

MARRIAGE AND COUNSELLING

INTRODUCTION

To have a robust discussion on this topic, there is the need to know the definition of what Marriage and Counselling mean and how they inter-link.

Marriage is the legal or formal union of male and female adults as partners in amorous relationship (historically and in some jurisdictions, it is specifically a union between a man and a woman).

Counseling, as far as marriage is concerned, is simply described as *Couples' Therapy*, which attempts to help improve relationships and resolve interpersonal conflicts? It guides the couple on various ways to living happily and harmoniously in marriage.

MARRIAGE

This aspect of human life called Marriage and its accomplice, Counseling, came about through studying the Word of God and gains from the practical experiences of parents, self and friends; because there is a marked difference between co-habiting and being in Marriage.

A.) According to Biblical teaching in Genesis 2:18-24, Marriage was instituted by God. God loves His creations and never wants man to be alone; hence creating a wife Eve, from Adam's rib and presenting her to him.

In all homes, studying the Word of God and putting its teachings to practice all through life is important. Genesis 2:18 is quite instructive to both the RECEIVER and the GIFT.

Marriage on its own is honorable, for those who study the Bible and obey its teachings- (Hebrews 13:4). Proverbs 18:22 says "he who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from God". Judgment, however awaits adulterers for defiling their beds. Faithfulness to your spouse is therefore a key way of life

because the relationship is a permanent bond which no one must break (Matthew 19:6). It should be impossible for anyone to come in-between the couple to separate them. No condition, friend, or even parents for whatever reason, can put them asunder. They are intimately bonded (Matthew 19:5) and only death should separate every couple (Romans 7:2-3).

Unfortunately, some couples who claim to be Christians, and who should be guided by the Word of God, do run foul of the message in Luke 9:62, simply because they can no longer wait for the children to come; or for reasons of infidelity, look back and break up, or defile the bed. Whether the devil likes it or not, children will surely come (Genesis 1:27-28) because the Lord has said it.

Marriage is a means of sexual love and not otherwise (Proverbs 5:15-19). This is a great warning against adultery. It is also not advisable for the wives to deny their husbands of conjugal intimacy while in marriage. Giving it all to your husband (Ephesians 5:21-33), offers the most powerful and highly instructive guide on marriages. It is therefore important to have every marriage to be centered on Love and obedience, inviting Jesus Christ into your home all the time. This is because it was at the presence of Jesus Christ that the marriage in Cana of Galilee became joyful, happy and all dissatisfaction sunk. May every home that has the presence of Jesus Christ be forever happy in Jesus's name Amen.

B.) If you must be a Christian, you have to be fully and truly a Christian and live by the teachings of the Bible. For reasons best known to parties in many marriages, some spouses do go through one pain or the other; and the responses or reactions from the other spouse matter a lot. For example, either of the spouse may be fornicating or adulterous. When this happens, the way out is not a break-up of



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the matrimony; but rather to bring in Jesus Christ, the only Key to all locked doors. However, if after all entreaties to salvage the marriage fails and you must call it quits, it is important not to re-marry because this is biblically prohibited (Matthew 5:32). Scripturally, it is much easier to remain in the marriage unless you want to remain a celibate. It is therefore imperative that you stay in it and take your case to Jesus Christ for divine restitution.

Polygamy is forbidden: The sterling attributes and spousal requirement of a true Christian grounded in the word of God are espoused in 1 Timothy 3:1-4, 8 and 12. He must be a man of one wife. The implication is that there is no room for polygamy for a true Christian. As followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is normal to grow in the Lord, graduating from being beginners in the Faith and progressing to Teachers, Evangelists, Deacons, Apostles to Bishops, and serving in the presence of the Lord. But danger is always lurking around because the enemy (Devi) is always on the prowl to derail Believers (1 Peter 5:8). There are so many unmarried and adulterous ones out there of whom married couples should be wary, so that they are not devoured by their antiques.

The Lord does not approve of Divorce: The Bible does not allow or encourage divorce (Matthew 5:31-32). Should divorce arise, there should be no remarriage as earlier mentioned until the spouse dies; then only can there be a remarriage. Not only that, you have to remain celibate while not permitted to remarry. We must be vigilant.

COUNSELLING

Teachings under counseling help to improve relationships if properly adhered to. For instance, all teachings in Ephesians 5:21-33 are highly instructive; they are healers for wounded marriages and constitute a great strength for the obedient in marriage, making the strong stronger. Couples who relate to one another in the fear of the Lord must surely be wise and growing (Ephesians 5:21).

When wives submit to their husbands, they enjoy peaceful homes in great trust. It takes the fear of God to have the wife realizing that the husband is the head of her body just like Christ is the Head of the Church (Ephesians 5:22-23). It is this same fear of the Lord that makes the marriage grow. Couples must therefore stick to submitting themselves to one another in the fear of the Lord in all situations.

Parental role in their children's marriages

is very vital. It is ungodly for parents, especially those who could not stay with their own spouses, to live in with their married children. This is because of the potential danger of exercising negative influences into their children's marriages. Who do you blame when parents, who could not endure the demand of tolerance and perseverance in marriage chose to break-up; and become bad examples for their children to emulate. Since children learn faster than we teach them, parents must behave right and show good examples.

Ephesians 5:28 teaches that while the wife submits to the husband, the husband is also enjoined to love his wife as he loves himself. This means that a man who loves his wife loves himself. I have seen a man slap his wife, box and even flog her, but I have not seen any man do all these to himself except in cases of insanity. Therefore, a man who after going through these biblical teachings beats, flogs or slaps his wife

can only be insane.

Where a couple is enjoying the peace and happiness of marriage, and either of the spouses does not want to see the parents of the other, then there are challenges that must be looked into. Everyone is expected to see his or her spouse's parents as his, from the day of the marriage. This is because everything you love in your spouse was acquired from the parents, so you must love them too.

Couples should for the whole of their lives endeavor not to separate beds. When you sleep in the same bed, a lot of issues are solved and you both wake up the next day better fulfilled and smiling.

Above all, couples must ensure they pray together, no matter what it takes because a family that prays together stays together; and the children proudly emulate the practice. May the Lord bless all.



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