

God's Rules of Engagement in Marriage

By

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Published by Aderinsola Obasa

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Scripture quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible

Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. We choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules

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Introduction

Genesis 2:18; 20b-22; 24-25

¹⁸The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

²²Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

The passage above tells us to a great extent God’s pattern in bringing about the marriage union. One important fact is that of all the animals and other creatures the Lord made, there was no suitable helper for Adam amongst them. And so, for every man that the Lord God has created, He makes a suitable helper designed specifically to meet the needs in the life of that man and help establish the purpose of God in his life and also help him fulfill his destiny. That is the initial purpose of God for marriage - the man on assignment for God, to take dominion over all

that He created, and the woman as his suitable helper, assigned to help the man accomplish all that the Lord has assigned him to do.

If we consider the institution of marriage in our present generation, we will notice a great decay within the institution. The design of God at the beginning of the marriage institution is far from being realized. The woman is totally unaware of her assignment in the life of her husband, and the man is yet to come to the realization that the tool of his accomplishment in life is the woman the Lord has brought to him as his wife and suitable helper whom he is supposed to treat with care, love, and affection.

There is a subtle but very dangerous enemy of marriage that has quietly walked its way into the marriage institution and has taken dominance even among Christian homes, and that enemy of marriage is what has been identified as Tradition. Baseless traditions have been allowed to wash away the purpose of God in our marriages and homes. With this, a lot of God's children have come to see and accept the vices of bad marriages as the norm.

But that will not be the case anymore as we discover God's design for our marriage, His good and perfect will for our homes, that the man and his wife will both be naked and will forever feel no shame to the glory of God.

Chapter 1: The Making of a Life Partner

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.

Genesis 2:20-25

²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beast of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman' for she was taken out of man."

²⁴For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵*The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

I have come to understand as I grow steadily in the Lord that God has so much interest vested in that small unit called the home. This is not a surprise though, as this small unit happens to be the starting point of God's plan and purpose for His children. Every individual used and to be used by the Lord has the starting point of his/her life in a home. The foundation of these lives is rooted in the home. So, this gives us a basis to accept and understand why God is very interested in that small unit called home.

If I have the privilege to see God face to face and understand what His thoughts are concerning the outcome of many homes and marriages in this present age, I am sure I will see disappointment and grief in His eyes, bearing in mind that the home is the foundational bedrock of God's army, the generals that God has created to bring down His kingdom here on earth, sustain the reign of Christ and crush the head of satan.

The Marriage Union

Many people have entered into marriage and begun a home without having an understanding of the purpose of God in instituting marriage and establishing a home. Marriage has become a thing of tradition and fashion, and so, we have missed the purpose of God in establishing the institution. A lot of people do not bother to seek the face of God before entering into marriage. They enter into the union for very wrong reasons and once those reasons fade away, just as they rushed in, they are rushing out. Not bothering about the fate of the children produced by the union. Once the fire of love that brought them together burns out and the spirit of tolerance evaporate into thin air, they head for the law court to obtain a divorce certificate without a thought for the mind of God on the situation.

In understanding God's plan for marriage, we need to learn, understand and appreciate God's rules for marriage and the home. If you adhere to these rules, you are guaranteed a successful marital life. Then marriage becomes a thing of joy, and you will be putting satan to shame once again in your life and crush his head like God has asked you to. There is the need to search the scripture and let the word of God reveal the mind of God to us on the issue of marriage in order to be well grounded as we try to understand God's master plan for marriage and those seeds the enemy has tried to plant in the home, in order to distort the plan of God for our lives and homes.

The Making of a Partner

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸*The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.*

The first thing to note very carefully is that the wife is a suitable helper made by God for the man. Far above emotions, the wife is supposed to be a fitting support for the man. So, I will say this, if any man marries just because of the emotions he feels towards a woman without first seeking the face of God to confirm if she is the suitable support needed for his life's assignment, such a man is acting in error.

Another important thing to note is the declaration of God in the second part of this scripture. It says, "I will make a helper suitable for him." From this statement, we will realize that it is God who made a suitable helper for the man and not the man's parents or the man going in search of a helper for himself.

In order to have a marriage free from unnecessary troubles, you need to first seek the face of God and be sure that the woman or man you are getting married to is God's choice for you. You need to be certain that your choice of husband or wife is the helper or ordained authority God has made for your life. No matter your age, whether old or young, you need to start praying to God to bring you a helper suitable for your life's journey when the time is right. The helper who will go along with you on your life's journey and help fulfill your destiny and the assignment of God on your life.

Parents are to start praying on behalf of their children concerning the issue of marital choice, and hand over the situation to God right from their children's tender age, as no parent is capable of making a suitable helper for their child.

Genesis 24:3-9, 12

³*I want you to swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, ⁴but you will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."*

⁵*The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"*

⁶*"Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. ⁷"The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land' he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. ⁸If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." ⁹So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.*

¹²Then he prayed, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

This passage tells the story of how Abraham got a wife for his son Isaac. From this story, there are a lot of lessons to learn, but one lesson that's important for this topic of discussion is the statement Abraham made in verse seven of the passage. He said "The Lord the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land' he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there."

Abraham very well understood that when it comes to the issue of making a suitable helper for a man, it was a matter delegated to God alone. It was only God that was capable of making a suitable helper for Isaac and not the servant. Abraham's chief servant appreciated the enormity of the errand he had been sent on and knew that left alone he could not carry out the task successfully. So, on arrival at his destination, he had to pray. He needed God to make a choice for Isaac, so he asked for a sign with which to identify that suitable helper whom the Lord had made for his master's son.

It is important to understand that it is only God, who is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End of all things that knows the various needs of a man's life. He knows the assignment that each man has to fulfill, and so the helper that will fit in to meet the needs of each man has to be made by Him. He knows the future and He is mindful of the upcoming challenges, so it is of great importance that the helper needed to meet up with the struggles and challenges of the future comes directly from Him.

If you are at that stage of your life where you think you have met a woman whom you wish to get married to, you need to first take the matter to God, talk to Him and be sure that the person in who you have invested your desire is that suitable helper that God has made to fit in and help establish His purpose for your life.

Proverb 19:14 says "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord." The Bible has revealed to us that the assignment of making a suitable helper for a man in the person of his wife can only be carried out by God and nobody else. Not by you as the one needing a wife nor by your parents, but the Lord. And this also applies to the woman. You should not get engaged or be married to a man for reasons of emotion or any other reason whatsoever without allowing God to lead you to the appropriate man in whom your life will find fulfillment. That right man to whom your destiny has been tied.

You need to be sure that you have obtained the consent of your Creator before signing that marriage certificate so that when the storms begin and the tide starts to blow, you are sure God has the situation under control and you will not be swept over by your challenges. You are to be sure

that the man you want to journey with is the appropriate, God-ordained authority over your life and in him your destiny will find fulfillment.

Before we conclude this chapter, we need to understand the role of love in marriage. What role does love play in marriage? Can marriage decisions be taken based on the feeling of love alone? And so, we will be able to understand which role emotions play in a marriage decision.

The Role of Love in Marriage Decisions

Song of songs 8:6-7

⁶Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.

⁷Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

The book of Song of songs speaks of the love that exists between two lovers, yet this is a book good enough to be included in the word of God (the Bible). This book shows that the issue of love in marriage is of great importance. I would describe love in marriage as an emotion and a catalyst feeling, infused by God into the man He created and the woman He has given to him as his wife, to aid in binding the two together as they become one in spirit and flesh according to the design and desire of God.

The kind of love described in the book of Song of songs is one that God created exclusively for the man and his wife in marriage. This love is one of the many binding forces in marriage. It's an emotional feeling that helps keep the man and his wife united in marriage. It enables the attraction of a man towards his wife, and the wife towards her husband. It's one of the catalyst forces that cause two flesh to become one in accordance with the declaration of Christ to the married couple. This love is sacred, it is of God and it is exclusively for those in or about to be in a marriage covenant.

According to the description we have of this love in the book of Song of songs, it is a strong feeling. Solomon said it is as strong as death (Song of songs 8:6). This love is a binding force that brings about joy, peace, contentment and rest between married couples when channeled properly and applied as the Lord intends it to be used. Other things produced from this strong love is a sense of belonging, it produces warmth and affection between a man and his wife. There is also a form of protection between the married couple as one spouse always wants to watch over the other to protect the one, he/she loves.

But this love can also be misused and misappropriated, and it can be aroused unnecessarily. When this happens, the sweet binding force between a man and his wife spoken of as love, turns into venom that produces jealousy that is as unyielding as the grave. In the book of Song of songs 2:7, 3:5, 8:4 Solomon emphasized a warning saying, “daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.” When this love that we have spoken of so well is aroused or awakened unnecessarily, it becomes very destructive and has devastating effects. In as much as it is a catalyst that binds the man to his wife and the wife to her husband, it can also be a strong feeling that arouses jealousy that can possibly result in undesirable after effects.

There is an important step that precedes the release of love. First, it’s important to note that it was after the Lord presented the woman to the man that she ceased to be called woman but wife. So, before you fall in love with that woman you think you love, you need to first take the matter to God in prayers. You need to ask God questions and seek answers to know if that woman is the wife the Lord has made for you to be a suitable helper for your life.

It is advisable not to make the choice of a life partner solely on the basis of love, but on the basis of prayer. You need to confirm and be sure that it is the Lord presenting that woman to you before you release your love to her. As a woman, you also need to pray and seek the face of God to know if it’s God presenting you to that man or it’s just your emotions leading you. It is important to let God present you to the man He has ordained for your life before you release your love to him.

There is an important question that we need to ask ourselves as we talk about love and marriage. The question is this: “Is love enough for a marriage to stand the test of time?” When you are able to answer this question correctly, then you should be able to determine if love alone can be a reason for a man to go ahead to marry a woman or not? From what I have learned from real life issues, love is hardly enough reason for a man to take a woman to be his wife. A convincing consultation with God is a perfect reason for a man to take the woman God has made for him as his wife and be married to her.

Love as a catalyst will appear in the union over time if truly it is the Lord that has ordered your steps to that man to be his wife. Do not let love appear before your consultation with God. If love is released first, it will obstruct your ability to hear clearly from God on the steps you are about to take. It will also affect your ability to make a clear and objective decision on whether or not the Lord wants you to marry that man or woman. It is important to put the release of love on hold and hear from God in order to be certain that you are walking in line with God’s will for your life.

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