

Theme: MAN'S SOCIAL RELATIONS

CHAPTER 2

Topic: MARRIAGE

Sub Topic:

PURPOSE OF COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE Meaning and the purpose of marriage

(Activity 2;1 fountain, 2;4 baroque)

Qn. What is marriage?

Is an agreement between a man and a woman to establish a permanent communion of life for mutual comfort and support.

Qn. What is the purpose of marriage according to (Genesis 1;27) and (Genesis 2;18-23)

➤ Genesis 1;27,

27. SO God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female.

➤ Genesis 2;18-23,

18. Then the Lord God said, "it's not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him.

19. So he took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they all got their names.

20. So the man named all the birds and all the animals, but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him.

21. The Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh.

22. He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him.

23. Then the man said, "At last, here is one of my own kind, bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. 'woman' is her name because she was taken from man.

Qn. Identify the purpose or reasons why people marry.

People marry because of several reasons which are as follows;

- To ensure that human beings get companionship.
- To prove that they are mature men and women.
- To get wealthy.
- For prestige.
- Some marriages are also associated to job security.
- To avoid the aspect of barrenness.
- Marriage also provides legal and financial advantages such as tax benefits, inheritance rights, shared property ownership etc.
- People marry so as to fulfill the desire to conform to social norms and culture demands.
- People marry to honor their faith and seek blessings from their religious community.
- Marriage provides emotional security and a sense of belonging to a committed relation, making many people to get into marriage bonds.
- People also marry because of the higher expectations from society, family and friends.
- People also marry to fulfill the desire to have children and also becoming parents.
- Marriage is also done at times to fulfill and create a friendship among tribes. This acts like a period of reconciliation among others.

Types of marriages

(Activity 2:2 fountain, 2:3 baroque)

Qn. Identify the types of marriage you know.

This include;

- Church marriages/ weddings.
- Customary marriages/ traditional marriages.
- Civil marriages.
- Islamic marriages.

Qn. How different are the above forms or types of marriage.

Islamic marriages

Is the form of marriage that takes place before in the mosque and presided over by the Muslim leaders.

Church marriage

This is a marriage arrangement where the religion or the faith of the couple is followed. It is a marriage conducted following the religious beliefs or practices of the couples.

Characteristics of religious marriage

- The marriage ceremony takes place in a church premise or building.
- The marriage is presided over by the religious leaders like pastors, priests and the reverends.

- There is exchange of matrimonial vows between the partners. They do promise to stay together as husband and wife permanently in all circumstances.
- Monogamy is the ideal type of marriage recognized and accepted. The man must marry only one wife.
- Certificates are given after the marriage. This is to prove that the man and woman are legal husband and wife. These certificates are signed by the couple, best man, matron and the religious leader.
- The couples are supposed to be of the same religion and in some cases the same Religious denomination.
- The marriage ceremony is done before a group of believers or congregation. They are therefore witnessing to the marriage.
- There is exchange of wedding rings during the marriage ceremony. These rings act as a physical sign that the couples are legally married.
- The marriage intention is announced in the church for a given period of time say two or three months.
- The marriage is built on a permanent basis. It is only death that can separate them.
- The couples are treated as equal in the marriage since both are created in God's image.
- The traditional or customary marriage is supposed to have been conducted before going to the church.

Advantages of church marriage

- The marriage is relatively stable. This is because it is based on Christian values like love, humanity and faithfulness among others.
- The marriage encourages and promotes equality between the husband and wife. This can enable the couples to enjoy their marriage life.
- It enables a couple to give enough time for each other since it is one man and one woman in the marriage relationship.
- The marriage is built on a permanent basis and therefore it lasts forever until death.
- There is enough guidance and counseling before and after the marriage. The couples are required to attend counselling sessions in the church under the guidance of religious leader.
- The marriage is more public. The congregation witnesses to the marriage ceremony.
- This marriage is made more legal since certificates are given after to show that the two are husband and wife.
- The couple receive blessings from God through the religious leaders. This means that the couples have a place in the heavenly kingdom.
- It fulfils God's command of pro-creation. Through it, the couple can produce children in following God's command of multiplying and filling the world.
- It checks against marital unfaithfulness like adultery and prostitution among others. This can make the marriage more enjoyable.
- The couples are given enough respect by the community members as legal husband and wife.

Disadvantages of religious marriage

- Some people who marry in church tend to undermine other forms of marriages.
- Some unforeseen problems like infertility in marriage are likely to destabilize the couples in future.

- The marriage is very expensive. A lot of money is spent during the preparation for the marriage ceremony. Requirements which should be bought include the clothes, cakes and rings among others.
- The marriage restricts one's choice of a partner. This is because the couples are expected to be of the same religion or religious denomination.
- Some couples are very shy and therefore it becomes very difficult for them to stand and make promises before the congregation.
- It can make one become a slave in marriage. This is especially in the event of difficult moments like fighting, poverty and constant illness of the partner. This makes the life of a partner very difficult since the marriage is meant to be permanent.
- The marriage takes a lot of time especially in its preparation. The couples are required to first get letters of approval from their parents and keep on going for marital guidance and counselling before the actual date for the marriage.
- Some people with ill-intentions can easily destroy the marriage. This is because the marriage intention is open to the public to give their views during announcement in the church.

Customary marriage

This is a type of marriage which take place within the established customs of a given community.

In other words, it is a marriage arrangement where the customs or the cultures of a given community or a particular group of people are followed. This is a type of marriage common in an African setting.

Characteristics of customary marriage

- The marriage is carried out following the customs or the cultures of a particular group of people.
- The man intending to marry follows the cultures or the customs of the woman. This is because it is the family of the girl giving her a way to the family of the man in an official visit.
- The marriage ceremony takes place at the ancestral home of the woman. The parents and the relatives of the man pay an official visit to the family of the girl pre-arranged. It is on this day that the woman is handed over officially.
- It involves the payment of bride wealth and in some cases, exchange of gifts. This is where the family of the man moves along with some items including animals like cows, goats and beers and give them to the family of the girl.
- In this marriage, the man holds a superior status and therefore, the head of the family.
- The parents and the rest of the family members can choose the marriage partner or approve the choice made by their children.
- The community members are involved in the marriage arrangement. They are involved through giving sex education to the children, contributing towards the payment of bride wealth or even making choices among others.
- Virginity of the girl is valued and respected in this type of marriage. A girl found to be virgin earns respect for her family and an additional gift could be given in appreciation for her moral uprightness.

- Marriage is between people of different clans. This is because people of the same clan are considered brothers and sisters.
- In this marriage, polygamy is recognized, accepted and respected. A man is allowed to marry more than one wife depending on his ability to take care of them.
- There are rituals performed during marriage ceremony. Such rituals include praying, dancing and eating food among others.
- The marriage is associated with taboos particular to community. Among others, having sex during funeral rites is forbidden.
- Widows are inherited in this marriage arrangement. This is based on the ground that a woman married to the family belongs to everyone. Therefore, upon the death of her husband, either the brother or uncle of the deceased is allowed to take the responsibility as the husband.
- The marriage is built on a permanent basis. Therefore, the marriage is a life time affair.

Advantages of customary marriage

- The marriage is relatively cheaper. Being a community affair, everybody contributes especially in the payment of bride wealth. This eases the tension associated with the payment of bride wealth.
- It caters and provides solutions for unforeseen problems in marriages like infertility of the woman. This is because it allows polygamy.
- It encourages and promotes sexual morality in marriage since virginity is highly valued and respected.
- There is enough sex education given to the partners before and even after being joined together. This enables the partners to know their roles as husband and wife.
- The marriage promotes the cultures of a particular group of people like keeping animals.
- The marriage is long lasting since it is built on permanent basis. This enables the partners to enjoy their marriage relationship.
- The marriage promotes unity not only between the two families but in the family community since everyone is expected to be part of it.
- The marriage is more stable especially after the payment of bride wealth. This is also brought about by the continuous guidance given to the couple.
- There is enough freedom given in this marriage since restrictions like religious differences are not considered.
- This marriage is flexible. It gives room for polygamy and divorce in extreme cases like over beating of one of the partners.
- This marriage considers that proper choice of a partner is made. The parents also are allowed to choose or to approve the choices made by their children.

Disadvantages of customary marriage

- It tends to promote inequality in a marriage since the man is considered to be superior and the woman inferior and submissive.
- It may be expensive especially when they over demand the bride wealth like money and domestic animals including cattle and goats. This may make the groom's family poorer.
- The interest of the community appears to be more important than interest of the couples. This means that the couples may not enjoy their marriage relationship.

- It is also possible that one can marry a wrong choice. This is because the parents are allowed either to choose or to approve the partners for their children.
- A lot of time is spent before marriage arrangement. Many steps are involved like identifying the partners, informing the parents, waiting for the parent's approval and the sex education.
- The marriage can easily break. This is because it gives room for divorce in cases like infertility and marital unfaithfulness.
- There is no evidence or legal document like certificates to show that the man and woman are husband and wife.
- It is possible that the marriage can be unstable especially where the marriage is polygamy. Conflict arising from disagreement between co-wives can easily disrupt the normal family life.
- It limits the freedom of the wife. This can be after the death of the husband where she is supposed to be inherited by another man within the same family.
- The marriage can be affected by evil traditional practices and beliefs like witchcrafts.

Civil or state marriage

This is a marriage arrangement conducted following the law of the land as provided in the constitution of a given government.

Characteristics of civil marriage

- It is presided over by an official government representative. In Uganda, it is either the Chief Administrative Officer or the Resident District Commissioner.
- The intention of the marriage is displayed on a public notice board. This is to enable the public to give their views on whether or not the couples can go ahead and marry.
- The couples are required to get letters of permission from their parents in order for them to marry.
- The couples are required to get the letters of introduction from the local council leaders. This is to prove that they are the residents of where they claim to live.
- Certificates are given after the marriage. This acts as a legal document to show that the man and woman are husband and wife.
- It officially recognizes monogamy as the ideal type of marriage. The man is allowed to marry only a woman at a time.
- It gives room for couples to divorce especially in extreme cases like over fighting and marital unfaithfulness.
- Family property belongs to both the husband and the wife. This is because they have equal rights in their marriage relationship.

Advantages of civil or state marriage

- The marriage is more legal. The certificates given by the government can prove that the two are husband and wife.
- The marriage is flexible. Among others, it gives room for separation and divorce in case of continuous misunderstanding in the marriage.
- The marriage saves a lot of time. It does not require a lot of preparation.

- The marriage is relatively cheaper. Only the two can even present themselves before the government representatives during ceremony and besides it may not require expenses like hiring cars and the after parties.
- The marriage is protected by the laws of the land. This enables the couples to enjoy their marital rights.
- It reduces unnecessary interference before the parents and the relatives. This is because the couples are subject to the state.
- There is freedom of choice in this marriage. One is free to choose from any religion, tribe and race as long as there is love.

Demerits of civil or state marriage

- The marriage can be delayed especially if the government representatives are too busy with the state duties.
- It is possible for the marriage to break easily since it gives room for separation and divorce.
- The marriage can be destroyed by people with ill intentions. This is because the marriage intention is displayed on the public notice boards.
- There can be cultural confusion in the family since the partners are allowed to marry from any culture.
- The parents are denied their full rights over their children's marriage relationship. This means that the parents are detached from the affairs of their children.
- There can also be religious confusion in the family since the partners are allowed to marry before any religion.
- There is no marital guidance and counseling given to the partners. This may mean that the partners can easily make mistakes in their relationship.

Marriage as a custody of love and honesty

(Activity 2:4 fountain,2:5 baroque)

Qn. What circumstances or examples show love and honesty in marriage.

- Accepting mistakes in a relationship as partners.
- Practicing forgiveness of one another whenever in wrong.
- Being truthful to each other.
- Taking care of one another in a relationship
- Sharing all that is born between the couples.
- Having respect for one another.
- Understanding one another's condition, thought and characters amongst the couples.
- Showing integrity for one another.
- Being straight forward and also openness amongst the couples.
- Having love and faith for one another.
- Being helpful to each other.

Qn. What situations happen to marriage in the absence of love and honesty.

- Too many quarrels and disagreements amongst the couples.
- Couples struggles to develop and maintain a deep emotional bond hence leading to loneliness, dissatisfaction with in the relationship etc.

- The family develops a communication breakdown.
- Without love and commitment, one or both partners may be more prone to seeking emotional or physical intimacy outside the marriage.
- There is lack of support and understanding. This can lead to feelings of isolation and a breakdown in the overall marital dynamics.
- Loss of trust for one another.
- Lead to neglect amongst the couples. That is to say child neglect or the couples themselves.
- Can lead to feelings of resentment and bitterness towards one another, creating a toxic atmosphere within the marriage.
- Fights can also break in such marriages.
- Inability to resolve issues since the couples may struggle to find common grounds or finding solutions to their problems.
- Increased likelihood of separation or divorce in marriages.

(Activity 2:5 fountain)

Reading the bible and completing the table about the value of love and honesty in the text.

<i>Bible text</i>	<i>The values of love and honesty in the text.</i>
Genesis 29;15-20	✓ Jacob accepting to work for 14 years to pay for Racheal shows love and honesty.
1 Samuel 1;1-8	✓ Elkanah was concerned about Hannah's condition. He remained committed to her even when she did not have a child.
Deuteronomy 24;5	✓ Spending time together has values of love for a married partner.
Proverbs 5;15-20	✓ Faithfulness to a marriage partner only shows values of love and honesty.
Proverbs 31;10-12	✓ Confidence in a marriage partner shows the value of love and honesty.
Exodus 20;14	✓ Prohibiting adultery is a sign of advocating for the value of love and honesty.
Colossians 3;14	✓ Christians are advised to love as the basic of life.
Ephesians 5;25	✓ Giving is a sign of love in marriage (sacrifice life for a marriage partner)
Ephesians 4;2-3	✓ Humility, gentleness, patience are values of love in marriage.

Courtship

Meaning and importance of courtship

(Activity 2:6 fountain, 2:1 baroque)

Qn. What is courtship?

Courtship refers to a close or the intimate relationship between a man and a woman who are mutually attracted to each other with the intention of getting married.

It may also be used to mean the friendship developed between a man and woman attracted to each other.

Qn. Explain the importance of courtship.

- It gives time for the partners to know each other properly before deciding to marry.
- The man and the woman are able to discover each other's dislikes and likes. This enables the partners to appreciate their differences and accept one another the way they are.
- It enables the partners to know the strength and weakness of one another. This makes it possible for one partner to accommodate the other's weaknesses.
- It gives time necessary for the man and the woman to prepare for marriage in the future.
- They can use such a time for to put together the requirement necessary for their marriage including the bride price.
- It enables the partners to make proper choices. This is because marriage is arrived after a long interaction.
- It tests the love that each partner has got for another. This lays a strong foundation for a future stable marriage.
- It helps the partners to adjust their behavior or character in order to accommodate the incoming behavior or character.
- It gives the opportunity for the partners to grow into a mutual understanding and gives respect to one another.
- It enables the partners to know each other's character. This helps the partner to decide whether or not they can be together with the identified character in future.
- Courtship helps to reveal the family background of each partner. This is in respect to their character and financial status among others.
- It helps to guard against life crisis which may arise as a result of knowledge of the partner. This could be problems related to fertility. It is, therefore, easier to reconcile with each other in the future.
- It allows each partner to introduce each other to the relatives. This enables the partners appreciate their family differences.
- It enables the man and the woman to come together in order to establish a firm relationship in preparation of future life together.

Factors to consider when choosing a marriage partner

- One should consider beauty involving the skin color, height and body size among others. This ensures that one is happy and satisfied with his or her choice.
- The age of a person should be considered when choosing a marriage partner. It is better if one is relatively younger than the other.
- Love should be considered. This forms the foundation of a strong and stable marriage for the partners in the future.
- The health status of a person should be highly considered. One should choose someone with a better health status.
- The cultural background of the two partners should be considered. There should be some similarities in their ways of life. This is important in creating harmony and understanding in the marriage.
- One should also consider the family background. This can help the partners to assess whether they can easily fit in that particular family.

- The financial status of a person should be considered. A partner should at least be in position to support the other by providing the basic needs like food and clothes.
- One should consider the character of a person. Virtues like politeness, humility and honesty should form part of the partners' personality.
- The profession of a person should also be considered. The jobs should give enough time to the partners to enjoy the presence of each other.
- The level of education of the partners should relatively be the same. This helps to promote a better understanding and communication between the partners.

Qn. What is not recommended of a Christian during courtship.

- Staying together in the relationship.
- Premarital sex. (fornication)
- Having intimacies (bad touches) in isolated places.
- Telling lies to one another.
- Cheating on one another.
- Loss of trust on one another.
- Quarrels over small arguments.

Problems associated with absence of courtship before marriage

(Activity 2:7 fountain 2:2 baroque)

Qn. What are the problems associated with lack of courtship in a marriage.

- It can easily lead to fornication especially if it is prolonged. Fornication has its own problems like unwanted pregnancy and acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS.
- It is possible that people with ill intentions can ruin the partners through rumors. This can easily bring their relationship to an abrupt end thus leaving the partners heartbroken.
- It can make some youth to become rebellious towards their parents and their relatives. This is especially if such relatives disapprove their relationship.
- It may not necessarily lead the man and the woman into marriage. This is especially after one has realized the weaknesses of the other.
- Some partners may be attracted to each other because of material benefits. Therefore, in the absence of such benefits like money, the relationship is most likely to come to an end.
- It is possible that the partners may disagree in small issues as a result of being close to one another every now and then. This can lead to frustration.
- It may lead to breaking of cultural values. Young people tend to choose their own partners independently.
- It is also difficult for the young partners to find the ideal and suitable partner. Because of this, they may be forced to keep moving in search of a better relationship.
- The love between a man and woman can easily be destroyed. If the courtship becomes too long, an impatient partner may lose interest in the relationship.
- It may be difficult for each partner to identify whether or not the other one is true and committed to the relationship or simply pretending.

The value of unity in the marriage

(Activity 2:9 fountain, 2:7 baroque)

Qn. *What is unity?*

Unity is a state of being united or joined as a whole.

Qn. *What ways can unity be brought in a marriage.*

- Through being prayerful.
- Through obedience of one another in the marriage.
- Being trust worthy to each other.
- Remaining honest in the marriage.
- Forgiving one another whenever there is a quarrel or a mistake committed by one member.
- Sticking to vows and faith made between the partners.
- Fulfillment of the marital obligations.
- Showing respect and honour for each other.
- Also supporting each other in times of need and trouble.
- Understanding each other in the relationship.

Qn. *Identify the causes of unity and disunity in marriage today.*

Causes of Disunity.

- Unfaithfulness in marriage.
- Poor communication among the partners.
- Lack of humility.
- Ignorance of the teachings of God causes disunity.
- Rumours also cause disunity in marriage.
- Pride and arrogance cause disunity.
- Lack of intimacy between the partners.
- Unresolved conflicts.
- External factors such as work stress, family dynamics etc.
- Financial problems and differences.
- Unrealistic expectations about marriage and the roles of each partner can lead to disappointments and dissatisfactions.

Causes of Unity.

- Love for one another.
- Having a spirit of forgiveness in a marriage.
- Reconciliation among the partners.
- Having bible lessons.
- Having prayer within each other.
- Having trust for one another.
- Having a good communication among the married couples.
- Having respect for one another.
- Having humility for one another
- Being truthful and faithful amongst each other.

(Activity 2;10 fountain)

Qn. What can unity do in a marriage.

- Unity guards the marriage relationship.
- Brings good results in marriage.
- Brings victor and prosperity in a marriage.
- Brings success in a marriage.
- Promotes peace among the married couples.
- Creates the ability for a marriage to stand and overcome challenge.
- Cultivates a positive environment. That is to say couples who are united tend to have a more harmonious and peaceful relationship, fostering love, respect and happiness.
- Helps couples navigate through difficult times and overcome challenges. This is through supporting each other, finding solutions together and emerge stronger from the experience.
- Also promotes teamwork.
- Fosters trust and support amongst the married couples.

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