



Christ Companion Bible Church

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE SEMINAR for ALL SINGLES

TEXTS: *Genesis 2:18-25, 24:1-28, 42-67; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3. I Peter 3:1-12; Psalm 128:1-4.*

I. WHAT IS CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

- a. It is a sacred institution ordained by God for the procreation of human race. Gen. 1:27-28
- b. It is a godly and holy society where peace and love reign and Jesus Christ is the LORD. I Corinthians 7:2-5
- c. It is an establishment of home for the children upbringing in godly manner where peace and joy in the Lord Jesus can reign. Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21.
- d. It is a union between a Christian man and a Christian woman where both exist together to help each other to achieve God's plan for their lives that both can also reign with Christ eternally. Ecclesiastes 4:8-12.

Christian Marriage Is Therefore Honourable. Hebrew 13:4.

II. WHY CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS HONOURABLE

It is honourable because:

1. It is a sacred institution established by God. Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Mark 10:6-9.
2. It is a mystery. Genesis 8:24, Ephesians 5:32, 32.
3. It reveals God's favour to man. Proverbs 18:22; 5:18.
4. It preserves purity in God's people. I Corinthians 7:1-2
5. It is figurative of God's union with the Church – revelation of God's pure Love. Songs of Solomon 8:7, Isaiah. 54:8; Revelation 19:7, Colossians 3:19.
6. It is a means of replenishing the earth. Gen. 1:27,28.
7. It is a mark of responsibility. I Peter 3:1, Proverbs 31:27, Deut. 6:7, Proverbs 22:6. I Timothy 3:4.
8. It is also a means of mutual cooperation among believers to live a successful and victorious Christian life. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

Yet this sacred institution can lose its honour and become harmful if it is not carried out with the right and godly attitudes.

III. HOW MARRIAGE CAN LOSE ITS HONOUR AND BECOME HARMFUL

Sins and unchristianly canal attitudes towards a marriage which God established with labour can become harmful through one or some of these pitfalls.

1. When a Christian gets married to an unbeliever or someone whom God has not chosen for him/her (UNEQUAL YOKE). II Cor6:14-18.
2. When a Christian is worldly in his approach to marriage.
3. When a Christian misuses his/her body and life through immoralities, fornication and adultery which are introduced before, between or after marriage.
4. When a Christian is not matured enough to marry and goes into marriage.

5. When a Christian is impatient in approaching the issue of marriage. Judges 14:1-3; Gen. 34:1-4.
6. When a Christian allows undue intimacy between Christian of opposite sex or people of the world. Gen 34:1-3, II Sam13:6-18.
7. When parents, friends, false prophets, false prophecies or any individual serves as intermediary rather than the leading by the Spirit of God.
8. When a Christian decides to lay down certain unscriptural standards or yardsticks that must be fulfilled before choosing a life-partner. Eg. Looking for certain unscriptural qualities such as body complexion, height, education, social status, tribe or home town of your parents, e.t.c.
9. When certain selfish ambitions are introduced into marriage proposals.
10. When a Christian decides to walk by sight rather than by faith.

Any, some or all of these can lead a marriage to sorrow and regret.

Water is very important as a fluid in the body for drinking, washing, as a solvent and for many other domestic and industrial uses. Yet one can get drowned in it if he/she is not used to swimming in it or be choked up with it if he/she is careless in its use. Also a salt is good but when it has lost his savour, it becomes useless sand! Matt. 5:13.

The sacred institution can be “heaven on earth” or “hell in the home”, depending on how it is handled. A Christian marriage that is prayerfully planned with God in heaven, can be peacefully lived and practiced with Christ here on earth. Therefore, allow God to plan and build for you a Christian Home where Jesus Christ rules and is lived by all the family members. A Christian marriage/home is honourable when Christ is the Director of the marriage and the Lord of the Home.

IV. HOW TO HAVE A CHRISTIAN MAARRIAGE

A. The First Principles

You must understand God’s will

There are some necessary conditions that must be fulfilled before you can receive a meaningful guidance from the Lord on Marriage or any matter that requires the guidance of God. Ps. 23:2, Prov. 3:5,6. They are the following:

1. **Sound Conversion** unto faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through repentance from sins and surrender of oneself unto Jesus Christ as one’s own Lord and Saviour. Isa 55:6-7; 1:16-19, Acts 3:19,20; I John 1:8,9; I Cor. 6:9,10. Ps 84:11.
2. **Maintain a good fellowship and relationship with the Lord** and believers in Christ. Ps. 23:1. John 10:4,5,27. Rom 12:1,2. Prov 3:5,6.
3. **Walk in the Light of the gospel.** I John 1:7 and as you walk in the way, the Lord will lead you. Eleazer said, “*I being in the way, the Lord led me...*” Gen. 24:27b, I John 1:7.
4. You must **avoid fretting because of evil doers** or be envious of workers of iniquities. Ps 39:1-5.
Rather use godly methods in seeking for and having your life-partner. I Thess 4:3-7.

B. How God Guides His Children on Marriage or Other Matters that Require God’s Guidance

1. God often guides/leads individuals through the inner voice of the Holy Spirit when the person is living right with GOD always. John 10:27; 14:26, 16:13; Rom 8:14, I Cor. 12:8, Prov 20:27.

2. God can guide through the Word of the Scriptures, impressed in your heart by the Holy Spirit when you have prayed, during your prayers, or as you study the Scriptures. John 14:26, Ps 119:130, Gen 24:10-14. Such scriptural passages shall appear to you as if they are written there purposely for you alone i.e. rhema.
3. Through the counselling of anointed Christian ministers, pastors, teachers, leaders or some mature brethren. This may be the confirmation to the earlier revelations or additional guidance to sort out confusing situations. Jer. 3:15, 6:16, II Cor. 13:1, Prov. 11:14, 15:20, 20:18.
4. God may open some doors of opportunities that guide you to take decision. John 10:3, Rev. 3:7,8. Gen 24:10-27, 49, 51.
5. Through direct revelation from God, usually after praying the prayer of faith as you as God in faith. James 1:5-7. But note Prov. 28:9, James 4:3.

As you allow God to guide you through His words, you will not fail into snare of the devil. Those who later have regrets on their marital lives are those who dis-regarded God's words and standards. May be they feel that they can plan it themselves and ask God to rubber-stamp it. Such has never worked well!

V. THE IMPORTANCE OF PASTORAL COUNSELLING AND PARENTAL CONSENTS

1. Pastoral Counselling

Dreams, visions and angelic visitations were not sought for when they came to those who were properly led. We must not run after them nor wait for them. Even when they come naturally, we must be careful to cross-match them with the scriptures. If they contradict the Scriptures in any way, reject them as false. Isa 8:20. As sure security against misguided revelations, it is needful to seek proper counselling of your pastor or leader before you take further step. When the leader/pastor is convinced that you are taking the right step, he would further guide you. Heb 13:17. I Thess 5:12,13., Jer, 3:15, 6:16.

It is unscriptural for the brother to go directly to tell the sister when he has not discussed it with the pastor or church leader. Such people are often misled and even mislead others believers also. Do not behave like the people of Laish in the Scriptures. Judge 18:7,27,28. Such a person can easily be misled to make wrong choice or take wrong steps to failure and harm.

When the pastor has prayed about it on your behalf and he is convinced that you should go ahead, your pastor's counselling on it has not ended. If you are a brother you will need to allow to him take some steps on your behalf, to find out from the sister whom you're convinced to. If she too is having same leading or she is already engaged to another brother. Often this is the area where the pastor can help you remove some bondages, problems etc, that can hinder your success or in the lives of those concerned and scripturally guide them.

He will normally give the sister the chance to pray on it, but cannot compel her nor force her. He may not even inform her who the brother is (that is, his name). She will go on her own to pray and return back to the pastor after she is convinced and settled about the matter or otherwise. If she is convinced, then the pastor shall allow the brother to propose and pray on the matter with sister. Then they should go back together to the pastor for further assistance and counselling on godly relationship/courtship. If it is the sister that has brought her conviction to the pastor initially, he will assist like the case of the brother and he (pastor) should

warn her not to propose to the brother but encourage her to pray and wait until the brother is convinced to approach her after he too has been properly instructed to do so.

2. Parental Consent

After the two of them have been convinced and encouraged to go into courtship period, it is their responsibility to inform their parents individually first. So that as their parents see them together often, their relatives will not consider their action as carnal living or call them hypocrites. This is because such moves can destroy their Christian testimonies. They need to inform their parents and seek approval. Gen. 24:27-54. Please Note vs 49,51.

When they have prayed enough, usually there should be no opposition from their parents especially if they had been living right as Christians in times past. But when the enemy still brings unnecessary stiff oppositions from the parents/relations, those concerned should pray and patiently wait until the Lord intervenes. Prov. 21:1.

VI. CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP AND CHRISTIAN WEDDING

A. Christian Courtship

1. Courtship period is not a time to sleep together. Heb. 13:4; I Pet 2:9
2. It is not also time to practise marital privileges. Col. 3:1-3
3. It is not a time to compromise or backslide from Christian fellowship, programmes and activities. Gal 5:7-8.
4. It is not a time to walk and talk in the dark to discuss in the dark of do anything in a closed room where they can be easily tempted into sins or suspected by others. Rom. 14:16.
5. It is not a time to lose self-control. Gal. 3:3.
6. Rather the period of courtship is a time to prayerfully settle problems and differences and difficulties that may surface at the wedding, in the home which they are planning. Prov. 15:1,21:1.
7. It is a time to understand, understudy, readjust with one another and pray one another.
8. It is a time to plan for the future home spiritually, socially, financially etc.
9. It is a time to still make spiritual things uppermost and be guided by Christian leaders. Gal 5:1,7-8, 16.
10. It is a time of watchfulness against all forms of sin and little compromises. Eph. 5:8-17. Titus 2:7-8; II Tim 2:22-23.
11. It is a time to honour the Lord and do all things to glorify God. I Cor. 10:31,32; Col. 3:17, Gal 1:10.

B. Christian Wedding

A wedding simply means a Marriage Ceremony. A Christian wedding therefore sought to be a "Christian Marriage Ceremony".

There are usually six (6) major participants with several other minor participants or spectators.

They are: The Couple (2), The Best Man and the Chief Bride Maid (2), the father of the Woman (1) who gives the woman to her husband and the servant of God – the Minister/pastor (1) who joins the wife that has been handed over by her father to her husband in the presence of the Best man and the Chief Bride Maid who are the

witnesses to the joining. Other Christian friends, relatives, colleagues, unbelievers present are mere spectators most of whom may need to be given something to eat or not.

The Primary purpose of such gathering apart from joining of the couple is to make the people(believers and unbelievers) present to know that the two are joined together in a holy matrimony in the presence of Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, the Christians and their relations. Henceforth they become husband and wife.

1. It is not a crusade for worldliness or an occasion to lead them to incur debts. Ruth 3:18, 4:1-3, John 2:1-11.
2. The Law requires that a notice be files for 21days after the notice has expired, the government authorities shall issue them permit to wed.
3. The wedding should be solemnised in the church premises.
4. At the end of it, marriage certificate (as written evidence) is issued by the Church minister that solemnised the marriage.
5. All other superstitions practices and worldly involvement should be avoided. Phil. 4.5, Titus 2:11-14. All extra customs other than solemnization is **EXTRAVAGANCY!** Think of This! Suppose the **RAPTURE** of the saints by the Lord Jesus happens on your wedding day or at other time during your courtship will you feel happy to meet the Lord Jesus in the sky in you apparels? What will keep you behind from going with the heavenly Bridegroom. Therefore, Be Ready for the heavenly wedding! Rev. 19:6-9.

NB. This teaching does not include the following:

1. The Christian Home: Solving Problems in the Christian Home
2. Christian Children Upbringing

They form separate seminars. Let us Pray.