

BEFORE YOU SAY "YES, I DO"

“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace” (Luke 14:31-32).

A good marriage is not found, it is created. Creating a good marriage involves building it on a strong foundation. The foundation of every relationship is important and people ought to ask questions to know the foundation of their relationship before saying “Yes, I do”. In this study we shall consider some seven simple but important questions a person needs to get answers to before saying “Yes, I do.”

1. WHEN WAS THEIR LAST RELATIONSHIP AND WHAT CAUSED THE BREAK UP?

Sometimes the last thing you want to hear from your partner’s mouth is issue about an ex or past relationship. However, talking about an ex or past relationship is not always bad; in fact, it can help build a solid foundation for the current relationship. Knowing when your partner left a relationship and what caused the break up has many benefit when presented wisely.

Knowing when, why and how your partner left a relationship gives you understanding about who your partner is. It builds trust, encourages open communication and also help your partner to be less inclined to repeat his or her past mistakes.

Upon all these, the reason for knowing about the past relationship of your partner should be for building a strong foundation for the new relationship and not to use against them.

2. DO THEY SEE IT OKAY TO HAVE SEX WHILE DATING IF THE TWO OF YOU WILL MARRY?

This will help you know the dedication level of your partner towards God and his or her moral level. Premarital sex destroys trust in relationship, it robs the respect you have for each other, opens the door of the relationship for the devil and also hinders your personal relationship with God. The seed of pre-marital sex grows to produces extra-marital sex. A person who is willing to commit fornication before marriage can commit adultery after marriage. Beware of such people!

3. APART FROM SEX, WHAT CAN A WOMAN OFFER A MAN?

This will help a man to know how matured a woman is and how supportive she will be. At least, knowing her roles in marriage is better than not knowing them at all. Mental maturity for marriage involves knowing your roles and a woman ready for marriage should know the role of a wife in the marriage relationship.

4. IF A MAN MISTAKENLY CHEATS ON HIS WIFE WITHOUT HER KNOWLEDGE, SHOULD HE STILL CONFESS IT TO HER?

Proverbs 28:13 says; "he who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Saying "NO" therefore to this question is a red flag. Worldly "experts" usually encourage adulterers to keep their mouths shut about their infidelities, saying worse damage will be done by confessing. But the truth is, a concealed act of adultery stifles one's conscience and doesn't allow for the restoration of relationship that confession is intended to bring.

James 5:16 teaches us to confess our sins to each other and pray for each other so that we may be healed. A guilty conscience will not go away simply by trying to ignore or cover it. It may, in fact, lead to psychological and even physical problems. As difficult as it would be for people to tell their partners that they have been unfaithful, it is necessary not only for the integrity of the relationship but also for the relationship between the person and God, so that their conscience may be clear and they will be able to live a holy and blameless life.

5. DO THEY BELIEVE IN GENDER EQUALITY IN MARRIAGE?

This will help the man to know the submissive level of the woman; and will also help the woman to know the leadership style of the man whether he will be autocratic, democratic or paternalistic. In Christ there is neither male nor female, but in the marriage relationship God has made the man head of the family and any woman who believes in gender equality in marriage goes contrary to God's order.

6. CAN A MARRIAGE BE ENJOYABLE WITHOUT MONEY?

This will help you know how much your partner cherish your relationship over money. Money decorates marriage and makes life comfortable, but a person who chooses money over love cannot be trusted for a long-term relationship like marriage. For they can easily leave you in times of scarcity or loss of job.

7. WHAT ARE THEIR VIEWS ON DIVORCE?

A person who is not 'afraid' of divorce cannot be trusted for a long term relationship like marriage; for no matter the number of children, they can easily leave you in times of friction. But people who see divorce as something detestable to the Lord will find ways of rebuilding their marriage even if things go wrong. It is therefore necessary to marry someone who sees divorce as something God hates even as it's written in Malachi 2:16.