



FAILED MARRIAGES AND RECIPE FOR SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

BEING THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE DELIVERED
BY PASTOR E. A. OJO PH.D

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PART ONE:

INTRODUCTORY LESSONS

1. Definition of Marriage

Marriage is defined as a conjugal relationship between a man and a woman of like minds. It is the result of an agreement between two parties (Male and Female) who have consented to come together in holy matrimony for the purpose of procreation.

It is a union between a man and a woman (not between a man and another man or between a woman and

proclamation to be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth. Marriage is, in fact, very important to God Almighty because it is through this union that God fulfills His plans and purposes for His creation.

"Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created?" - Genesis 5:2

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and

"Marriage is like a vehicle designed by God in a repairable way with only one driver." This means that it can have its own hiccups (develop faults) or may even have accidents which are subject to repair. Marriage, being the coming together of two people from different backgrounds, is not perfect.

No marriage is perfect. Couples must therefore learn to resolve their differences amicably.

2. Origin and Institution of Marriage

God instituted marriage and He is the Originator of the whole idea. Thus marriage becomes important to Him because it is the only way by which the work of creation can be fulfilled. Consider the following words and actions of the Almighty God:

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." - Genesis 2:18.

Therefore, He formed the woman out of the rib of the man, Adam;

"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;" - Genesis 2:21

"and the rib, which the LORD God had

taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." - Genesis 2:22

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." - Genesis 2:23

God therefore contracted (as middleman) and conducted (as the Priest) the first marriage in the Garden of Eden.

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and sub due it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." - Genesis 1:28

To further emphasize the importance of marriage, Jesus, His mother and His disciples attended the marriage ceremony where He performed the first miracle ever in Cana of Galilee.

"And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there." - John 2:1

"And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage?" (verse 2)

"And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine?" (verse 3)

waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim?" (verse 7)

"And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it." (verse 8)

"When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom," (verse 9)

"And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now." (verse 10)

"This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him." (verse 11)

More importantly, after He has created animate and inanimate creatures, he needed to put man in charge to take care of them hence the necessity for the Institution of Marriage.

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." - Genesis 2:15

Therefore marriage becomes critical fundamental and crucial because

never be actualized.

It should be noted that God created Man and Woman from the dust at the same time. It is God's mystery.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." - Genesis 1:27

"Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." - Genesis 5:2

3. Purpose of Marriage

God will not do anything without particular reasons or purposes. Some of the reasons or purposes of God for instituting marriage are:

1. For Companionship and Mutual Relationship

This refers to keeping one another's company. It was initially designed to keep Adam's company. Therefore, couples should see themselves as companions to one another.

2. For Mutual Help and Assistance

Couples should not become burden to each other but to share responsibilities

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ?" - Galatians 6:2

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." - Genesis 2:18

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor." - Ecclesiastes 4:9

"For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up?" - verse 10

3. For Procreation

This is about child bearing, multiply man's offspring on earth.

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply,

and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." - Genesis 1:28

4. To Guard Against Fornication/Adultery

Human nature yearns for intimacy. There should be no denial.

"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." - 1 Corinthians 7:2

"Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency." - Verse 5

PART TWO:

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR FAILED MARRIAGES

Marriages may fail depending on how the parties involved handle their affairs. Failure of marriages can be due to any of the following factors:

1. Choice (Foundation)

The major headache in Marriage is making a choice of the right partner. Hundreds of young ladies and men are out there but very few of them are



reliable, dependable and trustworthy. In Psalm 12:1 we read that,

"Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fall from among the children of men." - Psalms 12:1

This Bible verse explains that people who fear the Lord, who obey His word, and walk uprightly are uncommon in our society nowadays. This makes it difficult for a large number of singles to decide on who to marry. Consequently, to remain single is better than to make a wrong choice.

Today, there are many broken homes due to wrong choices in marriage. The Almighty God who is the Author of marriage made the right choice for Adam. Thus He said,

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him." - Genesis 2:18

So when Adam saw Eve, he knew God had given him the right choice:

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." - Genesis 2:23

It is advisable for the singles to think twice before making their final decisions on who to marry because choice in marriage determines the future of any human.

Please singles, don't rush into marriage because people said you are growing older but marry because you have found the right partner.

2. Compatibility

This simply refers to how identical, similar or related the couples are in the following areas:

Physical Compatibility

This has to do with PERSONALITY, EMOTION and BACKGROUND

Social Compatibility

There are two types of persons – the INTROVERT and EXTROVERT.

There are some people who seem to be unpopular due to their quiet nature because they rarely mix with people.

They have very few friends, hardly attend social functions and not commonly found in public gatherings. There are others, however, who are "Popular lingos", out-going socialites. They are very sociable and easily mix with varieties of people from all walks of life.

Such people are found in big occasions, parties and social gatherings.

This is one of the major factors that can affect marriage if not well managed.

Economic Compatibility

This relates to individual level of income through various jobs the parties are engaged in. While some are low income earners others are high income earners. This is a very serious factor that can determine the success of any marriage. Couples must match their financial strength in their marriage because marriage begins after the wedding.

Academic/ Professional Compatibility

This is another serious issues for consideration nowadays in marriages, that is, Qualification Differential. In a situation where the wife's qualifications are higher than that of the husband's, for peace and harmony to reign in such family, the wife has to "drop" her many degrees behind before she walks into her matrimonial home. She will need to understand that her higher qualifications do not make her superior to her husband who is the head of the family.

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" -Philippians 2:7

Religious Compatibility

In fact, let me mention clearly here that Spouse should not marry outside his/her Religion. Even neither of them should marry anyone who is not born again.

The slogan that " I will Covert him/her after marriage " is fake ! No Mortal can change human attitudes.

Cultural/Ethnic Compatibility

This relates to individual cultural background, which is about the ways of life of individuals or groups of people in the society. These are not and can never be the same. It is therefore calls for serious consideration in making the choice of marriage partners because humans are created uniquely and differently.

3. Disobedience

It is imperative for couples to learn humility and practice came if marriage has to be sustained. "Respect," they say, "is reciprocal." Both parties need to respect each other. (Heb 5:8; Psalm 45:10 and 1Pet. 3:6)

4. Pride/ Submission

Everyone has key roles to play here and they are stated below:

WIFE'S ROLES

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without

the word be won by the conversation of the wives;" - 1 Peter 3:1

"Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;" - Psalms 45:10

"So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him." - verse 11

"Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement." - 1 Peter 3:6

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." - Ephesians 5:22

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body." - Verse 23

"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." - Verse 24

WARNING: Ladies, don't marry whoever you cannot respect and obey.

HUSBAND'S ROLES

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with

them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." - 1 Peter 3:7

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" - Ephesians 5:25

5. Infidelity

This relates to acts of immorality and ungodliness. This is very critical to the survival of any marriage and it has to be handled with love and prayers because human nature operates differently.

6. Immaturity

This relates principally to early marriages and childish behavior and attitudes amongst couples. When couples are underage, it takes the grace of God to sustain their relationship. Nowadays, the percentage of broken marriages is on the rise in the Western World and higher than in Africa because of early marriage.

Marriage has to do with onerous responsibilities and needs.

Let every single hear this:

The right time to marry is not ages 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, etc. But the right time to marry is

"when you find the right person."
Don't marry under pressure by your parents or any other person.

7. Indiscipline

This simply means "self control". It implies moderation. Human beings are fond of excesses these days and that has become a common phenomenon in the society. Couples need to guard against excesses if they must sustain their marriage. Therefore, it is expedient for them to live according to their level of income and resources. Both need to control their anger, expenditures, mode of dressing, hairstyles and expensive life styles.

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;" - 1 Peter 3:3

"But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." - Verse 4

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." - Philipians 4:5

8. Third Party Influence

This is a very serious factor that must be guarded against. The Bible says,

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." - 1 Corinthians 15:33

There is need to know the type of company to keep. Couples must also know who to open up to or expose their challenges to.

May I counsel that couples should not discuss or share the following with anyone, no matter how close:

- a. Their Plans
- b. Their Secrets
- c. Their successes/achievements
- d. Their weaknesses
- e. Their failures
- f. Their next or big move.

SERIOUS WARNING FOR COUPLES:
Don't allow, friends, parents, family/relations or any external persons to dabble into the affairs of your marriage

EVE allowed THIRD PARTY Interference and destroyed Their GOD - ordained Union.

"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden." - Genesis 3:1

"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:" - Verse 2

"But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." - Verse 3

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:" - Verse

"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." - Verse 5

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." - Verse 6

Wow! See what havoc the Third Party did to the marriage instituted by God Himself!

9. Unfaithfulness

Couples should endeavour to open up to themselves. Nowadays, couples don't have access to each other's phone passwords. This is alarming and contrary to standard practice in the Scripture. Marriage is all about TRUST, CONFIDENCE and LOVE.

*"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed".
- Genesis 2:25*

10. Prayerlessness

Couples should not forget the popular slogan that says, "The family that prays together, stays together." Please make Prayer the bedrock and foundation of your marriage in these areas:

- a. Choice Making
- b. Planning
- c. Execution
- d. Before Marriage, and
- e. After Marriage

11. Lack of Sound Knowledge of the Word of God

The Word of God is the life sustainer in any marriage, and the lack of sound knowledge of it can cause a crack that may lead to a total collapse. The Bible has the following to say:

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." - Psalm 119:105



**The family that
prays together,
stays together.**