

Chapter Six

6.0 THE NATIONAL POLICY GUIDELINES ON MARRIAGE

- 6.1 The would be couple shall both be believers in Christ or be encouraged to have salvation experience before entering into the relationship.
- 6.2 Both must have verified evidences of divine leading to each other presenting to the church pastor who before courtship approval must make necessary contact to stakeholders like parents, marriage committee and others of concern.
- 6.3 They should be formally referred to the marriage & counselling committee for proper monitoring by filling the courtship form.
- 6.4 Counselees should be ready to undergo series of training/lectures from the selected counselors using stipulated write-ups like the believers class and discipleship manual.
- 6.5 Both must meet with the marriage committee at different levels at least three times before the wedding and within a period of not less than six months. As the situation demands (especially outside the country) various media of communication can be used.
- 6.6 The would be couple must be ready to undergo necessary medical tests on their genotype, blood group and others as may be necessary to further confirm their compatibility.
- 6.7 Both must be ready to use the courtship period appropriately in prayers, attending seminars/ programs and other joint activities capable of helping them in laying the foundation for a standard christian home.
- 6.8 The courtship period should not be too long or too short, a minimum of six months is recommended.
- 6.9 The church must be notified six months ahead of any wedding program for proper preparation. Marriage ceremonies should be announced regularly to the congregation at least not less than 3 months before marriage except with a genuinely reason known to the D.S.
- 6.10 The pre-marriage questionnaire form must be filled and submitted at least one month before the wedding date. It should be recommended by the assembly pastors& finally through the D.S to the Chairman.
- 6.11 Conduct of the wedding service in all our assemblies must not exceed two(2) hours. However the pastor should have held preparation meeting with the couples to be at least one week to the wedding.
- 6.12 The Holy Bible remains our seal at the solemnization and not the wedding ring.(psalm 119:1- end).
- 6.13 We believe in natural beauty and as such. The use of modern adorable measure like make up, excessive hairdo etc. are not allowed.
- 6.14 Both couple and their bridal train/maids most avoid immodest or indecent dressings. This to be monitored by the church authority and the state marriage committee.
- 6.15 The would be couple must have secured a proper separate accommodation before the wedding as staying in/ with either family houses or sharing apartment are not encouraged.
- 6.16 A brother/sister from another church or ministry who is willing to marry or be married to must be ready to abide with all our guidelines.
- 6.17 For party coming from another church or ministry, the parent consent form should be completed mandatorily (to be made available by the marriage committee)
- 6.18 Sex, pregnancy, abortion before marriage is a sin and is undesirable within the group. Any report of such will receive serious sanction biblically.
- 6.19 The would be couple should consider life before and after the wedding day, most important than the actual ceremony and hence moderation in their planning.
- 6.20 Violation of any of the above rules will attract proper sanction from the church authority.

THE MARRIED COUPLE

- 6.2.1 The couple should live a godly/ christian life.
- 6.2.2 They should endeavour to train up their children in the way of the Lord. Titus 1:6.
- 6.2.3 Divorce within the group is not allowed and is a sin before the Lord. Anyone who divorces will face disciplinary action.
- 6.2.4 Polygamy is a taboo in this group and should be disallowed.
- 6.2.5 Homosexuals and lesbianism is a sin before the Lord. Rom 1:28.
- 6.2.6 Couples are forbidden from staying in family houses, or with another couple/in law e.t.c.
- 6.2.7 Extra- marital affairs is not allowed within the group.
- 6.2.8 Use of jewelry, ungodly hairstyles, bangles.e.t.c are taboos within the group.
- 6.2.9 Ungodly dressings, bleaching, make ups are not allowed in the group.
- 6.2.10 Homes should be founded on Christ the Rock of Ages. Jn 3:16.
- 6.2.11 Homes should be solidified with the word, prayers, Holy Spirit,faith, fasting and Holy life always.
- 6.2.12 Periodic deliverance should be introduced in homes as christian medical check- up at random to put homes in order.
- 6.2.13 Husband and wife should provide for their home always (feeding, clothing, sheltering and caring) in all aspects.
- 6.2.14 Qualitative and quantitative education should be given to self, children and christian education must be daily revealed to the children.
- 6.2.15 Couples should be interested in evangelizing in their homes, families, neighbours and surrounding so as to fulfill the call of Christ.
- 6.2.16 Physical combat, quarrelling,cursing, fighting should not be seen or heard in christian home.
- 6.2.17 Children should obey their parents in the Lord for this is right. Eph 6:1.
- 6.2.18 Children should honour their father and mother always. Eph 6:5, Exo 20:12.
- 6.2.19 Father and mother should not provoke their children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture of admonition of the Lord. Eph 6:4
- 6.2.20 Servants must be obedient to their masters. Eph 6:5
- 6.2.21 Husband and wife should submit to one another in the fear of the Lord. Eph 5:21
- 6.2.22 Wives submit yourselves unto your own husband as unto the Lord. Eph 5:22.
- 6.2.23 The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church. Eph 5:23-24 for as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
- 6.2.24 Husbands love your wives,even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it. Eph 5:25,28.
- 6.2.25 Members who have not married legally/ not carried out engagement procedures before joining the group should be taught and made to do so by church/pastor. For such couples multiple weddings maybe conducted on a particular Sunday.
- 6.2.26 Divorced male/female that joins the group should be requested to meet the church pastors and their matter be forwarded to the DS. They should be re- counseled to check fornication and adultery.

6.3.0 WIDOW/WIDOWER.

- 6.3.1 Widow or widower within the group should be referred to the church pastor/ zonal leader and such forwarded to the DS for re-marriage if such is not of old age. This is to prevent fornication and adultery. 1 Tim 5:9,11,14.
- 6.3.2 Widow/widowers are only allowed to be married to singles, widow/widower but not breaking into homes, affairs,families and such should be under strict monitoring of the pastor as the case may be.
- 6.3.3 Such people are supposed to live a godly life, of piety,trusting in God and continuing in supplication, and prayers night and day. 1 Tim 5:4-5
- 6.3.4 Widow/widower with children should bring up their children in the way of the Lord always..1 Tim 5:8-10
- 6.3.5 They should not be idle,lazy or lukewarm. 1 Tim 5:13
- 6.3.6 Widow/widower that is ready to remarry should be ready to take care of the children of the deceased.
- 6.3.7 The widow/widower should periodically be catered for by the church or fellowship they attend as well as the state/national.