man that is mature for marriage is aware he has no right to establish any marriage-ward relationship with any woman without the consent of her father or any other figure of authority in her life. The woman, on her own part, also does not have the power to give herself to any man on any platform whatsoever. In keeping with this, the people of old times were wiser than those of this generation among whom even boys and girls involve themselves with each other without any shame, and without any sense of respect for the divine mandate of the parents. It should be noted then that the concept of dating which is nothing but an avenue for boyfriend/girlfriend mongering is seriously out of the question for the mature candidates of marriage. If dating is about having a man and a

woman come together to “have a good time” without answerability to each other’s parents, then dating is only one of the many foolish and sensual inventions of modern people; it is a childish game better suited for the emotionally unsound and the unscrupulous.

As a woman, your maturity for marriage begins with your realisation that your husband will be the authority over you very much the way your father has always been. If therefore you have not found a man who inspires reverence in you, or a man who you are eager to submit to, then you need to keep waiting because you are probably not ready for marriage. A woman is expected to have mastered the art of submission in her father’s house. Anyone who never found a way to get along with their siblings, especially the ones of the opposite sex, is more likely to fail in marriage than succeed. This is because your relationships with your siblings as well as your parents are simulation tests for marriage - minus the sex of course (incest is an awful sin).

In all, mutual respect and responsibility should be visible maturity-pointers between lovers long before they marry. In other words, a woman should not have to wait until after her wedding before she begins to enjoy the spiritual leadership or the monetary benevolence of her spouse, no matter how little. So also, a man should not have to wait until after wedding to see that his spouse is meek. From the experience of courtship, a man should be able to tell that his woman understands godly authority and submits to it.

CHOOSE TO BE HONEST ABOUT YOURSELF

Blessed are those who have realised their emptiness and poverty because they shall call upon God for fullness of divine grace, and God shall answer them. And blessed are those who realise their flaws and curse because they shall call upon God for healing, and God shall perfect them. No one in denial of their internal conflicts is prepared for the process of marriage. Therefore, know yourself and accept your reality.

You should know yourself, not just for the sake of knowledge but for the sake of love. Whoever would be joining themselves to you in marriage would also be joining themselves to the problems pre-

existent in your life. The selflessness of love, then, demands that you care enough to want to shield your so-called beloved from your life-uttering predicaments known to you. You reserve the right to marry anyone knowing their “baggage”, but you do not have the right to trick anyone into marrying you by not revealing your “issues” to them before the wedding day. And by “before the wedding day”, I do not mean a day or even a month before - that would just be manipulation, and manipulation is witchcraft. Whosoever is capable of deceiving a spouse is capable of anything. The sons and daughters of the Light live and tell truth. Right down to even your face without makeup reveal all of your relevant self to your spouse. For instance, you may know or suspect that you are impotent as a man or infertile as a woman; or you may have a major disease or disability not outwardly visible; or your case may be more spiritual than physical, say for instance, you know or you suspect that you have a spirit spouse or that you are a victim of any kind of demon possession; or your own case may be that you belong to the category of people who have discovered that a mystical disease or death happens to those who marry into their family. Of course the honourable thing to do in cases such as listed above is not to stick your head in the sand dreaming marriage and pretending all is well. Rather, the nobility of love should compel you to hold off on the thoughts of marriage till you have found a medical solution or a divine intervention as the case may warrant. Otherwise, you will just have to tell the truth of your “woe” to your beloved and hope that they have enough faith to marry you anyways.

You may say but if you divulge such sensitive information about yourself you would be at risk of being stigmatized. Well, the harsh truth is that marriage is a good thing, but it is not for everyone. But beyond the seeming coldness of the last statement, see a message here that, **you cannot afford to be flippant with your relationships**. In other words, you cannot, as a man, go about life courting the attention of every woman for the purpose of marriage. And you cannot, as a woman, afford to entertain the love gestures of every man that thinks he “loves” you. Knowing that whoever you decide to walk down the isle with will also have to look into your closet at some point before you reach the altar, you should practise social discretion and ***holy discrimination***. In essence, know your love interest to a significant stage before they ever know you in a vulnerable manner. Watch very

carefully before you leap into the arms of any. Do not be impulsive but rather, let your emotions breathe and settle. Let ample time pass over every love token and infatuation so as to give room for people's personalities to unfold – wisdom is not more than this.

Blessed are all they who realise their misery and filthiness because they shall turn to God in humility, and the blood of the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world is able to wash the foulest clean.

PART B

CHOOSE TO BE WORTH MARRIAGE

CHOOSE TO BE WORTH MARRIAGE

Not everyone who finds a spouse finds a good thing but the one who finds the spouse carrying the good thing. That which is precious is sought after, but the unprofitable is soon discarded.

In marriage there is room for both parties to bring something good and profitable to the bed. It does not have to be always material, but make sure you are bringing something useful to your marriage. To choose to be worth marriage is to determine to possess the things that make marriage work. You should find those things in the following pages.

CHOOSE TO BE A SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST

If you at all understand what you have read in this book so far, then you must by now realise that you fail to be the ideal human being God commands you to be. And because of the fundamental evil nature of all mankind, none of us is capable of reproducing the perfectly good nature of God which is the divine purpose of marriage. Seeing that no man will ever be able to replicate His true and flawless image, the omnipotent God took upon Himself the form of a mortal man and lived among human beings some two thousand years ago to show humanity how to be like Him.

When God became a mortal, the man Jesus Christ of Nazareth was born. Though he was fully human in body, Jesus carried the complete essence and personality of the Almighty God. And by this medium of divine incarnation, God practically lived out the ideal human life which He had always demanded of mankind. The ideal human life, as seen in the thirty-three years of Jesus' earthly life, is the life of selfless service. Jesus Christ spent himself serving God on the first hand and humanity on the second.

Jesus Christ served God by choosing to give up everything and share in humanity's misery in order to become the divine means of redeeming mankind. You see, all of humanity is in sin and the punishment for any sin is eternal damnation. But Jesus Christ, being the manifestation of God, was completely pure and sinless, and he was capable of only good. God is full of mercy and would rather forgive and save man but He would not because His just nature ensures Him to never allow any evil or sin to go unpunished – that was the divine dilemma. But God found a way to save man by transferring all the punishment for the sin of humanity upon Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. And so, God forgives and saves mankind without violating His divine justice or His righteousness because Jesus Christ accepted the full weight of divine justice on behalf of all mankind. Because the sacred Scriptures say, “without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin”, Jesus therefore surrendered himself as the Lamb of God whose blood is shed to wash away the sin of the world.

Though he was completely pure and sinless, Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price for the sin of all humanity past, present and future. Consequently therefore, God is justified any time He forgives anyone who pleads the blood of Jesus for the remission of sin; and God is likewise justified when He damns anyone who rejects His offer of grace which came in the person of Jesus Christ. Hence, the sayings are true that, “Salvation belongs to God” and “Vengeance belongs to God”.

Jesus Christ served humanity by throwing away his own life in order to lead all who would follow him to God. He showed mankind the way to God, not with mere words, but by pouring out his life as an offering of ultimate godliness. He was homeless and even hungry as he wandered about to reach as many people as would receive him with the message of God’s salvation. Jesus used his divine power to help the helpless and to heal the hopelessly sick without charge. He never did anything for his own personal interest, but rather for the glory of God as well as for the benefit of humanity. He was not violent but was compassionate to his friends and foes alike. He demonstrated with his own lifestyle that true humility is to submit to the will of God at all time. Though he, as God-incarnate, owns all things, yet he became poor in order to bless miserable humanity with the priceless gift of friendship with God. In Christ, the holy God and frail humanity meet together. And at the close of his life, even as he completed his service for humanity on the cross, Jesus invited all of mankind to adopt his life of selfless service, and to believe on his name as the only access to eternal rest with God. For he said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can get to God without me”. Indeed by his blood, Jesus paved the way for sinful humanity to approach the Holy God. And as God, Jesus shares his eternal life with us mortals so that we can live forever with him.

The greatest gift anyone can give their spouse is the adopted lifestyle of Jesus Christ. Let Christ be the ultimate thing you bring to your marriage. Love your spouse like Jesus loved us all and died to save us. Be prepared to give all, including your life if need be, for your spouse. Be ready to put the needs of your spouse before yours over and over again. Protect and serve your spouse. The way to be the servant of Jesus Christ is to emulate his selfless servant-hood. Remember that, though he is the

holy God in human body, Jesus brought himself so low as to live in gentleness with filthy and sinful mankind. Likewise therefore, irrespective of who you are or whatever you may accomplish, live with your spouse in gentleness and treat them like you believe they are more important than you. As Jesus was obedient to the divine will even unto death, you too must be faithful to your spouse in everything. This is the way to be a servant of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the perfect way to please God in marriage, and indeed, in all things.

CHOOSE TO BE A SPIRITUAL DEFENCE

Marriage is an acropolis on the hills of human civilisation. It is one of the strongholds God has blessed humankind with to defend itself and its values against the forces of corrosion. The enemy of souls, Satan, along with his army of dark spirits, tirelessly fight against marriage because he knows that a marriage that is successful on God's term will mean peace for man. Every couple therefore must resist the devil with the weapons of fervent prayer and the diligent practice of God's laws. By implication, then, marriage is in this sense a warfare that must be carried on in the forts of leadership, womanhood and parenting with complete trust in God for sure victory.

THE LEADERSHIP FORT

The leadership fort in marriage is mainly the domain of the husband. As the man of the house, the husband is God's foremost representation in the family. He is therefore bound with an oath intrinsic to his manhood that he should, by divine ordinance, be a miniature of God in marriage. Every husband should believe and religiously practise the husband creed below:

The Husband Creed

I consecrate myself to God to always be above reproach.
I will always be the husband of one wife.
I will be sober-minded and self-controlled.
I will lead and teach my family in love.
I will not be a drunkard.
I will not be violent with my wife but gentle.

I will not place money over the spiritual or moral welfare of my home. I will rule my home by example, keeping my children under control while training them to live with integrity and to show respect for others.

So help me God through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Know this: the exemplary life of the husband is designed to rub-off on the wife, and on the children as they come along.

THE KITCHEN FORT

As the woman of the house, especially cook the food your husband eats, as well as the food of your children. It is an ordinance of the Lord your God, and He has kept a subtle but nonetheless mystical power hidden both in the sheer cooking and in the serving of the food for your use. Wicked women may misuse this power by poisoning food either to harm or to just manipulate. But for you a daughter of the Light, God gifts you with this power to endear yourself to your husband and your children for peace and happiness in the home. And when you cook, let your heart be filled with joy and worship to God. Let songs of praise flow out of your mouth as you dice and mix the food items (it is okay if some tiny bits of saliva drop in accidentally. Your husband by now is used to your saliva from all the kissing. And your children, well, they took in quite a lot of your bodily fluid in the womb. Anyways, the heat of cooking will kill all bacteria. Alleluia!). And as you fill your cooking atmosphere with worship, the blessings of the Lord will rest upon the food. Many modern wives are so sophisticated that they rarely partake of this divine favour. By the way, sophistication without God's blessing will only lead to suffocation. The Creator in His infinite wisdom has ordained cooking and breastfeeding as platforms for forging family bonds. Also, encourage your children to eat together when they are still little. This is good to cultivate closeness and loyalty amongst them. Certainly, husband and wife must eat together every time possible. Family dining is a blessing. And do not mind those who say never talk while eating – it is eating, not meditation. Surely, soft chats will do no one harm. Family cooperate eating nourishes both body and soul. It is God's blessing, savour all of it.

THE PARENTING FORT

Children ultimately belong to God; parents are only temporary caretakers who must account for however they train the property of God in their care. Most modern parents would probably not want to hear this, but the way to train your child is such that the child will feel strongly the need for God and depend on Him rather than on you. God ordained for every child to grow in a home environment where God is the centre of everything. The Holy Scriptures put it like this, “And you shall diligently teach all God’s commandments, statutes and judgements to your children, and you shall discuss them when you are at home and when you are on the road, and when you wake up in the morning and also before you go to bed at night. Also, you shall write them and hang them on the walls and on the doors and on the gates where you will see them and remember them every time”.

Many train their child in such a way that the child’s psyche is so woven around the parents that the child can hardly do anything without them. parent will leave the child behind in this world all alone with himself and his faith. God alone never leaves. As the sacred Scriptures say, “When my father and my mother forsake me, then will the Lord take me up”. There is a tendency for an undiscerning parent to replace God in the heart of the child. When that happens, spiritual death sets in for the child while worldliness and sensuality aggravate. No parent should think it is their job to meet all the needs of a child - that is just selfishness in disguise. Are we saying a parent should be cold and absent to their child? No, that would not be the will of God either. What we mean rather is that every parent should realise that they too are ultimately children in the hands of God and must project that fact to their child as soon that child can tell right from left in order for that child to know early on to trust God above all things. And how does a parent achieve this? It is by being mature in reasoning and by the mastering of the emotions. It is neither by being insensitive nor by being overly emotional. A competent parent remembers that he himself was once a child and so possesses a good mixture of discipline and gentleness towards the child. Mature parents do not beat up a child just because the child has offended. As a matter fact, a parent that began their job well will find that there is less and less need for the rod.

This is because such a parent has taught the child to hide away from actions that bring bad consequences rather than hide from the consequences of bad actions.

The good parent trains the child to be complete. To be complete is to be spiritually, mentally, emotionally and socially responsible. It is the duty of the parent to set the child on the path of completeness, but that completeness cannot be got from formal education alone. You should not dump your child in the four walls of a classroom and think that your job is done. The truth is that as helpful as western education can be, it is incomplete and must be acquired only as a part of a larger whole. A child must be first the student of life before student of the classroom. A child must primarily learn to be responsible to family and society. To train a child towards completeness is to put faith in his heart, a trade in his hand and lastly a book before his eyes. Faith gives life and trade gives a living, but book is useless to the dead.

CHOOSE TO MARRY A KINDRED SPIRIT

Believe Jesus Christ who said earthly life is already hard enough without adding further worries to it. It would be counterproductive for any man or woman to choose to marry a fellow with no character. Birds of same feather flock together, and there is a reason for that - unlike feathers will likely strain together. How can two walk together except they agree? You must strive to marry a kindred spirit. But who is a kindred spirit?

A kindred spirit is that person for whom a divine capacity has been built into you to accommodate. In other words, for the sake of the man or woman you have been called by God to marry, you carry a special grace to, not only tolerate them, but to want and cherish them in spite of their flaws. It is as though the Creator wrote them into your soul's DNA and so, you yearn for them with pure yearning. That is the meaning of flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone. But does that mean that your kindred spirit will bring answers to all life's problem? No, your spouse is not God.

You and your kindred spirit will probably not even share the same opinion in all matters. And honestly, there will be frictions here and there but the frictions can be without bitterness or tension. Consider the bones at the knee joints; they experience friction when they are functional. However, because there is lubrication you never hear your knees make noise when you walk. So also, the grace that exists between you and your kindred spirit is the lubricant that keeps the frictions in marriage noiseless and harmless. But how do you find a kindred spirit for spouse?

Apparently, you cannot go around searching for the perfect one who will meet all your expectations – such a person does not walk the surface of the earth. What then should you look for in a spouse? What will be enough for marriage? The answer is the same thing God requires from every human being to be able to work with them – faith and submission. Those are the two ingredients that make a marriage-worthy spouse.

FAITH

Do not marry a fool! A fool is that man or woman who denies God by words or by actions. Few people would say with their mouth that there is no God but many deny God by their lifestyle. Whoever makes a habit of ignoring the laws of God has already said in their heart that there is no God. A fornicator, a thief, an impure person, a fraudster, an indecent person, an idolater, a witch or wizard, a hateful person, an envious person, a bitter person, a bad-tempered person, a selfish person, a racist, an arrogant person, a murderer, a drunkard, a self-important person, an inhospitable person, a party/fun lover, a segregationist of any kind, and the likes are all unbelievers. They are not candidates of marriage. They are not spouse-worthy. And do not worry yourself about their marital fate; there are more than enough ungodly people to marry the ungodly.

To believe in God is to constantly meditate on His goodness and beauty for the purpose of learning to be like Him. The believer emulates the kindness and patience of God. Only a person who truly believes in God can treat their spouse as son or daughter of God. And it is only in the hands of such a spouse can you ever be truly safe in marriage.

SUBMISSION

Submission is the capacity to receive correction for the purpose of learning towards progress. Man is an infinite student – he will forever be learning of God and His creation. We carry on our studentship in the school of marriage. Husband and wife must submit to each other if they are going to advance in the institution of marriage. And together, they must ultimately submit to God.

Pride is the enemy of learning. It will keep you from submitting to your spouse even when you are wrong and your spouse is clearly right. But humility gives you strength to bow deeply with your spouse in order to rise highly together.

The spouse that is not submissive is incorrigible. Such lack the ability to adapt for progress. Essentially, they are incurably fated to remain small. Even when you know the things that hurt your spouse, you still will not stop doing them if you are obstinate; and those things your spouse love you cannot bring yourself to do either. Truly, a spouse who is not submissive is pitiful and miserable. But it must be clearly stated here that the wife is the one to submit to the husband, while the husband on the other hand is to be accommodating of the opinions of the wife. Submission, however, is not subjugation. You do not get submission out of your wife by force, neither by self-righteousness but by patience and tolerance.

With a spouse that is kindred spirit, marriage is ultimately blissful. The pains of life are easy and the bitter is salted to the point of bearable when you have married your kindred spirit. There is no perfect person on earth, but there can be a perfect spouse. Your wife, o man, is the perfect woman. Your husband, o woman, is the perfect man. Their perfection is custom-made for you. Praise God!

OPEN ARMS

If the words of this book have blessed you and you would like to further explore the revelations of God in the light of biblical and historical Christianity, please feel at liberty to read more Christian articles by the same author and even listen to audio messages including sermons, prayers and prophetic ministrations by the servant of God. You will find more materials that will fuel your passion for the glory of Christ at our website apostolicshelter.com and on the YouTube channel [Apostolic Shelter Ministry](https://www.youtube.com/channel/ApostolicShelterMinistry).

In addition, the servant of God would gladly accept, if the Lord permits, to minister in your church-groups or in your work-groups or in your school-groups, and so on. The Lord has ordained us to help you treasure His glory in these last days. Please contact us at the address or phone numbers below. Let us know how we can serve you!

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