

KINGDOM CULTURE IN

Marriage
AND
Family



GEORGE AKALONU

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USE OF HEBRAIC NAMES OF THE MOST HIGH

Yahweh, Elohim, Yeshua. During our walk with the Lord, we discovered by leading of Holy Spirit how fundamentally flawed was the intrusion of Rome into the gospel from 4th Century AD. Replacement Theology led Rome to take away all Hebraic/Jewish connections as root of what is now called the Christian Faith. What He has led us to do is to call our Father by the Name He revealed Himself to Israel which is Yahweh. In the same way, rather than call our Creator by the generic title God, we find it more appropriate to call Him by the Hebraic Name he revealed to humanity through Moses which is Elohim. The name, Elohim properly conveys His Unity in Plurality as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! We also call our King the Name His Father gave Him, Yeshua as well as the Anglicized translation, Ioseus. We do this as led by Holy Spirit, not as part of the so-called sacred Names movement. Neither do we subscribe to the legalistic methods of Judaizers intent on dragging saints into the dead works and rituals of Judaism. We do not condemn or malign those who have not yet caught this depth of revelation. Please feel free to call the Most High by what He reveals to you and what you are comfortable with.

CHAPTER 1

PREAMBLE, INTRODUCTION AND SYNOPSIS

The Highest expression of Unity on earth is Marriage

Most saints are not often walking in this degree of unity. The Lord does not want anyone to despair. We are all work in progress as Paul stated in his letter to the Church at Philippi

Philippians 3:12-14 (KJV) 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The Potter and Clay: Elohim and us

The truths in this course are not designed to condemn us or bring guilt and shame where we fall short of the Divine Plan. Whether you are in the marriage union or not yet in; whether you are enjoying or enduring the marriage, it will be very beneficial for us to see ourselves as work in progress in the hands of the Author of Marriage Who is like a Potter at work on vessels of clay. To use the words of Prophet Jeremiah, Elohim would like all who have enrolled for this Course to discard all notions of what we thought or want and submit to His creative and transformative work through four appointed tools. To submit ourselves as clay in the hands of The Potter will

require an openness to His moulding and re-moulding work.

Jeremiah 18:1-10 (KJV) 1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 2 Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. 3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. 5 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel. 7 At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; 8 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. 9 And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; 10 If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

As said before, this course is not designed to condemn or make us feel guilty. Rather it is one designed to encourage us to embrace the divine process which can turn ashes of pain in marriage to one where the oil of joy is poured into our soul. For that to happen, we need to trust Elohim and embrace the reality that His ultimate purpose is to present us in radiant glory as the showpiece of His creative work.

Ephesians 2:4-10 (KJV) 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The Instruments of Transformation Deployed to produce Divine Purpose

Some of those enrolled for this course are enjoying their marriages. Many however are just enduring marriage, seeing none of the glorious things they thought of before proceeding therein. There will be some singles who are in the class for whom this course will be the best preparatory programme before stepping in. Notwithstanding our various estates, we need to release Faith in Elohim that His word will do us good. This can only be meaningful when we respond in humility to the work of the Great Potter through His appointed instruments.

The Four Instruments of Transformation

Four key instruments that the Great Potter, even Abba Father, utilizes to perfect us into the vessels He ordained by His determinate counsel are:

1. The inner workings of The Holy Spirit who searches our hearts, minds, and attitudes to reveal where we have fallen short of His glory. He convicts us of Sin, righteousness, and judgement.

John 16:7-11 (KJV) 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

If we respond in humility to His convicting work, repentance brings change!

2. Secondly, is power of the Blood that Yeshua, Jesus shed to purify our hearts and minds so that we experience deeper realms of sanctification. This is what cleanses us of all unrighteousness in the marriage institution. The purity in our heart and soul which ensues enables us to walk in the character of Yeshua in everyday life, business, and ministry.

Hebrews 13:12-13 (KJV) 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. 13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

1 John 1:7-10 (KJV) 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of

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Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

3. Thirdly, the Lord uses what we have passed through to teach us His ways. This happens when, after passage of time, we are able to, by the workings of the same Holy Spirit see how poorly we handled situations in marriage before exposure to the truth in this course. Thus convicted, repentance is occasioned, and we are able to move forward wiser and better. There will be restoration of Kingdom Culture in Marriage and family life for those who truly embrace the truth with humility.

Romans 8:28-32 (KJV) 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (KJV) 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

4. The fourth instrument is the Word. The Word has extreme capacity to search out and bring substantial transformation in our lives.

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Hebrews 4:12-13 (KJV) 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

For this reason, we need to be open continually to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the workings of the Blood of Yeshua, Jesus, our experiences, and The Word of God. It is needful therefore for us not to allow our past to trap the future! That is to say, whatever our experiences have been in the area of marriage, we must not allow our personal perspectives derived there from to filter the Word or constrain the work of the Holy Spirit. As sons of Elohim God, our attitude is: 'Lord, your Word is true!' 'Let it be unto me according to Your Word'. Therefore, we will allow our lives and experiences to be dealt with by the Word while we are yet alive so that we will approach the end of the age and His soon appearance without avoidable baggage and fear. The Blood, after all is still powerful enough to deal with every sin and infraction against the ordinance of The Kingdom. This is to say: if any of us experienced bad patches or downright 'failure' in marriage, knowledge of the Truth will not condemn us but will enable us to discover the truth that sets free.

John 8:32 (KJV) 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:36 (KJV) 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Hindrances to avoid

We must deliberately avoid these hindrances to proper understanding of Kingdom Culture in marriage:

- **Cultural Perspectives** – how people in your community or ethnic group have redefined marriage to suit them.
- **Denominational/Religious perspectives** – defined by Councils of humans to suit what human founders or Church councils feel is best for their members.
- **Worldly perspectives** – which often tend to tilt towards giving any of the genders specific advantage over the other. In this regard, many Marriage Counsellors tend to fit into the perspectives they assume will give them successful breakthrough with the gender they prefer.

Attaining to the degree of Unity designed by Elohim

Yeshua, Jesus laid out the degree of unity He called His Church to operate in this passage:

John 17:11 (KJV) 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:15 (KJV) 15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:20-23 (KJV) 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

The truth is that we are yet to scratch the surface of that vast mandate, which is very possible, by His Grace through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Let us explore greater depths of marriage as the highest expression of unity in this present phase of The Kingdom, on this side of eternity.

Contrary to religious texts, not everyone is created to marry.

For those who are ordained to marry and for those who have allowed the Lord to process them and make them ready to at least enter in, marriage is not a partnership for purpose of meeting some immediate pressing needs be they emotional, conjugal, social, or financial! Marriage is a union! It is the dissolution of two beings into one new personality and identity both in the courts of heaven, the Church, and where a sense of righteousness still prevails, before the Law. ‘...They were both naked and were not ashamed’ as quoted in Genesis 2:18-25 indicates the degree of intimacy and oneness that should drive this sacred institution! Sacred indeed, it is for which cause Holy Spirit by the hand of Paul deemed it the only basis of illustrating the union between Yeshua, Jesus and the Church He betrothed with His own blood!

Ephesians 5:21-33 should be read regularly. For this reason, it is far better for singles to wait on the Lord to take them into this union by Himself so that they can enjoy the relationship. Those who refuse to wait can be carried away by external features and factors to enter into relationship which can only bring pain and endurance of evil the Lord did not ordain.

Introduction

Elohim, the God of heaven has a clear definition of marriage and its significance in the life of mankind. On creation morning, He found it necessary to make a woman out of man. This was after none of the creatures were found suitable as a help meet for Adam.

Genesis 2:18-25 (KJV) 18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 21 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; 22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 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. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

In so doing, it was the plan of Elohim, God that Adam and Eve would constitute the first family on earth to exercise the original dominion mandate of humankind. In other words, He found Adam insufficient of his own self to fulfil the awesome mandate of mankind!

Genesis 1:26-29 (KJV) 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female

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created he them. 28 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. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

The Dominion mandate upon mankind was to both Adam and Eve, to both the male and female gender. It was to ‘them’, not ‘him’ alone.

Sustained Attacks

Unfortunately, the institution of marriage has been under sustained attack by the devil and his cohorts. Humankind has created through individuals and governments across the world, various concepts, and interpretations of marriage. Unpleasant as it may sound, human beings have a right to accept or reject Elohim’s concept of marriage enshrined in the Bible. Coupled with an extremely perverse and self-opinionated generation, this sacred institution has been disfigured by permissive preaching and teachings fostered by ministers with various agendas. Some are in the habit of preaching their personal experiences rather than the Word of God. One of the reasons the enemy is attacking marriage is that through it, godly seed which will make decisions for the Lordship of Yeshua and live as citizens of The Kingdom are raised here on earth. Saints must also realise that in the whole of eternity, the time spent on earth is the only one where marriage is valid and permitted. If Elohim ordained that marriage is to be practised here on earth, as His sons, we need to frustrate Satan’s plans to make the institution irrelevant.

Matthew 22:23-30 (KJV) 23 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, 24 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. 25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. 27 And last of all the woman died also. 28 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in

heaven.

This course of marriage offers a Christo-centric perspective based on the Book of Life – The Holy Bible which documents the mind of Elohim. As Constitution of the Kingdom, any conversation of Marriage has to be rooted in it.

Synopsis

It is important to ascertain the mind of our heavenly Father on this pivotal institution. A slew of questions; beg for answers. We shall ask each question and allow Holy Spirit to use the Word to show us clear and unambiguous answers.

1. In what way is the Marriage Institution the most profound expression of the Kingdom?
2. What really is marriage? A Working Definition
3. Is the institution of Marriage for everyone?
4. How binding is marriage: a union, a partnership, or an arrangement of convenience?
5. The reality that Elohim Alone is the Only Matchmaker
6. How can a Christian know the will of Elohim concerning who to marry?
7. What are the consequences of not hearing from or ignoring the choice of God?
8. Can Kingdom Citizens engage in dating, just like the world?
9. What are the things singles intending to marry should not engage in?
10. Is Traditional Marriage and Civil Law Marriage sufficient for a couple to proceed to live together?
11. Weddings: what kind of wedding honours or dishonours Elohim and The Church?
12. What is the married state supposed to be?
13. What are the roles of husbands and wives towards each other?
14. For those who will bear and raise children, what are responsibilities of Parents to the children?
15. What is the core spiritual, social, psychological, emotional and economic issues concerning this institution?
16. Divorce: can a Christian marriage be voided? If so under what conditions?
17. Separation: what conditions can occasion separation and what options exist for the couple?
18. What are the Three scriptural grounds of Re-marriage?
19. What are biblical responsibilities of children to their parents?

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20. What should couples do in case children are not forthcoming? Can they do IVF?
21. Are there other instructions for marriage to be successful?

This scripture is needful for our consideration as we proceed into this critical course:

Joshua 1:8 (KJV) 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Assignment: 1. Please share 7 things you are personally taking away from this lesson. 2. What expectation do you have from this Course?

CHAPTER 2

DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE AND YESHUA'S DECREES

In chapter 1, we laid the foundation of this practical course. In chapter 2, we proceed to cover some of these aspects of the synopsis including these:

1. What really is marriage? A Working Definition
2. Is the institution of Marriage for everyone?
3. How binding is marriage: a union, a partnership, or an arrangement of convenience?
4. The reality that Elohim Alone is the Only Matchmaker
5. How can a Christian know the will of Elohim concerning who to marry?
6. What are the consequences of not hearing from or ignoring the choice of God?

1. What really is marriage? A Working Definition

Marriage is the spiritual, social, economic, and legal union between mature males and females based on the perfect will of Elohim God for the purpose of fulfilling His divine purpose for the couple, their family His Kingdom and humanity. There is possibly no other activity and practice of humankind through which great fulfilment for males and females in the realm of the spirit, soul and body are achieved than in and through a Spirit-led marriage which is based on the Holy Word!

2. Is the Institution of Marriage for everyone?

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In spite of the great attractions and benefits of marriage, not all humans are called and equipped to engage with it. This may sound strange yet is so true! Acceptance of this truth will spare so many people unnecessary heartache arising from getting involved in what they had no chance of succeeding in! There are some people Elohim has given the special capacity to be fulfilled without marriage. There are others who have not developed the capacity to bear the pressures and challenges inherent in marriage. A careful reading of Matthew 19:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 7 indicates that it is far better for such saints to keep off marriage because they cannot pay the price.

That was the grand secret of the success of Paul. Saints, it is far better to be single for Yeshua, Jesus than to make a mess of oneself and destiny in the quest for marriage, just to answer a married person in the sight of others! Does this sound like a hard saying? Please bear with us! Let us hear what Yeshua, Jesus has to say on the subject matter:

Matthew 19:10-12 (KJV) 10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. 11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. 12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

The Apostle Paul was used to bring forth one of the most detailed treatises on marriage in 1 Corinthians chapter 7. Note the major issues raised in the following verses:

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 (KJV) 1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

1 Corinthians 7:7-9 (KJV) 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. 8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I. 9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

3. How binding is marriage: a union, a partnership, or an arrangement of convenience?

Marriage is a binding union in which the former individuals give way to emergence of one new personality – the couple. It is a binding union which arises from the consummation of a spiritually sound and lawful relationship forged by God from among a consenting adult male and female. Marriage is not a partnership of convenience for temporary emotional, sexual, or financial satisfaction. It is not designed to be a relationship of convenience which can be dissolved when things are not working as planned. The redefinitions of marriage by denominations, natural cultures, traditions of men and governments cannot in any way alter the explicit provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom.

Yeshua's Decree: Basis of New Testament Law on Marriage

No less a person than Yeshua, Jesus Himself offered a very robust exposition of marriage in the Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 19:1-3 (KJV) 1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan; 2 And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there. 3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

Commentary: Religious people are often crafty, laying snares with which they seek to entrap the righteous. This was the experience of Yeshua with religious leaders.

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Commentary: In answering them, Yeshua resorted to the word. He quoted the first mention of marriage in the Bible. In a world where people like to argue, we should remember that the Word forbids us from striving verbally with those who love to argue. The Word has capacity to speak for itself.

Genesis 2:24-25 (KJV) 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife,

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and were not ashamed.

2 Timothy 2:14 (KJV) 14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

2 Timothy 2:24 (KJV) 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

Commentary: Yeshua delivered a stinging rebuke to the religious leaders who tried to argue with Him over the issue of whether marriage is a union or arrangement of convenience. It was the hardness of heart of Israel which made Elohim to make temporary provision for Divorce in the Old Testament. With His Incarnation to inaugurate the New Covenant, Yeshua was signaling that the original purpose of Elohim was back on track. A careful consideration of Matthew 5:20-48 reveals superiority of the New Covenant to the old religious order.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Commentary: The direct, unambiguous declaration of Yeshua is that marriage takes two consenting adults, male and female, humans into a realm of permanent union. The only thing which can shatter the union is infidelity. This is because the act of copulation with a third party basically shatters the existing union. It is significant to note that Yeshua pronounced as adultery, any relationship by either of the two outside of their initial/original marriage. Yeshua had in the Sermon on the Mount given us a previous insight into this same issue.

Matthew 5:31-32 (KJV) 31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

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To this direct revelation of the inviolability of the marriage union, all saints need to subscribe to the reality that to have pleasure for some years while living in disobedience only to suffer eternal torment is not a good deal at all.

Matthew 16:25-26 (KJV) 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Most Christians who break the marriage covenant are often driven by lust for another, believing that the grass is greener elsewhere. To that, Yeshua urges radical action:

Matthew 5:27-30 (KJV) 27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 19 continued

10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. 11 But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. 12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

Commentary: Yeshua here provides the law of Kingdom Eunuchs: Not all saints are meant to marry. Those who have the capacity, discipline, and zeal to consecrate their normal, natural sexual impulses and procreative abilities/childbearing to the Lord for the sake of unencumbered Kingdom service are from a spiritual point of view, in a good place. He noted however that this is not a normal grace for average saints.

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As King of kings, the Word of Yeshua on any issue cannot be faulted, debated or argued against. Wisdom requires that we embrace with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save our souls. The least we owe our King, as proof that we love He Who first loved us, is to obey His words.

John 15:10-14 (KJV) 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Obedience is proof of love! His word on the subject matter should drive our understanding and practice of marriage which is consistent with Kingdom Culture.

Assignment: 1. Please define marriage 2. Please outline 3 key truths you learnt from Matthew 19:1-12.

CHAPTER 3

KINGDOM CULTURE IN MARRIAGE AS PRONOUNCED BY PAUL, MASTER BUILDER OF THE CHURCH

In chapter 2, we examined the two passages where Yeshua, Head of the Church and King of the Kingdom gave His explicit definition of marriage as a union in Matthew 19:1-12 and Matthew 5:31-32. We saw how He dealt with the opposition of religious leaders by quoting from scriptures rather than quarrel with them. Because of his election as Master builder of the Church, Paul the apostle was also used by Holy Spirit to make clear certain practical issues concerning marriage. Let us examine a complete chapter where he articulated both direct instructions of Elohim and his own apostolic authority in detail with corresponding commentaries.

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 (KJV) 1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Commentary: Paul expressed the wish that saints would embrace the grace and gift of celibacy, just like he did. This was the foundation of his awesome ministry which radically and positively impacted the advancement of the gospel. Those who cannot embrace celibacy are advised to settle into marriage. He then goes on in subsequent verses to articulate what lies ahead for marriage as a union that should not be voided except some strong conditions are met.

1 Corinthians 9:3-5 (KJV) 3 Mine answer to them that do examine

me is this, 4 Have we not power to eat and to drink? 5 Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. 4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 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.

Commentary: Paul left no stone unturned in establishing the principles and precepts of marriage. As a union, the bodies of both belong to each other. Paul declared therefore, with explicit language, that neither the husband nor wife should unilaterally withhold conjugal responsibilities to each other. Neither the need to engage in fasting nor need to attend to ‘important’ spiritual assignments qualify to break the conjugal life of the couple. The warning with which he ended that provision is too great to ignore. Satan, the adversary of humanity would jump at any opportunity offered by such incontinency to wreck long term havoc. This could be by manipulating the mind, emotion, or body of the deprived to gain access which can lead to actions, reactions and attitudes that may eventually lead to break in the relationship.

David Guzik of Enduring Word Ministries has this interesting insight: “The principle in this passage is important. God makes it clear that there is nothing wrong, and everything right, about sex in marriage. Satan’s great strategy, when it comes to sex, is to do everything he can to encourage sex outside of marriage, and to discourage sex within marriage. It is an equal victory for Satan if he accomplishes either plan.

- i. This can be seen in the way some of the Corinthian Christians thought it was just fine to hire the services of a prostitute (as in 1 Corinthians 6:12-20), and other Corinthian Christians thought it was more spiritual for a husband and wife to never have sexual relations.
- ii. A Christian husband and wife must not accept a poor sexual relationship. The problems may not be easily overcome or quickly solved, but God wants every Christian marriage to enjoy a sexual relationship that is a genuine blessing, instead of a burden or a curse”

6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his

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proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. 8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I. 9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

Commentary: Paul again makes the case for many singles and widows to embrace celibacy. Those who cannot are advised to marry so that the Church is not polluted by Lust and immorality. In the modern era this includes sins of Pornography, evil concupiscence, and unhealthy soul ties with the opposite gender outside the confines of lawful marriage.

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

Commentary: The instruction is clear: Neither husband nor the wife is permitted to break the marriage union. However, if they get into a ditch of say irreconcilable differences and cannot walk the way of Charity, they can separate. However, each is forbidden to re-marry. In so saying, Paul was simply re-echoing the ruling of King Yeshua on the subject matter:

Matthew 19:9 (KJV) 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Those who seek to add or subtract should count the cost in terms of eternal end of their souls.

Revelation 22:17-20 (KJV) 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

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For ministers of the gospel, this scripture should give us a gut check that we do not allow those who want to disobey the word drag us into their mess.

Matthew 5:19-20 (KJV) 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

1 Timothy 5:22 (KJV) 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

Commentary: The instruction here is that no saint should use the excuse that the spouse is an unbeliever to void the marriage! If the unbeliever wishes to remain in the marriage relationship, the believing one has a responsibility to manifest Yeshua to him or her. Presence of the believer sanctifies the children because of the covenant relationship with Elohim.

15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

Commentary: If the unbelieving spouse chooses to leave the marriage, the believer is not under bondage. This means, the Christian whose spouse walked out of the marriage is not to be regarded as having sinned because the breakdown of the union is not his or her fault. When this verse is matched with the teachings of Yeshua in Matthew 5:31-32 and Matthew 19:9. Even in such situations, the Lord does not expect the believer to be full of bitterness, unforgiving and vengeful. He calls us to peace and encourages Christians in such situations to see themselves as engaged in the ministry of reconciliation.

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Matthew 5:38-48 (KJV) 38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. 42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Romans 12:14 (KJV) 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

Romans 12:17-21 (KJV) 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (KJV) 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called

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every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches. 18 Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. 20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. 21 Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather. 22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. 23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. 24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

Commentary: The Word encourages saints not to be overly worried about our social and economic states to the degree of developing low self-esteem, in their Kingdom walk or in society. Understanding that we are bought with the price of the Blood of Yeshua should inspire gratitude to the Lord for whatever estate we find ourselves.

Bible Ref opines thus: “Context Summary First Corinthians 7:17–24 expands on Paul's rule of thumb: that Christians should remain in whatever situation they were in when they came to faith in Christ. Later text clarifies that Paul is not denouncing marriage or forbidding it in any sense. Married or not, circumcised or not, slave or free, Christians aren't obligated to radically upend every aspect of their lives and relationships. Slaves, though, are encouraged to gain their freedom if available. A believing slave is, in fact, free in Christ, while a Christian who is free in this life is, in truth, a slave to Christ. We all belong to God. Our eternal position in Christ matters far more than our temporary position in this life.”

Matthew Henry's concise Commentary states: “The rules of Christianity reach every condition; and in every state a man may live so as to be a credit to it. It is the duty of every Christian to be content with his lot, and to conduct himself in his rank and place as becomes a Christian. Our comfort and happiness depend on what we are to Christ, not what we are in the world. No man should think to make his faith or religion, an argument to break through any natural or civil obligations. He should quietly and contentedly abide in the condition in which he is placed by Divine Providence.”

25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. 26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. 27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek

not a wife. 28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

Commentary: Paul here emphasizes one aspect of his awesome revelatory teaching ministry: the humility to differentiate when there is a direct instruction from Elohim or when as an Apostle, he fills the void with godly opinion born out of the wisdom and grace he walks in. In this passage, he was addressing virgins (single persons who had not yet started the marriage journey or ladies who were betrothed to marry at a future date when the marriage would take place).

His advice to them was simple: Because of the reality of challenges saints were facing from the Roman Empire marked by intense persecutions and trials of faith, Paul counselled those who were able to receive and walk in the grace of celibacy and abstinence to do so. In any case, he qualified it with a double-edged counsel in verse 27: Those who were already engaged to be married should not casually break their vows to marry each other. Those whose marriages had been voided lawfully should not seek to re-enter the estate. In verse 28 he summed it up: in matters of personal consecration, people are free to marry without guilt. However, he warns those who enter the estate of marriage that they would have trouble in the flesh.

29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; 30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; 31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

Commentary: With apostolic authority, Paul warns that the time is short and requires some deliberate calculations. Those who are married should learn to live as singles. Those who weep, rejoice, and trade should not clutch at what they have because the world is a passing phase.

32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: 33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. 34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

Commentary: The unmarried care for the things of Elohim and how to please Him. Those who are married care for the things of the world, how to please their spouses. This is a critical provision in the new Covenant which is often ignored by intending couples. Marriage counsellors should help counselees to count the cost before proceeding to irreversible stage of the marriage process.

35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction. 36 But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.

Commentary: Paul makes it clear that these instructions are not designed to make life difficult for those desire to marry but rather to ensure that saints are not distracted from their primal commitment to serve Elohim which is the basic duty of the redeemed.

37 Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well. 38 So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.

Commentary: The emphasis here is that singlehood enables saints to serve Elohim without distraction and limitation. Yet, this does not in any way imply that marriage is evil in itself. At end of the day, everyone should be free to discern what is best for them based on life priorities.

39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord. 40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

Commentary: This is the law of widowhood. Death terminates the marriage contract with finality! When a spouse dies, the marriage union is lawfully dissolved before Elohim and Governments. The surviving spouse is free to re-marry after a decent period of mourning. In the modern era, prayers, and spiritual warfare to break soul ties and receiving of the ministry of inner healing and deliverance.

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Sad as it may sound, it is wrong for Christian widows and widowers to engage in the following:

1. Shaving the head, making marks on the body, or wearing special mourning cloths
2. Mourning ceaselessly for the dead as those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
3. Annual remembrances of the departed – whether privately or publicly.
4. Swearing oath of perpetual fealty to the marriage covenant which was broken at death. The marriage vow is ‘till death do us part’
5. Shutting off the ears from hearing what Holy Spirit may say concerning any future relationship.
6. Displaying photos of the dead as if they had not finished their pilgrimage on social media.
7. Necromancy – communion with the dead in private or public

Exception to the rule

1. Where children are still tender and the widow/widower desires that they first mature up to a certain age before re-marriage can be considered.
2. Where the widow/widower receives from the Lord, a ministry to serve the Body in that estate as special calling.

1 Timothy 5:9-10 (KJV) 9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

The New Covenant expressly forbids Divorce, except where immorality creates a systemic and deep gulf between the couple. It is of interest that though hardness of heart of Israel led Elohim to grant them permission to inaugurate writing of the bill of divorcement, it was essentially to spare women the double jeopardy of being cast aside by their husbands and stranded in limbo while the men moved on to settle with other women.

Deuteronomy 24:1-2 (KJV) 1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand,

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and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

The mind of the Father on this matter was however manifested in the various illustrations He gave of Israel as an unfaithful bride who He continued to bear with. In a clear scripture, Yahweh made this pronouncement about his reaction to divorce:

Malachi 2:13-17 (KJV) 13 And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. 14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. 16 For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. 17 Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

With the way modern Christians, including Ministers, are resorting to divorce, and clutching at easy re-marriage, the time to reflect on what this means for where eternity will eventually be spent is so needful. The truth is that there are specific provisions in the Bible for guiding conduct of saints in their relationship with unbelievers, including spouses that are not in faith. It may be necessary for many Christians who have had negative experiences in broken marriages to seek the face of Elohim; be healed of their traumas and be open to restoration of such marriages. Some may need to do restitutions while there is yet time, restoring men and women to their spouses and getting out of sinful relationships Elohim deems as systemic, continuing adultery. It is better to be single and make it to eternity than to be in a wrong marriage that will lead to hell.

Assignment: Please provide brief summaries of the following: 1. What Paul teaches on conjugal relationship between lawfully married couples. 2. The issue of Celibacy and singlehood 3. Divorce 4. How marriage creates a

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priority of affections to the spouse that can impact consecration to the Lord and His Kingdom 5. Death and Widowhood 6. What else did you learn from this lesson?

CHAPTER 4

LOVE THE GLUE THAT MAKES KINGDOM CULTURE MARRIAGE POSSIBLE

By now it should be obvious that Kingdom Culture Marriage has indeed a high bar of union between a man and woman. In these passages, that reality is clearly stated:

Genesis 2:24 (KJV) 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:31 (KJV) 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

The Lord is a God of equity and will not place such a huge burden on two people without the requisite tool to achieve same. The question one may ask is: what is the ultimate panacea to ensure that the union lasts the entire lifetime of the couple, until death parts them? The answer is two-fold.

1. Each of the people in marriage should first be a true Kingdom Citizen and disciple of Yeshua. This means that each should have a prior personal Covenant relationship with Elohim where Yeshua is enthroned in the Heart, Holy Spirit has right of way to lead and the heart is wholly inclined to live in Obedience to the Holy Scriptures. True disciples who walk in consciousness of the Omniscience, Omnipresence and Omnipotence of Elohim will honour their marriage vows, no matter what crops up in the journey of life. This is because they live in the consciousness of eternity as they relate

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with their spouses. Even if just one of the two spouses walks in this level of consecration to the King and His Kingdom, the marriage will overcome stormy weather by divine Grace to get to safe harbour one day.

2. The Glue that should be basis of the marriage and what can hold it together despite human and Satanic attacks is Love/Charity.

A life which enthrones Yeshua as King and embraces Constitution of the Kingdom will never tire of imbibing Love/Charity as the ground norm of the Kingdom – whether this tendency is reciprocated or not. Where the two individuals go into the marriage with this understanding, they would have procured a major Insurance policy against failure.

John 13:34-35 (KJV) 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 15:9-14 (KJV) 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Kingdom Culture marriage is therefore a manifestation of the Greatest Commandment: loving Elohim above all else (including each other). This necessarily implies seeking first the Kingdom where Yeshua is enthroned as Supreme King over each of them.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 22:37-40 (KJV) 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments

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hang all the law and the prophets.

When this is real, the couple can find and love each other passionately as a fruit of keeping the Lord first. When this foundation is internalised, the Golden Rule will flow without struggle.

Matthew 7:12 (KJV) 12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

It makes sense for intending couples, newly married and older couples to constantly study, pray and ask Elohim for Grace to understand the finer details of love and walk therein as a lifestyle. If there is love, there will be life in the marriage. Where love drains away or is totally replaced by ill feeling, dislike, animosity, or worse hatred in the heart of one, there will be constant tension, distrust and negativity of thoughts, speech, actions, and reactions.

Application of some teachings of Yeshua on Love to the marriage estate

Let us consider the reality that obeying and living in these instructions of Yeshua would make Kingdom Culture marriage and family life such a pleasant experience. These instructions are to be obeyed irrespective of whether a spouse prefers to disobey the word. The one who walks in obedience at that precise moment is regarded by the Lord as the stronger and more spiritual, even if it does not appear to humans.

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV) 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Matthew 5:43-48 (KJV) 43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore

perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Luke 6:27-35 (KJV) 27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, 28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. 29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. 30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. 31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. 32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

The Law of Charity when properly understood makes it imperative that each spouse should maintain an intimate walk with Elohim which makes it possible to live out the core precepts of Love in action – whether conditions are positive or negative. Negative emotional and attitudinal vibes and manifestations in one of the parties will not make of none effect, the Laws of the Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (KJV) 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Properties

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (KJV) 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in

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iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (KJV) 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Our new nature is intrinsically that of love, the nature of our Elohim and part of His DNA. One of His most intimate disciples, Apostle John, located the central place of love when He wrote these immortal verses:

1 John 2:5 (KJV) 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 John 2:9-11 (KJV) 9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:10-18 (KJV) 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

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1 John 4:7-8 (KJV) 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

1 John 4:12 (KJV) 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:16 (KJV) 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:20 (KJV) 20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1 John 5:1 (KJV) 1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1 John 5:3 (KJV) 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

The type of Love described in this lesson is firstly a fruit of the Spirit derived from intimate walk with Elohim.

Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

This type of love is also consciously cultivated by a systematic process of allowing the Word to renew the mind and transform the heart.

2 Peter 1:5-12 (KJV) 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and

hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

The Outcomes of True Love:

1. We see Love as a debt to be paid, as commanded by Elohim

Romans 13:8-10 (KJV) 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

2. Genuine Union/Unity of spirit, soul, and Body

Most times, saints struggle with trying to enjoy 'good' relationships and be united but never able to attain same. What many fail to realise is that genuine relationships and true unity arise in an organic, inside out manner only when there is love. Love for one another enables spouses to walk charitably with each other. This tendency, when sustained, enhances the quality of their thought life, speech, attitude, actions, and reactions towards each other. Love of the divine nature as expressed in this course makes real unity of the spouses possible.

John 14:23-24 (KJV) 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

John 17:21-23 (KJV) 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may

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be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

3. Capacity, willingness, and ability to forgive forward.

Charity should manifest in the willingness and readiness of spouses to forgive forward! In other words, the inclination of their hearts towards each other should always be to walk in the reality that offences will surely come while we are on this side of eternity. When people play up and say or do evil; manifesting lack of love in our lives, we are to be proactive in forgiving. In this way, love is in spite of, not because of!

1 Peter 4:8 (KJV) 8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

In this regard, the more spiritual should note that what they call a situation shall be what it is. If in the heart, speech, attitudes, and reactions, we deem our love greater than the offense, Love will win by covering the mistake, error, or sin.

The sceptre of Christians struggling with unwillingness or inability to forgive.

Matthew 18:21-35 (KJV) 21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and

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cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (KJV) 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

The quality of love each spouse has for each other should be that which holds no record of evil! It refuses negative thought patterns, rather casts them down and forgives forward. In this way, there is no way Satan can activate bitterness of heart, evil speaking, or negative responses to provocations.

4. No occasion will be allowed to give space or excuse to turn away from loving

That means there should be no space in our minds and hearts to hold ought or unforgiveness. The truth is whenever unforgiveness is given space in the heart, Grace jumps out!

Hebrews 12:14-15 (KJV) 14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Ephesians 5:1-2 (KJV) 1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

5. Those who walk in love have no business with holding ought or

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vengefulness!

Romans 12:19 (KJV) 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

6. Charity demands we communicate the Truth in Love

The Father wants the words we speak to be seasoned with Salt to minister grace to the hearers.

Colossians 4:6 (KJV) 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

In this regard, how we choose words and the attitude of love with which we release them is as significant as the message itself.

Ephesians 4:15 (KJV) 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

To do this, the tendency to be judgmental and of critical spirit must be avoided, lest they widen the gulf between us and them.

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV) 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Ephesians 4:31 (KJV) 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

In rebuking and correcting a spouse, the objective factor driving our actions should be love of the one who is out of the way!

7. Love makes us to serve and support each other to fulfil Divine Purpose

It is religious to think of the wife to be the only one who pays the price to be a helpmeet to her husband. When the Lord brings two people together, they are to become helpmeet of each other. This requires each spouse to intentionally support the other to achieve the divine purpose for creation and

redemption. In this way, no destiny suffers but rather both are fulfilled. In this way, when each spouse stands before the Lord on the last day, they will be grateful that the marriage was instrumental to their breasting the tape of glory. The temporal becomes a seed for possessing the permanent state of glory where there is no marriage.

Matthew 20:25-28 (KJV) 25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Galatians 5:13-14 (KJV) 13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

8. When Love is at Work, there is no room for Judgement and devouring one another

No saint lives to him or herself. We all live and are directly accountable to the Lord in life and in death. We are purchase of the Blood of Yeshua, so He alone owns us by redemption. This truth will heal spouses and enable them to be charitable in assessment of each other. There is a subtle danger when saints ignore this principle.

Romans 14:7-12 (KJV) 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

The Lord specifically directs saints to avoid a culture of judging one another. All saints are indeed accountable to the Lord Who sits unchallenged at the

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Judgement Seat. In the Sermon on the Mount, He had given the Church this law with clarity.

Matthew 7:1-5 (KJV) 1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Romans 14:13-16 (KJV) 13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. 14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

Here the Word brings forth the Law of Stumbling Blocks. This is one where the onus is on the more spiritual party in a relationship to go the extra mile to help the weaker. The Lord alone knows who is stronger and will release grace for that one to bend over backwards to recover the weaker who may be burning out or imploding within because of a weaker level of charity he or she walks in.

Galatians 5:15-18 (KJV) 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

9. Charity places a mutual burden and provides a pathway for accommodation of preferences of each other without offence.

Charity does not require one person or party to be at a disadvantage. No

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saint should use Charity as a cop out and deliberately place undue weights on the other through words, attitudes, and actions towards the other. In other words, Elohim does not approve of any spouse to walk in craftiness and guile towards another! In a real sense therefore, Charity places a reciprocal balance on all who are in relationship. The principles will be articulated in these passages.

Romans 14:1-2 (KJV) 1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

Commentary: The Lord has made us differently to the degree that what one person likes to eat may be abhorrent to others in the family or fellowship. As individuals, we have varying degrees of Faith. The Lord adds a caveat: this passage is not about excusing Sin or compromising with Sin. The theme here is about the reality that there are some things which are not explicitly stated as doctrine in which saints have liberty to walk as led by Holy Spirit or eat as allowed by their palate or family background.

3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

Commentary: Charity enables us to understand each other and make room for what works for others which may not necessarily work for us and vice versa. If a saint believes in eating say meat, he or she has no business despising the one who is a vegetarian. On the other hand, let not the vegetarian allow his believe system to make him or her despise those who eat meat. The key here is that Charity enables us to be tolerant of others who do not see things as we see them (those who have perspectives that differ from ours).

4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Commentary: Elohim has not vacated His Judgement Seat for any believer or ministers! He wants all of us to look up to Him for keeping and trust Him to keep others whose perspectives on things differ from us. The tendency to judge people on things which Elohim gives them permission (without consulting us) is evidence of lack of Charity and arrogance.

5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind 6

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He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Commentary: Here two things which can cause differing perspectives are spotlighted: esteeming days above each other and food to eat. Charity requires that we avoid using our opinion or feeling to manipulate, dominate and control others. Charity requires us to focus on ourselves, seeking grace to overcome our objections to what others are persuaded to do. We are enjoined to allow other people to be fully persuaded in their own mind.

Romans 14:17-19 (KJV) 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Commentary: Saints are enjoined to pursue the Kingdom whose properties are Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost. When that becomes our focus, there will be no room to waste time on debates about Food and Drinks.

20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. 21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. 22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

Commentary: Verse 21 brings out the whole point clearly: we can forgo what we have liberty for out of charitable consideration of other people who are weaker but may not even know it.

23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

The principle is expanded further in this passage:

Romans 14:1-2 (KJV) 1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

Commentary: We are all called to emulate Yeshua in the arena of sacrificial love. While we were yet sinners, He laid down His life that we may be redeemed and live. The Lord expects all of us to be like Him towards brethren who operate on a lower dimension of Faith and Charity than us. If this principle is applied by spouses, marriages will be whole and healthy. If it is applied between parents and children, families will be whole and healthy. When embraced by local assemblies or any body of saints, this principle will be wholeness of love and unity will be organic.

Romans 15:4-7 (KJV) 4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. 5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: 6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Commentary: As saints, the overarching tendency of our hearts is to receive each other. With this inclination, Holy Spirit releases Grace for us to pay whatever price we can to build up and edify each other rather than tear down and destroy. In this setting, there will be no room for gossip, backbiting, evil speaking and all those negative uses of words or attitudes to destroy.

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV) 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Commentary: The onus is on the more spiritual, the one who has experiential understanding of the deeper mysteries of the Kingdom to lovingly restore the weaker in a spirit of MEEKNESS! Trying to restore spouses, children or brethren in harshness does not work and can actually push them further into the pit.

Ephesians 4:15 (KJV) 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Galatians 6:1-8 (KJV) 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he

deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden. 6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life

Commentary: Charity requires that believers should lovingly bless those who Holy Spirit uses to teach and empower us spiritually. Those who are not charitable tend to ignore this provision which leads their Pastors or spiritual leaders to lack the things Elohim has ordained for their welfare.

Galatians 6:9-10 (KJV) 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Commentary: Saints are enjoined not to be weary in doing the right things of charitable living. Doing good to all humans and especially those who are saved should be a regular lifestyle.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (KJV) 1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. 2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. 3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him. 4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. 5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. 7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. 8 But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. 9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. 10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall

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not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; 11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. 13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

The Law of Res ipsa Loquitor – to whom much is given, much is expected governs our community life. Let the stronger prove it by how much they bend over backwards to accommodate those who have deficiency of intellect, resources, and capacity to bless others.

It is all about living by the Golden Rule!

Matthew 7:12 (KJV) 12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

10. Intimacy, mutual satisfaction, and the law of synergy

When the couple walk in love as fruit of the Spirit as they abide in Yeshua and intentionally press into deeper waters thereof, they will discover to their joy, the pleasures of intimacy where they truly become one. In this state, their conjugal life becomes a pleasure, rather than pain. They enjoy intimacy which activates the power of synergy: where two can chase ten thousand.

Genesis 2:24-25 (KJV) 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

1 Corinthians 7:2-5 (KJV) 2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. 4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 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.

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Deuteronomy 32:30 (KJV) 30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?

How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up? As the time for the return of the Lord draws near, He is releasing Grace for Kingdom Culture Marriages to bring forth worldwide. Friends and neighbours of the spouse are able to see Yeshua and the Kingdom in their lives, are drawn closer and in so doing become disciples also. Nothing demonstrates the Kingdom better than the union of two people from various backgrounds who become one in spirit and in truth.

Assignment: 1. In what way can it be said that Love is the key to successful marriage? 2. Please summarise 5 out of 10 outcomes of Love/Charity in Marriage 3. Please share 5 other core truths you learnt from this lesson.

CHAPTER 5

BIBLICAL ROLES OF HUSBANDS, WIVES, BOTH + LITTLE FOXES WHICH SPOIL THE MARRIAGE VINE

Kingdom Culture Marriage is a subject which is well articulated in the Constitution of the Kingdom which is the Word. There, in various passages, Elohim lays out a detailed portrait of the roles of all parties in the Marriage union and ensuring Family. We will explore the passages and give Holy Spirit right of way to tie them up together. We will outline roles of each spouse and roles that they share equally.

Biblical Roles of both husband and wife to each other

In the great passage where Paul was used by Holy Spirit to articulate roles of the couple in marriage, he started by making this often ignored statement:

Ephesians 5:21 (KJV) 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

This passage should be understood and applied in the basic context that spouses are first blood bought brethren before they become husband and wife. In that regard, they should embrace the reality that Elohim has not brought them together as instruments of oppression or destruction. Rather, their union creates an intimate opportunity to live out the Word. In that regard, marriage can be seen as a proving ground of the gospel. A man or woman may claim to be holy, loving, and caring. All these claims can stand or fall only when proven in the marriage union. Their warts and spots can easily be detected because there is no hiding place. It makes sense therefore

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for the couple to see each other as instruments in the hand of the Lord to prove the depth of their spiritual experiences. For this reason, the truths outlined in Chapters 1-4 of this Course should be embraced by all and sundry. When spouses humble themselves to receive and walk in these truths, they would have laid a major foundation for success.

Romans 12:1-3 (KJV) 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Marriage does not exist in a vacuum. There is an enabling environment which makes Kingdom culture marriage very feasible. It is one where both spouses die to self and are pressing into the fullness of Yeshua.

Colossians 3:1-17 (KJV) 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ

forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Need to adhere to Scriptural Directions concerning roles of husbands and wives

Many preachers tend to ignore biblical realities as they spin their personal perspectives into unbiblical narratives. Some such preachers and teachers are essentially misleading saints into active ignorance of the truth or downright disobedience of the Truth. Both are inexcusable.

Hosea 4:6 (KJV) 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Within the context of the mind of God expressed clearly in the Holy Scriptures, there are some specific roles assigned to both the husband and wife. These roles are not to be observed conditionally (if the other party does their own share), but as acts of obedience to God who is the author of marriage and outworking of 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 and 1 Peter 4:8 degrees of true love to each other!

The Husband is to:

1. Love his wife sacrificially, willing to pay whatever price it takes for her to become all that Elohim ordained. In doing this, his reference point is Yeshua, Jesus and His propitiatory death for the Church which was done out of love. That means the husband must intentionally set his heart to overlook her faults and focus on her strengths, prayerfully receiving grace to become a co-labourer with Elohim in her perfection from glory to glory. In a real sense, being a husband requires the brother to become an investor into all the things which will bring forth fullness of the glory of Elohim in his wife. This applies to issues such as acquiring further education or getting into any business where she has real competence.

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Ephesians 5:25-33 (KJV) 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

It behoves the husband to be spiritually and psychologically ready for this role. It is not a mandate to exercise DOMINION over the wife. The Dominion mandate of humankind in Genesis 1: 26-29 does not authorise any human being to intrude into and control the will of other human beings.

2. Provide a reliable covering to shelter his wife from all manner of temptations, trials, and difficulties she would have faced if unmarried. This security is critical to women. To function validly as the head of a woman, a man should win her trust by his reliability.

Ephesians 5:23 (KJV) 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

3. The man should never be bitter with his own wife, no matter her faults or failings. He should stand in the gap to pray for her process and growth in grace and do that sincerely, creating the enabling environment for Holy Spirit to transform her. This involves avoiding arguments; words, attitudes and actions which make her defensive and unwilling to grow in grace.

Colossians 3:19 (KJV) 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

To operate in this realm of a bitterness-free heart and attitude will attract

respect from the wife in the long run as Holy Spirit uses it to convict her.

4. In order to be the man Elohim God ordained him to be, the husband must 'leave' Father, Mother, siblings, and relatives behind. He cannot carry them as baggage into his new nuclear family and expect the wife to 'understand' and 'accept'. Both parties will do well to recognize that Elohim God is using them to extend humanity and the frontiers of the Kingdom on earth and both of them alone will be accountable to Him for how they apprehended and pursued His vision for marriage as a union in which every 'third party' is inherently an intrusion.

This provision does not imply the couple should abandon their aged parents or financially challenged siblings to their own devices. Rather, both should prayerfully receive divine guidance on how to support their extended families which attracts divine approval and blessings (Ephesians 6:1-2).

Ephesians 5:31 (KJV) 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

5. The man is charged to dwell with his wife in knowledge, treating her as the weaker vessel. This speaks of deliberate effort to alleviate pressure and make things easier for the woman whose constitution is more tender. It is significant that Elohim did not create Eve from the rough earth but rather from the rib and flesh of Adam! This speaks of refinement in the constitution of women – the basis of their tenderness and meekness which should be preserved and not shattered!

1 Peter 3:7 (KJV) 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Role of the wife is to:

1. Submit to her own husband as unto Yeshua, Jesus. This is the highest expression of love. This is one of the Pillars of Kingdom culture marriage: that a sister, no matter how highly accomplished can receive a brother into her life to occupy a highly esteemed role as her head, under Yeshua. Any relationship outside this biblical framework is deficient, from the very foundation! In other words,

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she has to relate to the husband through the prism of obeying and pleasing Yeshua, Jesus in everything. A careful reading of Ephesians 5:22-33 and Colossians 3:18-21 reveals that this is basically what our heavenly Father wants from women. When a woman does this with all her heart, there is no more law to be added!

Unfortunately, submission is the very thing Satan tempts majority of women to withhold from their husbands. It is interesting that women can submit joyfully to their Pastors and bosses in their workplaces and even to female friends but withhold same from the ONLY person other than Elohim that they are obligated to!

Ephesians 5:22-24 (KJV) 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Ephesians 5:33 (KJV) 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Colossians 3:18-21 (KJV) 18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

2. Honour her husband with all her heart using Sarah and Abraham as a model. This should be unconditional, notwithstanding the state of the husband spiritually, socially, financially, or otherwise.
3. Avoid undue investment in external beautification to detriment of their inner beauty. As the heart cannot serve two masters, excessive concern over physical beauty can displace desire for beauty of the heart and mind.
4. Press into deeper realms of spirituality in the 'hidden man of the heart'. It is from this realm that a woman is meek and submissive to the degree that her husband essentially surrenders a great deal of his authority for her to function as a co-heir of Salvation. The true strength of a woman is in this regard.

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1 Peter 3:1-6 (KJV) 1 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; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 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. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

As we can see, this is indeed a very short list! Every holy woman can press into the transformed life and build the home according to divine order.

Both husband and wife are commanded to:

1. Submit to each other – Submission in the finest sense needs to be mutual, out of love, not out of compulsion. Each spouse should submit to the other in the areas of strength so that they can complement and become all that Elohim God ordained. Whoever cannot submit cannot lead. Period!

Ephesians 5:21 (KJV) 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

2. Make their bodies exclusively available to each other, for holy copulation, recognizing that it is sin to do otherwise. Neither commitment to ministry nor need to abstain because of fasting is permitted to be made an excuse to unilaterally deny a spouse the pleasure of the body. It is also wrong to apply principles of worldly sex education and use them to make of none effect, the clear word of the Lord. Saints are to beware how they go to Egypt to learn its ways! Adultery is out of the question for saints and no party should in any way facilitate the entrapment of the other by Satan through denial of legitimate pleasure in and with each other.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 (KJV) 1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man

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have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. 4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 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.

3. Keep third parties out of the marriage. They should prayerfully work out differences in opinion, perspective, style, and mannerism. Reporting each other to other people, (except to their spiritual leaders or mentors), for the sake of counsel to resolve issues is discouraged.

Ephesians 5:31 (KJV) 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

4. Respect, honour and celebrate each other. Spouses must be the chief cheerleaders for their companions! There must be a mutual inclination in this regard reflecting in tone of speech, attitude, and willingness to support each other through difficult patches of life, which are inevitable. To be nasty, negative, and judgmental negates this important role.
5. Teach and exhort each other. As the Day of the Lord approaches, more and more pressures are bound to come against saints in their ministries, businesses, neighbourhoods, and workplaces. Spouses must learn how to edify and encourage each other rather than being additional pressure points. Lifting the spirit of each other is an investment which can turn the home into an oasis of love in the midst of a hostile world.
6. Contribute to the best of personal ability in Yeshua to offset inevitable expenses. In a previous age, men had exclusive responsibility to care and provide for their wives who stayed at home rearing children. Things have changed and these days, many women are increasingly getting better jobs and better pay. They should humbly submit it all to the family account. Where a husband earns lesser pay, he should not play games with how he spends it on the excuse that his wife has too much. All of his earnings should be joyfully submitted to the family purse also. Spouses who love God and each other must see the necessity of having everything in

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common. Ideally, there should be a single account. But where the necessity of work demands that employees run personal accounts, both spouses should have access to the bank cards and statements of each other and behave responsibly with them. The right attitude to money that comes in is that it is 'ours', not 'mine'. No spouse should take advantage of the love and transparency of the other to play games with money!

7. Husbands and wives have equal stake in the care and upbringing of the children. Both should joyfully exercise the graces and capacities Elohim God blessed them with and tolerate the inabilities or weaknesses of each other. For instance, the spouse who is more cerebral should joyfully oversee the after-school education of the children and not nag the other. The one who can wake up earlier should joyfully render the service of preparing the children for school and not nag the late riser. Tolerance and forbearance are virtues that enable spouses to fill gaps in each other.
8. Tolerate, forbear, and avoid thoughts, words or deeds which hurt their spouses. This is about being proactive for good of the family. It is also important that spouses must grow in grace with regular encounters with Elohim in The Word. With renewed minds and transformed hearts as they submit to Holy Spirit, couples can grow in the Lord and leave childish things like arguments, debates, quarrels, and competition behind. Bearing the burdens of each other therefore become a veritable means through which they grow in the Spirit! In this state, Elohim can use the spiritually more mature or stronger to recover the weaker at any point in time.

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV) 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

9. Consciously align with The Holy Scriptures and trust the Holy Spirit to work out the state of love and true unity which should hallmark true Christian marriage, which is a union, not a mere relationship. When spouses consciously reject division, dissension and things which dissipate their spiritual strength, the Lord enables them to begin the necessary process of becoming one in thought, word, and deed.
10. Spiritually checkmate each other to avert the Ananias and Sapphira Complex. This is connivance to deceive the Church and even Society. It comes about through deliberate plots to lie, distort faces, and manipulate them for advantage. Spouses should give each other

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right of way to checkmate any such tendency to prevent a slide into spiritual disaster that can destroy the marriage and family.

Jude 22-23 (KJV) 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Once the couple reject the worldly concept of marriage, accept and repent of their individual and collective sins and submit to the Holy Spirit to enable them to attain the standard of Elohim in the Word, the journey to excellence can begin! They 'see' the need for unity and the glorious possibilities of becoming aligned in spirit, soul, and body. This deep hunger translates into love thoughts, words and attitudes which translate to a new 'Kingdom type' marriage! The scriptures below and their potent possibilities in Yeshua are attained first within the context of true union between a man and a woman who are brought together by the match making skills of Holy Spirit.

John 13:34-35 (KJV) 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

When love bonds the couple in this way, the manifest Presence of King Yeshua, leads to organic unity, release of His Grace and Favour which make miracles a normal experience. Prayer of agreement becomes a norm.

Matthew 18:19-20 (KJV) 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (KJV) 10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Little Foxes which indicate Dysfunctional Marriages

Great marriages can be attacked through what the Bible calls little foxes that spoil the vine.

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Song of Solomon 2:15 (KJV) 15 Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

Some of them are so tiny that individually, they may seem to be harmless. However, when their gnawing at the union is unchecked, they may, like weevils, eat up the trunk. Collapse may be inevitable on a day and time no one can predict.

Little foxes that may operate on part of the husband/man

1. One where the man is unwilling and unable to step into his role as head of the wife and home.
2. One where the man is unable or unwilling to provide for his wife and children if any.
3. One where the man gets bitter with his wife so much so that he sees nothing good in her and resorts to wrong use of the tongue.
4. One where parents, siblings and relatives of the man control and determine the quality of his relationship with his wife.
5. Where the man is weak in prayer and cannot function as Priest over the home to cover his wife effectively as well as the children.
6. Where the man over-reacts to words, attitudes, and actions of his wife to activate negative reaction such as anger, wrath, railing, and physical assault including battery.
7. Where resentment and offence are retained beyond what is biblically prescribed 'sundown'. In this way, Satan is given room to operate.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (KJV) 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.

8. Comparing his wife to other women – whether in his thoughts, emotions, or words.
9. Expressing a dislike, and distaste for a wife – especially when the flower of her life is in sunset.
10. Having eyes full of adultery which makes a man gaze at other women while with his wife or without her.
11. Migration of the heart and mind to Lusts expressed in Pornography
12. Visiting or using dating sites.
13. Making lewd comments on social media posts relating to women and their bodies.
14. Placing demands for unnatural sexual satisfaction on a wife which wounds her conscience.
15. Using sex as a tool to manipulate a less experienced wife to feel

inadequate.

16. Discussing the wife in a negative or pejorative light with those outside the union – including children.
17. Seeking counsel from anyone other than vessels both agreed upon as Pastors, Mentors or Counsellors.
18. Attempts to manipulate and control the will of the wife so that she cannot hear from Elohim and exercise independent judgement – this is what the spirit of Jezebel is all about.
19. General Dissatisfaction with one's own spouse and harbouring thoughts of separation or divorce. When this stronghold persists, without being taken away, it is only a matter of time when the deed is done: the marriage ends.
20. Keeping secret social media accounts or not sharing passwords with spouses.
21. Engaging in suspicious behaviours and speech patterns on phone which raise concerns in the wife.
22. When Faith for the spouse is displaced by emotion and the five carnal senses (Romans 14:23).
23. Inability to discern wiles and devices of Satan and wage effective spiritual warfare with Blood of the Lamb and Whole armour of God.

Little foxes that may operate on part of the wife/ the woman

1. One where the woman is the primary provider for the home because the man is incapable, irresponsible, and unwilling to lay hands on the plough to work or uses ministry as a cover to allow this unnatural situation to be the new norm.
2. Where the woman usurps authority over the man either covertly or openly.
3. One where the woman, in a bid to project her 'strong woman' image basically tramples on the husband, reducing him to a passive bystander in the home.
4. Where a woman uses sex as a tool to extract promises of favours from her husband.
5. Where a woman routinely weaponizes sex as an instrument of denigrating her husband and thus portray him as incapable of fulfilling conjugal responsibilities.
6. Where the woman constantly portrays a soul tie to a high achiever Father or male sibling, using that to make the husband feel inferior or a failure.
7. Where though married, a woman consults her parents or siblings about issues in her home.
8. Discussing the husband in a negative light with people outside the

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- union – including children.
9. Where the woman compares her husband with her parents or other men especially ex boyfriends – whether in the mind or verbally.
 10. Where the woman loses the grace of meekness and becomes ‘tough’, ‘harsh’ or ‘hard’ towards the husband, judging him rather than loving him.
 11. Seeking counsel from anyone other than vessels both agreed upon as Pastors, Mentors or Counsellors.
 12. Attempts to manipulate and control the will of the husband so that he cannot hear from Elohim and exercise independent judgement – this is what the spirit of Jezebel is all about.
 13. Where the woman manipulates and pressures her husband to provide a blank cheque ‘do whatever it takes to succeed’ meaning turn a blind eye to potentially unhealthy relationships and even immorality.
 14. Rejection of the biblical concept of submission to husband – in the heart, by attitudes, words, or actions.
 15. General Dissatisfaction with one’s own spouse and harbouring thoughts of separation or divorce. When this stronghold persists, without being taken away, it is only a matter of time when the deed is done: the marriage ends.
 16. Keeping secret social media accounts or not sharing passwords with spouses.
 17. Engaging in suspicious behaviours and speech patterns on phone which raise concerns in the husband like dashing off with the phone to a private corner when a particular ring tone sounds.
 18. When Faith for the spouse is displaced by emotion and the five carnal senses.
 19. Inability to discern wiles and devices of Satan and wage effective spiritual warfare with Blood of the Lamb and Whole armour of God.

To understand, embrace and walk in these biblical truths will enable each party to pay the price of walking in obedience to Elohim. Any marriage which seems to be ‘successful’ outside the framework of scripture can, at best, be regarded as dysfunctional and an abnormality.

The Power of Repentance for New Beginnings

The Bible is clear that genuine repentance can change lives and activate new beginnings. Couples who are convicted on some of the points raised in this lesson can repent and receive the mercy of Elohim.

Psalm 66:18 (KJV) 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord

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will not hear me:

Proverbs 28:13 (KJV) 13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

1 John 2:1-2 (KJV) 1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Assignment: 1. Kindly share any 4 of the roles of a husband in marriage. 2. Kindly share 4 key roles and responsibilities of a wife in marriage 3. Please itemise 4 things of the roles of both husband and wife. 4. List 7 little foxes which can operate in husbands to destroy marriages. 5. List 7 little foxes which can operate in wives to destroy marriages.

CHAPTER 6

SOME KEY ISSUES + DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE

In chapter 5 we located some little foxes which spoil the vine of marriage. The list is not exhaustive. Marriages are unique and going to the Lord with mirror of the word, in sincerity, will unveil some little foxes that are peculiar to your marriage. That our spouses graciously endured them, bearing with us in long suffering is not an excuse to let the little foxes live. Take nagging for instance. To some women, they are exercising the right to tell it as it is (freedom of speech). The question is not how justified we feel but what the Bible says:

Proverbs 21:9 (KJV) 9 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

Proverbs 25:24 (KJV) 24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

Nagging drives a deep dagger at the heart of husbands and children, especially the male ones, inflicting damages on their mind and emotions. The same effect ensues where husbands are overbearing and constantly railing at their wives over even minor issues. Those enrolled for this course should do well to spend some time to ask Holy Spirit to reveal any previously unidentified little fox so that through repentance and possible restitution, they can be taken out.

What is the married state supposed to be in the Kingdom?

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The married state is ordained to be one of bliss: heaven on earth if both spouses are committed to understand and walk in the divine purpose and precepts of Kingdom Culture! This quality of bliss has nothing to do with accumulation of material stuff or 'enjoyment of the flesh' which many tend to associate with a profound blessing. It rather has to do with the satisfaction of locating the missing half and becoming 'complete' in Yeshua, Jesus and in each other.

Saints in marriage must remember that the high standard of Elohim, God for marriage is indicated by the fact that it is the institution used to illustrate the relationship of Yeshua with His beloved Body, the Church!

Ephesians 5:23-30 (KJV) 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones

Role of clean Communication

In marriage, transparency and accountability are basic to fulfilment. The couple must be able to communicate their deepest hearts to each other in a way they cannot do with others. To be in marriage and have a best friend outside is to court disaster and control that may injure the union. The tongue is the instrument of expressing true state of the heart and mind.

Luke 6:45 (KJV) 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

If the heart and mind are in right state, the words that will come forth will be

full of grace and wisdom.

James 3:8-18 (KJV) 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. 13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James 1:26 (KJV) 26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

Spouses need to invest in enhancing their speech pattern so that words are used to positively effect: creating the lifestyle they desire in each other rather than judging and handing over each other to Satan and his cohorts.

Colossians 4:6 (KJV) 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Ephesians 4:15 (KJV) 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

A couple who can communicate positively will abhor accusatory and prosecutorial language which elicit negative responses and inflames passions.

Elohim and The Word on Divorce and re-marriage

Divorce: can a Christian marriage be voided? If so under what conditions?

At this stage of our discourse, we need to re-visit an issue which has been touched on in previous chapters. The valid question may be asked concerning saints in this present dispensation of The Kingdom “can a Christian marriage be voided? If so under what conditions?”. The rate at which divorce has overtaken saints is clearly scandalous and effectively degrades the witness of the Church before the world. Irrespective of our personal opinions, it is important that we go back to scripture to locate the mind of Elohim on this critical matter and seek His help to recover. The Word of Elohim is unequivocal: Marriage was designed as a permanent union which produces a new personality – neither the man nor the woman as they were in their single states, but a brand-new reality called ‘the couple’! Storms may arise and any one of the spouses may step on each other’s toes because of the frailties of the human nature and extra baggage accumulated in the soul (mind, will and emotion) arising from family background, training, education, exposure, and challenges encountered in the single estate with people of the opposite gender. These may result in negative strongholds, stereotypes, defensive reflexes and other thought patterns, attitudes and speech patterns which may cause strain on each other. However, saints who truly sought and married according to the will of Elohim and who love each other truly will be better equipped to walk through the storms and work out these issues by the help of the Holy Spirit and where necessary seek and obtain sound spiritual counsel.

In this regard, a helpful remedy is this: each spouse needs to cultivate the capacity to repent and to express regret ‘I am sorry’ not only when wrong but also as an instrument of de-escalation when tensions rise. The aggrieved party needs to learn how to accept such gracious words without referencing past failures. Constant reference to the past is indication of absence of genuine forgiveness. Just as the Lord forgets when He forgives us and justifies us by wiping the slate clean, we are called to extend that same grace to our spouses. In two separate scriptures previously quoted, Yeshua Jesus laid bare the attitude of divinity to the vexed issue of divorce.

Matthew 5:31-32 (KJV) 31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

Matthew 19:3-9 (KJV) 3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put

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away his wife for every cause? 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

It is instructive that the mind of Elohim concerning marriage are expressed in clear terms with not much room for private interpretation. Yeshua Jesus made two references to the Old Testament when answering the religious leaders. The first was in Genesis Chapter 2:21-25 when marriage was instituted by Elohim as the first institution on planet earth. The second was the Law which was instituted through Moses to ensure that the hard-hearted people had some restraint in separating from their wives – issuance of a written bill of divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). The language used by Malachi to describe how offensive divorce is in the sight of Elohim God is very strong:

Malachi 2:15-17 (KJV) 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. 16 For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. 17 Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

Divorce is however deemed to have taken place when a man or woman goes into sexual relationship with a third party. It happens to be a permissible ground on which a saint can seek annulment of a marriage if he or she is unable to forgive 70 times 7 as Yeshua defined elasticity of forbearance to Peter (Matthew 18:21-25).

There appears to be ground to believe, as some theologians suggest, that Yeshua Jesus was even speaking of ‘fornication’ – the sin of sexuality immorality involving any of the parties betrothed but not yet formally wedded. In which case, the sinning party has nullified the basis of marriage in the first place as would have happened to Mary but for the intervention of the Angel Gabriel who explained to Joseph that she was pregnant by the operation of the Holy Spirit in Matthew chapter 1:18-25. From a New Testament point of view, adultery, evil as it is, can be forgiven by a true saint in marriage. However, taken together with other scriptures, the injured party is expected to forgive and accept back the sinning spouse if true repentance took place. If repentance was not real and deep, and the spouse kept sinning, the injured party may be permitted to seek permanent separation.

From a scriptural point of view however, the one who is seeking divorce needs to know that ‘re-marriage’ is clearly forbidden by Jesus! The Golden Standard of the Kingdom is this: when people divorce therefore, they should consecrate their bodies to Yeshua, Jesus, be married to Him for life and allow the Holy Spirit to use them to manifest His grace and goodness. By allowing Satan to make divorce the plague it is today, saints have unwittingly defaced a core pillar of the Kingdom with worldly graffiti!

Matthew 19:9 (KJV) 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (KJV) 10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

The reason for these ‘tough’ provisions is that from a divine point of view, the two married individuals become ‘One Flesh’ and are indivisible!

Ephesians 5:31 (KJV) 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Separation: what conditions can occasion separation and what options exist for the couple?

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If a couple are genuinely born again and are yielded to The Holy Spirit, they will be able to work through differences and difficulties.

Colossians 3:12-17 (KJV) 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

There may be situations where all efforts by one party are frustrated by lack of cooperation by the other person. When this is so, physical separation of a couple may be inevitable while prayer and wisdom is applied to resolve the differences. During the period of separation, the couple are to count the cost and make necessary adjustments which will make re-union feasible. Pastors can approve separation where these conditions exist:

- Domestic Violence and Abuse which may lead to physical pain
- Fiery verbal abuse which destroys the other spouse
- Consistent perversion which defiles the conscience of one party
- Threat to life
- Threat to mental and emotional stability
- Habitual Infidelity

Separation should not be sought lightly. It should only be effected when the couple have exhausted private dialogue and sought counsel but still are unable to find common ground. Let it be re-emphasized that those who are separated this way should be open to the inner workings of Holy Spirit Who alone can engender forgiveness in heart of the aggrieved and acceptance of each other. The healing process may take months or years and should not be rushed out of a religious spirit. Those who are compelled to recourse to separation need to remind themselves that from a divine point of view, re-marriage may not be permitted.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (KJV) 10 And unto the married I

command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

The Scriptural Grounds for Re-marriage

There are some provisions in the Holy Scriptures which some interpret as providing ground for re-marriage. Only one is explicitly stated while the other two are subject to interpretations by various schools of thought. For the sake of eternity and the day we will appear before the Judgement Seat of Yeshua, it is advised that saints be very conservative about interpretations and rather seek the face of Elohim before proceeding forward.

1. The first is death of a spouse.

Physical death effectively nullifies a marriage. The surviving spouse is expected to mourn, pray, and make necessary adjustments in lifestyle. It is advised that though the living spouse has the right to remarry, it should be done with three broad guiding principles, namely:

- i. Respect prevailing sentiments concerning what is deemed appropriate period of remaining single before seeking companionship again. If a surviving spouse rushes into marriage within say three to six months, he or she may by so doing cause offense to friends and family and create occasion for gossips and speculations which can bring reproach to the name of the Lord. This principle of charity towards other saints is established in these scriptures: Romans 14 and Romans 15:1-7.
- ii. Where there are children growing up or already grown up, the surviving spouse must give serious thought to whether bringing in a new person may shatter or bond the family. Sensitivity to potential impact of the decision to re-marry on the children should be weighed carefully and taken to the Lord in prayer. The voice of Elohim should be the ultimate guide and He never fails to lead rightly. The point is that even when He gives the green light to re-marry, a saint still needs His wisdom on how to navigate the issues.
- iii. The surviving spouse is now a single before Elohim and

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society. There should be a sincere assessment of his or her capacity to be celibate. There should be no shame or guilt to acknowledge that one's impulses are still alive, and celibacy has not been received as a gift of Grace.

1 Corinthians 7:9 (KJV) 9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

2. The second ground of where re-marriage may be inferred but not expressly approved is when a marriage breaks down because one of the couple is irredeemably engrossed with immoral living, unwilling to get help for deliverance. In this case, the immoral life practically nullifies the marriage. The offended party can seek counsel and prayerfully determine what the will of Elohim is, going forward. Consideration needs to be made of this double-edged rule by King Yeshua:

Matthew 19:9 (KJV) 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

The one who has exhausted forbearance with the sinning spouse or who has a valid concern that sexually transmitted diseases can wreak havoc on the family has not sinned if he or she regards the marriage as 'dead'. It was 'killed' by the immoral conduct of the one who got joined to a stranger.

3. The Third is where an unbelieving spouse rejects a saint simply because of Faith in Christ Jesus! This rejection can come on two planes:

Spouses married as un-believers. After some time, the husband or wife is saved to the consternation of the unbelieving spouse. If the unsaved insists on rejecting the saved because of his/her faith, the person who was rejected is regarded as having been cut loose. He or she is regarded as single and can marry. **Spouses married as believers.** In the course of time, one party can backslide or apostatize and consequently reject the spouse who is still standing strong in the Faith. The saved spouse is charged by 1 Peter 3: 1-6 to accept and accommodate the unsaved or backslider.

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1 Peter 3:1-6 (KJV) 1 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; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 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. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Some theological schools of thought advance the interpretation that if the backslider or apostate rejects the saved or cuts him or her loose, such a saint can validly seek re-marriage. This is however only on the ground that he or she played no part in nullifying the marriage and did everything possible to save it.

1 Corinthians 7:12-16 (KJV) 12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. 15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

A more conservative interpretation is that both Yeshua and Paul did not authorise re-marriage under this circumstance. It is advised that consciousness of eternity should guide all true Kingdom citizens in making decisions on such weighty issues such as this. These scriptures should act as a check before anyone proceeds down a road that is slippery:

Matthew 5:29 (KJV) 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck

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it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 16:26 (KJV) 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Hebrews 11:24-26 (KJV) 24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Strong prayers are needed before proceeding on whatever course of action above. It is also necessary to hear the voice of one's own conscience. If there is feeling of guilt, or constant warnings by Holy Spirit, one should step back before it is too late.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV) 5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Acts 24:16 (KJV) 16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men.

2 Corinthians 1:12 (KJV) 12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

If the Lord is in a particular option, the threefold benchmark will be evident.

Romans 14:17-19 (KJV) 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Repentance and Restitution

Thank you for receiving the Word of the Lord in these days when marrying and giving in marriage has negated the witness of the Church before the world. It was prophesied as one of the core signs of imminence of end of the age.

Matthew 24:37-39 (KJV) 37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Let us allow the Word, not our personal opinions, to shape our attitude to life. If any of us has fallen short of the standards of Elohim, repentance, not offence, debate or shame from guilt is the way forward. The power of the Blood is still flowing and is able to cleanse saints of any sin, as long as we come to Abba with a broken heart and contrite spirit. Where necessary, restitution should be made. However, saints should seek counsel from those who subscribe to Truth before taking any steps. Some situations are so complicated that only the wisdom of Elohim God can show the way forward.

Assignment: 1. What is the role of pure communication in preserving marriage relationships? 2. What does the Bible teach on Divorce? 3. What conditions can warrant separation of a couple? 4. What is the one clear biblical provision for re-marriage? 5. What are the two scriptures that suggest people can re-marry but are subject to different interpretations? 6. What other thing did you learn from this lesson?

CHAPTER 7

BLESSINGS AND PARENTING IN KINGDOM CULTURE FAMILY

When Elohim brings together a couple, He makes them one in Him and each other. That union releases a powerful dynamic force which enables them to receive His blessings of Grace without exerting the quantum of efforts they would have normally invested as singles.

A. Blessings of Marriage. The blessings include but are not limited to the following:

1. Capacity to exercise the Dominion mandate on a greater level: On a primary level, Marriage creates capacity for the couple to exercise the dominion mandate of humankind in greater measure. This comes with the capacity to increase, multiply, and fill the earth as originally intended by Elohim. Walking in the consciousness of this truth will make all the difference.

Genesis 1:26-31 (KJV) 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 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. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you

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every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2. Power of Synergy; capacity to generate Heat against all cold:

Real power is unleashed when the two truly become one. They don't compete but rather complement each other so much so that the strength of one covers the weakness of the other and vice versa in various areas of life.

Psalm 68:6 (KJV) 6 God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (KJV) 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 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. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

In this setting, the couple can draw strength, inspiration, edification, and encouragement from each other. This is evident for those who mature to understand and embrace the wisdom of Elohim Who gives as spouses, not people who think and do exactly like them, but rather those who bring a different set of thought patterns and skills to the union. Carnal saints tend to be vexed sore by what they consider 'incompatibilities' and allow such to drive them to see in each other irreconcilable differences that may ultimately lead to separation and divorce. Spiritual saints who are open will see extraordinary strength arising from simply receiving each other as made by Elohim. The strength of each complements the weakness in the other. They fit perfectly when Holy Spirit matures them to blend together as a couple.

3. Power of Prayer of Agreement

Marriage brings about the possibility of a couple being able to access the Throne of Grace and receive what they ask for because they fulfil critical

scriptures for such

1 Corinthians 1:10 (KJV) 10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Matthew 18:18-20 (KJV) 18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Deuteronomy 32:30 (KJV) 30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?

4. Greater Material Blessings

In most marriages, there is living proof that those who walk as described above tend to be more disposed to receive material blessings from Elohim.

Proverbs 18:22 (KJV) 22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

This is why the Lord warns husbands against being bitter and intentionally mistreating the wives He gave them

1 Peter 3:7 (KJV) 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

5. Greater Angelic Presence and assistance

In the Kingdom, every saint has angel(s) assigned by Elohim. Their assignment is to minister to the saints as heirs of salvation. This assignment includes:

- Protection from fiery darts of Satan and his cohorts

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- Cracking difficult cases they face

We believe by deduction that when saints are married, they angels come together in squadrons for enhanced ministry to the couple.

6. Enhanced social standing

In many cultures, marriage automatically opens doors to the couple. They are regarded as mature, responsible, and trustworthy. Because of this, Public Office, Jobs, and business contracts open up to them. Those who are single or widowed need to know that Elohim performs that same role for them.

Isaiah 54:5 (KJV) 5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

7. Fruit of the womb.

Many couples tend to receive the blessings of children as fruit of the marriage.

Psalms 127:3-5 (KJV) 3 Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

B. Kingdom Culture Perspective of Children and implications for Parents

When they come, it is vital to see the children as:

1. Fruit of the Marriage, not part of the Marriage! There should be no reason for any of the spouses to love and care for them more than each other.
2. Blessings from the Lord, not outcome of the abilities of the couple. This will take away boastfulness or tendencies to think a couple is better than those who do not yet have children.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV) 7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

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3. In that case, the couple should in their heart and mind embrace the notion that they are stewards, not owners of the children. If this is so, the role of a steward is to serve the best interest of the Master (Elohim) and those they are assigned to (the children) not the stewards.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (KJV) 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

4. The lives, health, intelligence, wisdom, and progress of the Children is primarily Elohim's.
5. When couples walk in this revelation, they will stop obsessing over those matters and rather learn to trust Elohim completely to fulfil His good purpose for creating the children.
6. Persistent Prayer for the children in fullness of Faith will turn out to become a lifestyle of the parents.
7. Sobriety and watchfulness will enable parents to discern by Holy Spirit, tendencies, trends, and speech patterns which indicate intrusion from the realm of kingdom darkness – loss of innocence, lies, anger.
8. Spiritual warfare for their destinies to resist all attempts of Satan and his cohorts to divert, nullify or hijack their destinies.

C. Key principles in Parenting: Modelling, Training, and upbringing

1. The time to start the parenting process is right at birth. The first manifestation is the investment of mothers in breast feeding the children. Children who are breast fed tend to bond better with their mothers and have compassionate and tender dispositions rather than those who are fed on animal or plant milk. The Father should invest time to relieve his wife of domestic responsibilities, learn to attend to the baby and be prepared to intentionally alternate time to watch while his wife gets some sleep during the day or night.
2. Right from infancy and up to 6 years is the most impressionable age of children. Whatever is fed into their spirit, soul and body has a greater chance of sticking for life. The couple should take advantage of this reality and beat both Catholics and Communists to the game.

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3. Love trumps all else. Our love for the children should be the first thing they see when they open their eyes at birth and discern growing up, even when they make their fine little mess.
4. Training is not railing and beating! Many parents latch onto some of these scriptures to create an atmosphere discerned by the children growing up as cruelty.

Proverbs 13:24 (KJV) 24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 22:15 (KJV) 15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13-15 (KJV) 13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell. 15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

Matthew 19:13-15 (KJV) 13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. 15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

5. Discipline should be exercised in love as part of healthy boundaries set which children are taught to respect. In other words, children need to know why they deserve discipline and see what is meted as fair.

Hebrews 12:5-13 (KJV) 5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits,

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and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

If the parents erupt in anger, voice profanities and curses, the horrified children are exposed to satanic whispers and accusations which may affect their attitude going forward.

Parents who discern that they mishandled discipline need to repent and receive cleansing by the Blood.

6. Crude Parenting methods can destroy identity, self-esteem, break the children as animals are broken. They can become dis-oriented and live to please their parents, not Elohim. This is domestic idolatry.
7. Crude parenting can divert destiny of children. This is where the parents are fixated on what they want their children to be, not what Elohim has created them to be. Societies worldwide are full of many professionals like doctors, who were coerced, bullied, and channeled to be so by their parents whereas their passions are elsewhere.
8. Crude parenting does more harm in the spiritual realm makes the children see their parents and the gospel as judgmental, unfair, harsh, and therefore opens them up to seek love and affection from the school system, their friends, what they see on TV and the world generally.

Colossians 3:21 (KJV) 21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

9. The reality that Parents are Stewards and Care takers of the children, and that Elohim owns them with definite plans for them should be emphasized between the couple until it sinks in.
10. The best and greatest Parenting style is what children see, and experience rather than what they are told. For them, examples are better than precepts.

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11. Children respond generally to authentic love. Every child deserves to see the home as an oasis of love amidst a sea of hate, negativity, and rejection elsewhere. This is the hook Elohim will use to bring them home joyfully. Even if there is a momentary drifting away, like the Prodigal, the Love magnet will be what Holy Spirit will use to pull them back at the appointed time.
12. Children are repelled and put off by nagging and provocations from overbearing parents.
13. It is unfair and even cruel to rebuke a child first thing in the morning – even when they are wrong. They should not go to school with bleeding hearts, damaged emotions, and tears. This is child abuse.
14. Avoid presumption regarding them when the parents need to meet. No matter how young they are, Privacy is always essential for adult matters.
15. For their sake keep away all issues which can create an atmosphere of tension or pain in the home including disagreements, quarrels between the parents.
16. Parents should avoid misplaced aggression – where whatever a spouse did is taken out consciously or unconsciously on the child who resembles the ‘erring’ parent physically or character wise.
17. Parents should avoid any form of speech, action, reaction, or attitude which makes the children feel or concludes there is partiality or injustice. It hurts them sorely.
18. Each child is unique and bespoke from Elohim. Do not compare them with their siblings or other children – in academics, domestic work, or character.
19. A helpful rule of thumb is to apply the Golden Rule in our dealings with the children.

Matthew 7:12 (KJV) 12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

20. Another helpful rule is this: in spite of our issues when at that age, did we become lost, failures and a disgrace to our own parents? If in

spite of our childish pranks, Elohim made us who we are today, on what basis do we presume that He will not watch over His words concerning them to perform them? Believe the report of scripture, and trust Elohim wholly even when the children are unstable!

Romans 8:28 (KJV) 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

D. Responsibilities of Children

If children are given the right parental care in love, they will grow up with a deep desire to reciprocate. At the very first opportunity, they will manifest it by:

1. Accepting their places in the family and joyfully doing their fair share of household chores.
2. Consciousness of who their parents are and desire not to bring their name to disrepute and shame when at School or in the society.
3. As they become mature, enter their own lives, and are blessed by the Lord, they instinctively desire and actually bless their parents with a portion of their blessings, just as they tithe to Elohim in their local congregations.
4. When the parents are frail and old, the children go the extra length to provide care in their own homes. Where their homes are too small, they ensure that the best care homes take care of their aged parents. They do not dump them there but visit regularly to fellowship and make the sunset years of their parents a pleasant experience.
5. Parents can live longer where their children truly take care of them in old age.
6. If the parents pass on, they ensure decent funerals are conducted.
7. As the children invest in bringing joy, edification, comfort of their parents, they tap into the mystery of generational blessings.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (KJV) 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Colossians 3:20 (KJV) 20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

E. Little Foxes which destroy the Vine of Parent-Children relationships

1. Provoking the children to wrath. This happens through manifestation of the negative tendencies discussed in section C. While parents, especially fathers and harsh mothers may feel self-justified that they were only exercising ‘discipline’, what Elohim says need to be respected through repentance:

Colossians 3:21 (KJV) 21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

2. Another little fox we need to emphasize because of its destructive potential is comparing children with themselves or other children in terms of academic ability, sporting prowess or ability to help out at home. The question is what does the bible say?
3. Inappropriate timing – timing is everything – don’t start a child’s day with tears before going to school. It is best to allow the children to go to School with a good heart, return and settle down before a disciplinary process can be done with much care, devoid of the drama of anger and wrath.
4. Cursing children or making definitive pronouncements on their future because of what they did or failed to do is cruelty of the worst order. Knowing that parental authority is very much apostolic with capacity to define the course and curve of life should cause parents to be circumspect when making verbal declarations over the children. The rule of thumb is this, say nothing when angry! It is wrong for children to see their parents angry when leaving the home for school in the morning and return to find them in that state or worse. They know what the bible says!

Ephesians 4:26-30 (KJV) 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

James 1:19-20 (KJV) 19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let

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every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

James 3:8-16 (KJV) 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. 13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

Romans 12:14 (KJV) 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

The sad story of Noah and Ham defined the course of his sons lineage thousands of years after the incident in Genesis 9:20-27.

5. Damaged emotions, loss of healthy self-esteem and loss of respect for parents and inability to honour them may arise when children suffer emotional and psychological damage in their own homes.
6. If parents consistently do what hurts the children, they will feel more comfortable when outside the home. At the first opportunity, they are out, permanently, so to say. This may be in form of choosing universities and colleges that are far from home which guarantee a full term or semester outside the toxic hostile home environment. For girls, they may say yes to whoever proposes without seeking the face of Elohim or consulting their parents.

F. Don'ts's and Do's when Children are not yet

Where children are not forthcoming, what should a couple not do?

1. Find faults/Blame each other
2. Lose Faith
3. Be bitter with Elohim

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4. Engage in unethical worldly endeavours such as IVF involving eggs or sperm of other people which is nothing but immorality by scientific means

What should a couple do?

1. Wait on the Lord
2. Continue to serve Him in purity of heart.
3. Continue to exercise Faith and pray unceasingly for His visitation.
4. Receive the ministry of holy vessels who are blessed with capacity to do miracles, signs and wonders.
5. Consider the examples of heroes of Faith who were tried at the place of childlessness but overcame.

The bible has examples of people who were pious but childless. With persistence in their walk with Elohim, they were blessed with miracle seed, some in old age.

Abraham - Romans 4:17-22

Hannah - 1 Samuel chapters 1 and 2

Zechariah and Elizabeth - Luke chapters 1 and 2

6. Adopt children from infant age at Christian orphanages and children's homes with much prayer and leading of Holy Spirit. They should see it as a special ministry to give hope to the hopeless and be instruments of extending love to their new baby/babies, parenting them as their own in every way.
7. Those who can afford it and have the grace, can either support orphanages or venture into the sector, establishing or supporting specific ones in various nations.

Psalm 68:5 (KJV) 5 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Assignment: 1. Please summarise any 5 significant points in Section A. 2. Please summarise any 5 significant points in Section B. 3. Please summarise any 5 significant points in Section C. 4. Please summarise any 5 significant points in Section D. 5. Please summarise any 5 significant points in Section E. 6. Please summarise any 5 significant points in Section F.

CHAPTER 8

COUNTING THE COST BEFORE GETTING IN

It has been said by some that Marriage is the only institution where many that are in want to get out while those who are out want to get in. That unintended pun on words covers a major irony: many tend to enter an institution that is for life with very minimal understanding and preparation. There is not really enough truth laid out for people to make the right decision of whether they are truly ready for what Elohim planned marriage to be.

Hosea 4:6 (KJV) 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

In that regard, Kingdom Culture Marriage and family is not just a course for those enrolled for Global School of Ministry and the Master Class of the Global Advanced Mentorship Program to study. It is, in reality a manual designed to take the Kingdom Church back to the word in order to apprehend the original and unchanging purpose of Elohim for this very first institution He created for purpose of representing Him and the Kingdom in the earth realm as His assigns.

John 8:32 (KJV) 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

We already established the clear truth that contrary to what many religious people posit, the Dominion mandate given to humankind had Adam and Eve and by extension, all married couples in view. Male-centric teachings often misrepresent creation to be for only Adam and Eve, as it were, an after-

thought.

Genesis 1:26-31 (KJV) 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 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. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Proceeding from there, we need to also embrace an inconvenient truth established clearly in the Book of Genesis where original creation intent is displayed – before the Law.

Genesis 2:18-25 (KJV) 18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 21 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; 22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 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. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they

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were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

The inconvenient and certainly uncomfortable truth is that Elohim embedded order and authority clearly in the DNA of Marriage. Elohim clearly and unambiguously designed the woman to proceed from the man and derive validation from his leadership. In other words, though equal as humans before the same Creator, in their relationship with each other, a fundamentally unassailable reality is that the man is the head of his wife and covering! When Elohim chose Paul to be Master builder of the New Covenant Church, He gave Him the Master Plan of what the Church is and how it should operate in order to gain divine approval on the last day.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (KJV) 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Among the biblical realities which Elohim used Paul to establish is the reality that the woman is of the man and should be under his authority. In words that make many modern women squirm in discomfort, Paul advanced this thesis with clarity. Though religious folks have seized on some of the words to suggest that women should not preach or be in leadership, this approach is incorrect and therefore unhelpful. Paul extolled various women in ministry. He commended their services in his epistles and received ministry from them.

Romans 16:1-15 (KJV) 1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also. 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ. 6 Greet Mary, who

bestowed much labour on us. 7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. 8 Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord. 9 Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. 10 Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household. 11 Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord. 12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord. 13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. 14 Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them. 15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

The Key point Paul was making was not about denying women any role in ministry or leadership! A detailed treatise, *Women in Ministry* is available on the websites of Kingdom Books Club and gsomonline.org. We will be revisiting and updating that eBook this year.

The Private Dimensions of Pauline revelations concerning submission by women.

The theological point Paul was making had to do with women staying under authority of their husbands – both in private and public. The private dimensions were articulated in these passages:

Ephesians 5:22-31 (KJV) 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this

cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Colossians 3:18-19 (KJV) 18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

The Public Dimensions of Pauline revelations concerning submission by women

Let us remember that the time Paul was writing can rightly be regarded as a paradigm shifting one. In the Jewish law, women were basically deemed by some as second-class citizens, to use a manner of speech. The gospel brought liberation as they received their new identities as redeemed by the Blood, citizens of the Kingdom along with their male brethren. They were now liberated from stifling Judaism to be who they wanted to be.

Galatians 3:26-29 (KJV) 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Naturally, some went to great lengths to overdo things, in ignorance. There is circumstantial evidence that some women disrupted Church services to disagree with speakers leading to disorder. Holy Spirit therefore began to use Paul to articulate with clarity that Liberty does not destroy Order. Those who have liberty to function in the Body by work of Holy Spirit in them are also by that same measure, required to walk circumspectly and soberly in a way which shows that the Church is not a place of confusion! Authority therefore is the mechanism through which Liberty and order are balanced.

Romans 13:1-7 (KJV) 1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth

not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

What does this mean at the public level?

Paul then released by Holy Spirit, three clear scriptures to address how the issue of submission to authority of husbands works out on the public front. Where wives embrace this inconvenient truth, submission to their husbands will not be a struggle.

1 Corinthians 11:1-3 (KJV) 1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. 2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. 3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Commentary: This revelation is direct: the head of the woman is the man, just as Head of the man is Yeshua, Jesus. Recognition of this divine plan is clearly the basis of a valid Kingdom Culture marriage! When women accept this truth and submit to their husbands, they become instruments of bringing forth the best in their husbands by the law of complement.

The men are not to see this as authorization to live as tyrants, trampling over their wives or treating them harshly. Authority and leadership in the Kingdom is not about bossing or ruling people harshly but about serving them. In effect, the man is supposed to lay his crown at the feet of Yeshua and take on serving clothes to do whatever is necessary in love to bring forth the best Elohim created their wives to be. This is the essence of Ephesians 5:22-31. For most men, the submission and reverence shown by their wives has an extraordinary effect: it activates a state of loving them to the extent of handing over keys to their heart and ALL assets to them. In other words, Elohim has a symbiotic relationship in mind!

1 Corinthians 11:4-9 (KJV) 4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. 5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head

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uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. 6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. 7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. 8 For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

Commentary: the law of covering the head while praying derives from this principle.

10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. 11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. 12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. 13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? 14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? 15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering. 16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Commentary: The language with which Paul concluded this passage is strong. This is an instruction for the Church to walk in Kingdom Culture.

Need for Order

1 Corinthians 14:33 (KJV) 33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Commentary: In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul is by the Spirit bringing forth instructions that will lead the Church to avert confusion.

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. 36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

Commentary: Clearly Paul is not asking women not to be in ministry or

leadership as we outlined before. He is not forbidding women to speak in the public space. In addressing the confusion occasioned by women who disrupt public meetings through arguments or disputations with speakers, Paul counselled married women to show subjection to their husbands by asking them questions at home.

36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Commentary: Paul staked his claim to apostolic authority on obedience to the instructions. Spiritual people are supposed to know within their hearts that the instructions Paul released are commandments of the Lord.

The Third passage

1 Timothy 2:9-12 (KJV) 9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; 10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Commentary: We have made this point that comparing scripture with scripture, Paul was not banning women from public ministry. He was speaking to establish authority of the husbands over their own wives. We can also deduce from here that it is a slippery-slope women in ministry walk if they seek to rule men with swagger. The beauty of true Kingdom ministry is that every saint is called to serve others with their gifts and callings.

Matthew 20:25-28 (KJV) 25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

1 Peter 4:10-15 (KJV) 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Commentary: Women who continue in Faith, Charity and Holiness with sobriety are given a clear promise: they will be saved in childbearing!

Recommendations

1. Women, no matter how accomplished, should weigh these truths carefully and count the cost before proceeding with giving consent for marriage.
2. Those who cannot submit should consider remaining as singles, to serve the Lord without limits by embracing celibacy.
3. Submission is not weakness but rather strength laid down.
4. Submission should be as unto the Lord. It is not about what the man does, says, or does not do. That is the essence of Ephesians 5:22-33.
5. The man who cannot love his wife unconditionally – when things are ok or not should consider acceptance of the counsel of Paul in 1 Corinthians 7 and remain single.
6. The man who cannot commit to avoid bitterness like plague is not really ready for marriage according to Colossians 3:19.
7. The man who will not walk in understanding of the woman as weaker vessel or who would dare to use her as a cash cow to earn all the income for him to sit at home to enjoy will likely abuse the gift of Elohim. As 1 Peter 3:7 says, his prayers can be hindered leading to closed doors and failure in life. It is better he remained single and celibate, if unwilling to pay the price to truly be a head and covering

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Assignment: 1. Why did the Lord make these 'strong provisions' for women? 2. What would you advise young men and women thinking of marriage? 3. Describe 3 other things you are taking away from this lesson

CHAPTER 9

GETTING INTO KINGDOM CULTURE MARRIAGE

By now, it is obvious that Kingdom Culture Marriage is serious business! It is obviously advisable not to enter into it presumptuously or carnally. The best time to sow the seed for a successful union is long before the 'set time'.

Step one: Parenting

Preparation or not for marriage starts parents and their parenting styles. If parenting is loving, caring and excellent, children would be graduating from the school of first level preparation before time when the issue of getting married gets to 'due date'. Fathers and mothers should model this institution and make it a desirable one for their children. Where the parents are realistic, they start to prepare their children early for the possibility that one day they would be married and start their own families. The process is of course informal at first. If parents did not model good marriages, their children are at a disadvantage! If the children were nurtured with harsh legalistic parenting regulations, they would suffer from damaged emotions, psychological trauma, fear and possibly despair or resent life. Some end up in drug addictions, crime, and prison term.

It could work both ways: they may just hate marriage. Alternatively, they may hide within their damaged souls, the worst instincts which would be dumped on the unfortunate spouses that come into their lives in future. The statement that 'hurting people hurt others' is true for many who get into marriage unprepared and with substantial baggage for their spouses to carry. It needs to also be observed that many from dysfunctional homes but were saved have also tended to make strong decisions not to tow path of their parents. Tapping into the matchless grace of Elohim, such people have gone on to produce some of the best marriage relationships in the earth realm.

One responsibility parents owe their children is to teach and lead them to embrace Elohim's salvation in Yeshua. The simple principle in John 3:16 and Romans 10:8-13 is sufficient. Parents must avoid the temptation of doubting salvation of their children any time they stumble. This can discourage them and even make them give up. Rather, parents should consciously embrace the reality that they are also called to disciple the children by feeding them truth on a systematic basis. Ideally therefore, the Christian home should be a School of Discipleship. Towards that end, the Family Altar should feature systematic teaching of all principles of the Word accompanied by prayers, intercession for the Church, Governments, and other people. It is toxic to reduce family prayer time to litigation of faults of the children. They can be put off and cease to participate meaningfully. Children should not only be meant to read but to also share what they understand from the bible passages for the day or week as well as share testimonies of victory and blessings received. When they get past secondary education and are in various cities, an online weekly family fellowship on zoom or other platforms will be helpful for spiritual health of all.

Parental prayers

Once children get to the age of puberty, their parents can begin to inquire into the will of Elohim and align thereby in strong, persistent prayers. Issues to be covered must go beyond desire for academic success, helpfulness at home and getting good jobs. From that age, parents should stand in the gap for grace to be released in them to be chaste and holy; separated from the world and deliverance from its fancies, including undue glorification of sex. This is also time to pray and war that their destinies will not be derailed or hijacked through infatuation with the wrong people, and deliverance from lusts of the flesh as well as seductions and traps of the enemy. Specifically, parents need to from that age of puberty pray into manifestation of the perfect will of Elohim to emerge, right on the nick of time. To pray this prayer with sincerity, the parents should be ready emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually for the possibility that they may be ready to 'leave father and mother' from as early as after graduation from tertiary level education which is the early to mid-twenties. This long game approach enables both parents and their children to avoid 'fire brigade' tendencies in the realm of marriage.

Home Education.

One of the worst manifestations of the invasion of the world into Christian homes is the way most parents have essentially outsourced upbringing of their children to the worldly educational system. To compound

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a bad situation, most educational systems across the world are firmly in the hands of not just unbelievers but haters of Elohim and rebels of His Kingdom. Part of their agenda is to start early to pollute the minds of children and draw them into a sex education which is designed to guarantee their gravitation away from righteousness into systemic perversions. Most educational policies in 'more civilised' societies make it okay for children to engage in cheap sex and use contraceptives without knowledge of parents. Some get pregnant, abort, and continue life. To worsen matters, most of the content of Children TV have been corrupted with ungodly messages and projection of characters whose ways are contrary to Kingdom culture.

It is biblical for parents to teach righteousness according to biblical provisions and illustrate with practical realities the children can relate to and understand better. Let us remember one of the reasons Elohim loved Abraham was his tendency to pass truth on to his lineage.

Genesis 18:17-19 (KJV) 17 And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

In giving the law to the Jews, they were often required to pass on truth to their children in a unique way.

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 (KJV) 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Young men should be taught tenderness, gentility, and courtesy towards women – young and old. They should learn how to give up their seats for women – both aged, middle aged and young. They should learn how to never lash out at women and certainly not to raise their hands against them, no matter the provocation. They should be taught how to take responsibility, manage their budgets in such a way they do not run out of money when in school. They should see older women as Mothers and younger ones as sisters.

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1 Timothy 5:1-2 (KJV) 1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

Children should be taught that incest is expressly forbidden not just among siblings but also all relatives. The consequences for breaking this divine requirement for holy family life should be clearly spelt out: closed heavens; hard labour and other manifestations of an accursed life. Children should therefore be taught decency in clothing, both at home and outside so as not to be instruments of seduction – wittingly or unwittingly. What should be private should not be exposed so that they do not excite pristine instincts in themselves right at home. Things like not humming or singing in the bathroom are not too trite to teach.

For the growing children.

From the age of puberty, young girls should be making strong decisions for their marital future. One is to resolve to live chaste unto the Lord and for His glory. If there are clubs which promote such values, they should be encouraged to participate. Prayerfully, this commitment to be totally consecrated unto the Lord and to live holy for Him will go a long way to preserve them. This same consecration should be made by the boys at age of puberty. There should be appropriate discussions in Youth Clubs and groups on issues of chastity, singlehood, marriage, and family.

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV) 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Children and youths need to be taught how to have healthy boundaries and stick to them. These include:

1. Exercising the liberty not to participate in worldly school parties which are often wild in nature.
2. Choosing friends wisely. This includes avoiding those with aggressive demeanour or who control and bully others.
3. They should know that it is okay to pray about all things and to have a way of knowing what Elohim approves or not.
4. They should also know that it is okay to say no if they are not persuaded about anything.

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5. They should know early the power of negative influence and cut off from people, events and situations which have capacity to derail their education or destiny.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (KJV) 33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

6. They should learn early to be truthful, not twist or distort facts or make a lie. A child who is truthful should not be punished or suffer for so doing.

Matthew 5:37 (KJV) 37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Role of the Church

The Church should break the taboo of keeping certain things like sex as 'taboo'. By abandoning such discussions and consigning them as 'carnal' or 'worldly', the Church concedes space to the world and school system to take over. From Elementary School, they try to stuff children with false narratives of sexuality, creating a tantalising picture of 'pleasure' which distorts understanding of the pains, guilt and shame that are after-effects. When truth is not taught, the children can buckle under the weight of error and falsehoods they are fed with at school, on the internet or on TV. Parents, Qualified children and youth workers and Pastors can present the right biblical perspective which will guide children to have the right information and make the right decisions. One extraordinary role of the Church is to teach children the benefit of receiving baptism in Holy Spirit and how His taking residence within their vessels enables them to know the mind of the Father and receive divine empowerment and guidance. Spirit-filled youths are less likely to make mistakes in the area of marriage.

When to marry? Age, spiritual and psychological considerations

The best age to be married is when young people come of age. Maturity needs to encompass biological age, psychological preparedness, emotional intelligence, and ability to exercise wisdom and take responsibility to contribute to family life. Females tend to be ready for maturity into womanhood earlier than their male counterparts. Generally, young girls tend to be ready between 21 and 25 while for the young men, it may generally be from 25-30. There are of course exceptions to this rule. Those who do not have the gift of celibacy and ministry of singlehood should start to be 'ready to go', right after graduation.

Elohim Alone is the Matchmaker

Every intending spouse in the Kingdom should settle it in the heart and mind that Elohim alone is the Match maker in Kingdom Culture marriage. He knows His creation: what He created and redeemed them to be, and the exact person ordained to make them complete. He is not fooled by the various types of masks people wear.

The implication of this truth is manifold:

1. The process leading to marriage is to be entered into in Faith (Hebrews 11:1 and 6, Hebrews 10:35-39).
2. It is to be entered into with transparency, sincerity, and honesty.
3. It is to be entered into with much prayer to know His will and be certain of same.

It is important to know through prayer and possible fasting, who He has chosen. The help of parents to pray into the next phase of life should be solicited by their children. Those of them who have prayer partners, Pastors or mentors can call upon them to support in prayers.

Where Holy Spirit shows a sister who her husband is what should she do?

Decency demands that the Sister should not disclose this to anyone but rather tarry in prayer and war for his eyes to be open. Secondly, the wise sister proceeds to war for holistic wellness of his spirit, soul, and body. This includes praying for him to receive breakthrough in his job or business, have enough money to be able to do the needful in terms of marriage expenses. It is a righteous thing for the lady to pray that Elohim will not only open the eyes of the brother but to also give him the holy boldness to step out to start and remain on the journey to take her home. For the brother, the prayer is supposed to be equally strong to locate his missing rib. The sure word of Elohim is that His sheep know His voice and will not be misled.

John 10:16 (KJV) 16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Saints do not need to wait for marriage before they form the godly habit of knowing how Elohim speaks to them and recognizing His voice. Once saints come into the faith, one of the best things they can do for themselves is to yield to the Holy Spirit to train them in how to recognize and obey the voice of the Lord. Recognizing and walking on earth according to the will of God is possibly the highest expression of true love of God! If children and youth have already developed a habit of seeking to know and do the will of Elohim while growing up, they would have been already familiar with the way He speaks to them and how His will is confirmed. This is a safe place to be in order to avoid confusion of face.

Get out all idols before hearing from Elohim!

Many people who find it difficult to know the will of Elohim are in that state because of idols in the heart. These are pre-conceived ideas, notions, and desires. Some have seized on this scripture to basically instruct and expect Elohim to play the passive role of rubber stamping their wish list.

Proverbs 23:18 (KJV) 18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 24:14 (KJV) 14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

Ezekiel 14:1-6 (KJV) 1 Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. 2 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? 4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; 5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. 6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Range of Idols that block discernment of the perfect will of Elohim

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- Race of a suitor or their ethnicity and nationality
- Age that is preferred
- Height that is preferred
- Weight that is preferred
- Educational level that is preferred
- Wealth that is preferred
- Physical features that are preferred
- Family background that is preferred.

The reality is that Elohim knows exactly who He has ordained. If the young people let go of their idols and submit to His will, He will reveal, at the nick of time who Mr. or Mrs. 'Right' is. Singles need to learn the virtue of waiting on the Lord in total surrender to discern His perfect will for them as suitor and spouse. It is a time of emptying of self and an openness to whoever it pleases Elohim to bring.

Can Christians use Dating sites?

The clear answer is no. Use of dating sites is a trip to the flesh and signal a rejection of Elohim as the only Match maker.

How can a Christian know the will of God concerning who to marry?

The fulcrum of prayers of all true believers is to know the perfect will of Elohim and grace to walk therein. Unfortunately, many saints walk in the permissive will of Elohim by insisting on defining what they want Him to approve. The renewed mind is solution to this aberration.

Romans 12:1-2 (KJV) 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Our hearts need to be inclined like that of Yeshua our King to walk in the perfect will of Elohim always!

Matthew 6:10 (KJV) 10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

John 4:34 (KJV) 34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

These are various ways the Lord speaks to various children

As you walk with the Lord and grow in Him, He will guide you through life – choice of career; time for career change; when and where to travel; who to do business with and similar decisions. When it is time for marriage, He will not suddenly start to speak to you in an unfamiliar language and method. Therefore, it is wrong to, for instance, to suddenly desire to know the will of God through dreams when that has not been the way He has leading you!

That is a sure recipe for delusion by Satan and familiar spirits!

1. God speaks to some people in an audible voice.
2. God also speaks through burdens He lays on hearts.
3. God speaks through revelation. This includes Prophecy from real Prophets (not commercially minded contractors), prophetic release from other saints. It also includes Word of Knowledge and Word of Wisdom.
4. God also brings revelation through dreams, visions that may be vivid or clouded. The vivid ones may not need interpretation while the cloudy ones may need interpretation and counsel.
5. God speaks when the Holy Spirit ‘quickens’ scripture and make it come alive to address a need or offer accurate direction.
6. God speaks through providential circumstances. This happens when He orders the steps of saints to cross paths with other people and supernaturally connects them.

Psalm 37:23-24 (KJV) 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand

7. God speaks when He plants a supernatural, pure love in the heart of a brother for a sister or vice versa. This is agape love and has nothing to do with physical attraction neither is it sexual in focus. It is deep and cannot be shaken off, even if one tried to.
8. God also speaks when He plants a ‘knowing’ about His will in the heart of His saint.

There are about 9-10 other ways He speaks which you can download in the eBook Discover and Fulfil your Ministry.

Role of adults to introducing young people to each other

Elohim, our God can use fellow saints or relatives to introduce singles they know to each other. But that must not be the basis of marriage. Those introduced to each other need to prayerfully hear from Elohim and get His approval before proceeding forward! Let it be re-emphasized: Elohim is the only true matchmaker and whoever takes His place may usher in sorrow!

The Four benchmarks for testing every ‘revelation’

There are four critical benchmarks for confirming the choice of a suitor no matter how you assumed you heard from God. Using Romans 14:17-18, these are the first three:

Righteousness: When the thought of the other person comes to mind or when conversing, is there a sense of right standing with Elohim with the heart and mind in Philippians 4:8 mode. On the other hand, is there a feeling of being engaged in a dirty and spiritually unacceptable endeavour such as lustful, dirty heart and mind which fantasizes on the body of the person? Give heed to this benchmark and ascertain if it is the green light (to go forward), amber (caution to stop and pray further) or red light (He is not in it) if you feel deep down in your conscience that God is not in the endeavour! Whoever will seek to sleep with you to prove virility or ability to procreate before proceeding with marriage has simply violated this critical benchmark! Sex before marriage is absolutely forbidden in the Kingdom.

1 Corinthians 6:9-13 (KJV) 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. 12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 (KJV) 15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

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16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Hebrews 13:4 (KJV) 4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

We are also warned to abstain from all appearance of evil, including those in courtship visiting each other alone at ungodly hours or travelling together.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV) 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Peace: Do you have profound peace within you when you contemplate the journey into marriage with the person? Are you rather scared, worried, or anxious? If there is no peace, stop altogether. Never proceed with a marriage proposal when this vital benchmark is absent or violated.

John 14:27 (KJV) 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Joy: Is there a spirit of joy deep within you that the brother or sister is going to be yours for life? On the other hand, do you feel sad? flat? Low? Sullen? If you have no joy but seem to 'tag' along because of what you can see – money, fame, beauty, security, you may be walking into a living hell! Joy is a vital fruit of the Spirit and indicator of the Kingdom!

Galatians 5:22 (KJV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Isaiah 12:3 (KJV) 3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

The Last Benchmark: Love!

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The last benchmark with which to know assuredly whether Elohim God is in a marriage proposition or not is the presence of love. If He is in it, there will be an initial spark of love which grows as both individuals share their testimonies, hearts, and hopes. True love, as 1 Peter 4:8 says will cover a multitude of sins. It will overlook what other people may consider as 'deficiencies' in height, weight, colour, education, family background, financial inadequacy and a host of other things which can put anyone else off. Those who want to get into marriage and those who are already in should constantly read 1 Corinthians chapter 13:1-13 to evaluate where they are in the spectrum of charity/love and prayerfully seek the Lord to perfect their love for one another.

- What are the consequences of not hearing from or ignoring the choice of God?

As said before, Elohim is the only match maker for His children. When saints proceed to marry without hearing from Him, they may suffer the consequence here on earth, if the choice was a bad one or humbly labour to work out compromises, learning to tolerate the faults and weaknesses of each other. The truth is that no one is permitted after the fact to disturb Elohim with claims that they married the 'wrong' person! A worst case scenario is that a wrong marriage may quicken diversion to the road that leads to eternal damnation.

Assignment: 1. Briefly summarise the role of parents in preparing their children for marriage. 2. Briefly summarise the role of the Church in preparing their children for marriage. 3. At what stage should young men and women start preparing for marriage? What should they do? 4. Please outline 5 ways Elohim speaks to people about who their suitor is. 5. Please discuss the 5 benchmarks for confirming the will of Elohim.

CHAPTER 10

THE COUNTDOWN TO MARRIAGE PROCESS + COURTSHIP

In the previous chapter, we discussed need for parents to prepare their children for a future in marriage right from when they attain the age of puberty. This process approach saves everyone the potential anxiety of fire brigade approach to marriage.

A. Follow Up to Chapter 9

We need to mention a few things which were skipped as part of the preparation process:

1. Sisters need to learn how to cook early. They should be exposed to the kitchen and encouraged to learn how to prepare various types of meals. As soon as it is safe, Mothers should encourage their daughters to try out various recipes. No matter how well or not their efforts turn out, the approval, affirmation and praise of their parents and siblings will go a long way to boost their confidence. As they leave home for College or University and when they live apart from the family home, it is important that they continue to practice cooking, until they attain a high degree of competence. The tendency to grab fast foods and crunch them on the drive home should be avoided.

Why is this so? For most men, marriage is a time of settling down and deliverance from junk food! If that expectation is dashed when they marry, a major chink has occurred in their emotional armour! In many African

societies, the saying that the way to a man's heart is his belly is so profound. From a Kingdom point of view, brothers can and should also learn how to cook as an insurance policy. If the sister turns out to have scant ability in this vital area, the brother should be patient in love to prepare the meals and teach her gracefully. Under his watchful guidance and mentorship, his wife can become the best cook in town! He should be ready to celebrate even the smallest victories and extol her. No verbal exaltation will surpass the deliberate consumption of all the food that is served!

2. Making beds and doing other domestic chores. These are vital preparatory steps for marriage for both brothers and sisters.

Galatians 6:2 (KJV) 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

B. The need for a Marriage Committee in every Congregation or Ministry

Many cultures of the world and religious denominations have various approaches to this part of our study. What we present hereby, is a guide which Churches and families that embrace Kingdom Culture can prayerfully adopt. It makes for peace and leads to avoidance of unnecessary confusion and rivalries between brothers concerning particular sisters.

1 Corinthians 14:40 (KJV) 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

1. Overseers and Pastors should play active roles in guiding intending couples through the process. This will create an atmosphere of accountability and transparency which ensures holiness so that the marriage bed is not defiled before due date. It must be noted that the one single potent tool Satan can use to destroy any Kingdom community is to pollute the House with spirit of immorality in various forms. When intending couples break the hedge, they compromise the future bliss awaiting them.

Hebrews 13:4 (KJV) 4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

2. Once a congregation grows beyond capacity of overseers and Pastors to personally direct the process, great benefits accrue if local congregations and ministries set up a Marriage Committee. This

principle was modelled by the alpha Church when the need for the diaconate arose in Acts 6. This Committee should comprise seasoned Elders who have good marriage experiences. Five couples are ideal with a Chair and Secretary.

Job description

- 2.1. Act as a lightning rod to test whether testimonies of the intending brothers and sisters are Spirit-led.
- 2.2. Interview brothers and sisters separately and assess veracity of what they say. If they discern errors, contradictions and lies, they should lovingly reprove the brothers and sisters concerned and where necessary, recommend appropriate levels of discipline in order to recover their souls.
- 2.3. Apart from the Pastor or Overseer, they alone know if a brother is engaged to a particular sister and those in courtship already. If a sister is already engaged to a brother and another person comes with a claim to revelation from Elohim concerning her as his wife, they are able to ask him to wait, until the previous person is unable to proceed further with her. In this way, the spectacle of two or more brothers trying to seek the hand of one sister – confusion and chaos is averted.
- 2.4. In cultures where there are traditional marriage processes, the Marriage Committee accompanies the brother to meet parents of the sister and shields them from extortions.
- 2.5. The Committee provides guidance into all steps that the intending couple need to take including registry weddings where necessary.
- 2.6. The Committee ensures that the Church wedding is conducted in a Kingdom manner of moderation. In this way, waste and ostentation are avoided.
- 2.7. The Marriage Committee provides counsel and direction to ensure that the entire process is free of anxiety, worry and undue stress. Rather the intending couple are assisted to remember that the Lord will return soon, and all saints need to be like the wise virgins. This spiritual support boosts confidence and helps the intending couple stay pure.

Philippians 4:5 (KJV) 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

How to proceed with the Marriage Process from a Kingdom perspective

When a brother is persuaded of knowing the will of Elohim as outlined in chapter 9, here is a guidance on the steps to take.

1. The brother should have been ready to leave father and mother to start a new family. The sister should also have this frame of mind. Both should weigh and agree on the implications: they are about to start a journey which may define the quality of their walk with the Lord and where they would spend eternity.
2. Prayerfully book an appointment with the Pastor or Overseer to discuss the persuasion. Where a Marriage Committee is in place, he may seek an interview to discuss the matter. The ability to be patient to get an appointment, be questioned of one's salvation experience and ways he knows that the sister is will of God for marriage is a vital sign of spiritual maturity
3. If the Pastor or marriage committee gives the greenlight, the brother informally proposes to the sister. This is done in discretion, in the open such as Church premises where the brother can discuss with the sister without possibility of fleshly intrusion. There should be no pressure on the sister in this first meeting to give an answer. The brother should introduce himself and his mission: to tell her that he is persuaded that it is the will of Elohim to marry her. He should state this with simplicity, give her time to ask questions. For sisters, this is not a time to immediately show excitement or indicate acceptance or rejection outright. Afterall, playing hard to-get is a woman's secret weapon! The sister should courteously ask for time to pray. She should pray earnestly for some days or weeks. At this stage, the process is private. It is not set in concrete that the marriage will eventually come to pass.
4. If the sister prays through and receives confirmation, she should revert to the brother and the Pastor or Marriage Committee.
5. If there is no confirmation or flashing of amber and red lights, she can ask for more time to pray. But if red lights flash in her heart, it is best to gently convey the news to the brother or Marriage Committee. In this way, the brother is not left hoping against hope and the sister is not tied up with a no-show situation.
6. We need to emphasize that this stage is not for public consumption. It is therefore inappropriate to post pictures and videos or make

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statements on social media. Premature announcements can draw attention of Satan, demonic forces, jealous/envious hearts which go into overdrive to thwart the plans. This is not time to flaunt the proposition on social media or talk about it with friends. Discretion is strongly advised.

7. Discussion with Parents and Introduction to proposed in laws. In the Kingdom, the consent and participation of parents on both sides is one of the ways of knowing that Elohim is involved. The Marriage Committee may accompany the brother to be introduced to parents of the sister. If the parents do not welcome the brother, object to anything about the proposed marriage, are not convinced, they should be given time for Elohim to do what He does best. No one can resist Him in what He wants to do.

No brother should ever think it is an option to elope with the daughter of someone else. Rather, it is a season for the intending couple to earnestly intercede and war in the Spirit for opposition to be nullified and dissolved.

8. When consent of parents is secured, the marriage process enters a new phase. On the other hand, the opposition of the parents in law to be cannot permanently derail the purpose of Elohim. While due respect had been accorded them, if they persist and it is understood that they are deliberately withstanding or trying to frustrate the will of Elohim, after a reasonable passage of time, this biblical principle should kick in:

Acts 5:29 (KJV) 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

It needs to be emphasized that this principle can only be applied after the brother, his parents and marriage committee exhaust all possibilities for resolution of the impasse.

9. When this hurdle is cleared and the brother and sister are persuaded that they are still the will of God for each other, the brother can then arrange a day to make a formal proposal, seeking the hand of the sister in marriage. They can take photographs or video of the proposal if they so wish. This is the time engagement rings can be exchanged.
10. At this stage, a formal announcement can be made in the Church Fellowship regarding the relationship of both as an intending couple. The idea is for all to know so that people do not stumble in

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suppositions, gossips, and suspicions when they are seen together. It is also a way of transparency and accountability.

Romans 12:17 (KJV) 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

11. This is the stage where the formal courtship process begins. We have previously stated that the Bible does not encourage worldly dating practices.

12. The Don'ts of Courtship:

There are several things Elohim does not approve that males, and female sisters should not do so that purity of the Body is maintained. No intending couple should believe the lie of Satan that because they are planning to marry, they are to be excused from the walk of holiness and transparency.

Colossians 3:1-14 (KJV) 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Let us discuss some of the things intending couples should avoid.

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- 12.1. It is Not a time of activation or fostering of immorality in any form – impure speech should be avoided; body contact such as kissing, touching, or strong hugging should be avoided because they can ignite consuming passion for premature sexual satisfaction.

Proverbs 6:27 (KJV) 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

Hebrews 13:4 (KJV) 4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

- 12.2. It is also not a time of showing off each other at parties and social media. Engagement does not guarantee that marriage will certainly take place. Until that day when the intending couple exchange marriage vows, nothing about the union is certain.
- 12.3. Definitely it is inappropriate and suggestive of evil for those engaged to marry to travel out of town together. Even if no evil transpired, the picture does not pass the ‘smell test’.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV) 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

- 12.4. Do not intentionally cover any truth. Be transparent.
- 12.5. Do not suppose that if you spot anything you do not like, you will automatically have the ability to change such in each other after marriage. The reality is that both parties have been fairly formed already. It is a time to earnestly desire the grace of Charity, ability to bear and forbear and exercise long suffering with each other.
- 12.6. The intending couple should always bear in mind that anything could go wrong, and the entire process is aborted.

13. How long is the courtship process?

Courtship should not be too long or too short. If it is too long, things can go wrong. If it is too short, people can skip vital steps and rush through the process. 6-9 months is ideal to cover a definite curriculum of issues which the intending couple need to deal with.

Should Christians engage in Dating?

The answer is no. Dating is the world's way of finding connection with others. Dating invariably tends to 'discovery' of what the singles want to see in the person. It is a kind of checking out which invariably activates fleshly impulses.

What then should Christians do?

Saints have an opposite way of getting to know and connect for holistic bonding which covers spiritual, emotional, and physical aspects of life in a way that the Omniscience and Omnipresence of Elohim is honoured. This is called Courtship. Courtship is only for those who have cleared certain benchmarks on the journey to marriage. A married couple or person who has the capacity and anointing should lead the intending couple into series of detailed conversations on the topics which are outlined below. They break the ice and the intending couple proceed to discuss in greater detail during the week. When they meet with the counsellor, they can provide feedback. Holy Spirit leads the entire process so much so that by the time the courtship is over, the intending couple are able to understand each other and accept that indeed Elohim meant them for each other. Until the end of the process, nothing is cast in concrete.

14. The Curriculum of Courtship: What are the core spiritual, social, psychological, emotional, and economic issues concerning this institution?

Men and women are given to fantasies and suppositions. One of them has to do with the notion that once married; a couple just will enter the realm of 'enjoyment' and rest. While it has been proved for most people that marriage does indeed release the Presence, Power and Favour of Elohim, the plain truth is that those who enjoy marriage the most are those who are properly prepared for it. Courtship is a time when an intending couple is able to meet with a bible-based marriage counselling couple or individual to discuss a broad spectrum of life issues stretching from spiritual to psychological, emotion, physical, financial, economic and social wellness. should involve meeting.

Marriage counselling outline

1. Introduction to each other. - Truthful Introduction of each other is vital in marriage. This introduction may involve full disclosure of things Holy Spirit can bring up at any time or in answer to questions.

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Past life in sin, testimony of Salvation and outcome in terms of character and attitudes will be very helpful. The masks people wear should be taken away. Things like attitude to education, School grades may be of interest to the other party.

2. Knowing the Will of God in marriage – both should be able to articulate how they are certain Elohim is leading them.
3. Their broad expectations from the Courtship.
4. Their individual perspectives of what marriage is.
5. Agreement of boundaries in courtship in order to have a testimony of Purity and Holiness (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7; Romans 12: 17). No to any form of impure thoughts and speech.
6. Agreement on need for Transparent and honest conversation.
7. Social Life. Likes and dislikes, habits, music choice etc.
8. Psychological and Emotional life. There should be full disclosure so that both parties can by Holy Spirit inspiration discern strategies for Rebuilding faulty foundation.
9. Family Patterns. Genetic issues or ancestral experiences should be shared, and the brethren should take time to pray and destroy any evil works in the lineage. They are free to call for help from their Pastor or deliverance Ministers. If there are damaged personal emotions and inner healing and personal deliverance issues, they should be discussed honestly and receive ministry from those with capacity to break yokes.
10. Personalities – here, they can use both spiritual and psychological tools to gain deeper understanding of each other's emotional and thought profile. If done prayerfully, Holy Spirit will reveal in order to redeem.
11. The Love languages of both – Gary Chapman developed a good tool that is in book form and soft form. Take the test, understand each other and resolve to invest in that which is a felt need in each other. This calls for real love and sacrifice.
12. Life Vision and Ministry. Both should lay out their personal aspirations as well as any vision the Lord laid on their hearts, no matter how mind boggling. It will help them to start early to Mind the same thing. If the divergence is too great, it potentially means there may be some degree of incompatibility. This is a strong amber sign that calls for a pause, prayer and receiving of grace before proceeding further.
13. Finances and Dealing with finances
14. Managing 3rd Parties in marriage. Dealing with parents, siblings, and relatives

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15. Children: expectations from the Lord concerning how many?
Managing children and Work
16. Managing career in view of forthcoming marriage
17. Ministry. Implications of ministry in view of marriage
Managing Ministry
18. When they get close to the marriage date, the counsellor should lead the intending couple to discuss issues relating to sex and finding pleasure exclusively in each other – Love Languages
19. Honouring/ Respecting each other
20. Dealing with crises in marriage. Biblical Conflict Resolution process
21. Accommodation – what type? Mortgage? Buy outrightly?
22. Do they need a pre-nuptial agreement? If so, what are the most profound needs they want covered? Are they biblical or worldly?
23. Food and attitude to food
24. Will house helps be needed or contracted through agencies
25. Any baggage such as children born out of wedlock
26. Need for wills which secure each other
27. Need for Life assurance policies, Funeral plans and other such instruments which can alleviate burdens when the inevitable happens.
28. AOB.

Assignment: 1. Out of the 14 steps to Marriage, please list 7 that interested you the most. 2. Why do we need Marriage Committees in large congregations and what is their main work? 3. What is Courtship and why is it serious business? 4. Please identify 10 of the issues to be covered during courtship that stirred your interest or opened your eyes.

CHAPTER 11

THE WEDDING AND RELATED ISSUES

In this chapter, some questions that nag saints in some countries will be answered. For instance, some ask: is Traditional Marriage and Civil Law Marriage sufficient for a couple to proceed to live together? Others tend to ask: what kind of wedding honours or dishonours Elohim and The Church?

The 3 weddings

In many parts of the world, the system is such that an intending couple need to go through a triple lock of weddings. The first two are, from a Kingdom perspective, insufficient ground for the two to regard themselves as married and therefore capable of living together. Let us discuss them:

1. **The Traditional wedding.** This is the day that the brother visits the home of the sister with an entourage of his nuclear and extended family; the Marriage Committee and brethren from the Church, his work colleagues/business associates, and friends. They are received by his Parents in Law and their own relatives/village people. In the presence of all, the spokesman states their mission which is to seek the hand of their daughter in marriage. The Father invites his daughter to identify who her suitor is amongst the crowd of men. She navigates the crowd until she locates him, and respectfully identifies him. The crowd erupts with joy.

The husband to be, pays a dowry and present gifts of substantial value to the parents and community which signifies their acceptance of him as a fit suitor for their daughter. For most parents in traditional societies, that is the day they release their daughter. In some places, she is supposed to go with the suitor that day to spend a few days so that the future parents in law can fellowship with her. Arrangements are made to ensure that the two do not

live together. In some other places, this act of the lady visiting her in laws to be is one of the stages leading to the traditional marriage.

2. **The Registry Wedding.** In many national jurisdictions, what counts as an official wedding is what is conducted in a Marriage Registry at the Local Government Council Office. Intending couples fill the necessary forms and file a notice of intent which is published in the government gazette for about three weeks so that the public can file objections, if there is any ground. On the appointed day, the suitors show up with witnesses. In a ceremony that is about 30 minutes, they register the marriage. This is especially important for the woman in the future when issues of probate and inheritance may come up in case of death of her husband. That an intending couple underwent this process does not give them sufficient ground to live together.
3. **The Church Wedding.** This is the culmination of the entire process which may have started 6-9 months before.

The wedding is conducted by a duly ordained minister recognized as such by the Government and society. In some jurisdictions, the venue needs to be one that is licensed for recognised weddings.

Core Components of a recognised wedding:

1. Presence of intending couples
2. Presence of one to give the lady's hand in marriage to the suitor – often this role is reserved for her father but can also be undertaken by anyone assigned by him. No sister or in law to be should treat the Father in law poorly so that he can perform this role with joy and a sense of responsibility.
3. A qualified Priest/Minister to officiate
4. Selection of inspired hymns and songs
5. Bible Reading
6. A sermon
7. The Marriage vows and Declarations. This is actually the heart of the wedding with all other things as supporting acts. It is recommended that intending spouses spend some time reflecting on the words they will vow to each other and prayerfully receive grace to do so with sincerity and Faith. Some fasting, before the big day will help to deal with the past, all fears and appropriate grace to step forward. “The marriage counselling process should incorporate understanding of the importance of the Marriage vows”.

8. The exchange of rings to signify the union.
9. Witnesses to the wedding who are guests of the couple and their families.
10. A licensed or recognized venue so that the marriage certificate can be valid. Otherwise, the couple can be joined in wedlock inside their church building but use the Registry Marriage Certificate for official Government purposes.

A sample vow/declaration

Let us get a sense of the kind of solemn vow through a Church of England model which can be adapted:

“The vows that you make are at the heart of your wedding day and have been spoken by millions of couples over the centuries. They can not be re-written or changed in any way for legal reasons – they are the words of commitment to a shared life that define you as ‘married’. The marriage vows are spoken before God and in front of your family and friends. Along with the vows, you will make ‘Declarations’, which confirm that you will always love and care for each other in a way that will please God. The lifetime commitment of these promises and statements are represented when you give the rings to each other, as a symbol of unending love. This completes the marriage, meaning you can now sign the official marriage paperwork at that point in the service. When the vows are said, you turn to each other, take each other’s right hand and say: ‘I, (name), take you, (name) to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God’s holy law. In the presence of God I make this vow.’ (Extract From The Marriage Service, Common Worship). These vows are unique to church weddings. By making these promises in church, you invite a loving and profoundly caring God to help you keep them.”

Life in the days after will reveal if the couple really considered the weight of what they are getting into or were magnetised by their fantasies of each other’s beauty, body build, material and financial assets and other intangibles. If they were attracted to and married make-up, it will be revealed from the day after when they wake up!

The Wedding Feast

It is advised that intending couples should exercise wisdom and moderation on this day. The rule of thumb is simple: don't borrow to impress people only to gnash teeth and start your marriage in debt with attendant frustrations. It is not wise to spend in expectation that people will 'bless' you with cash gifts. They may have their financial issues and unable to give generously. There is no point in investing so much for a passing occasion, the wedding, and having to struggle at beginning of Marriage which is a long-term union. There are marriages where cracks appear right from day one because of the degree of tension that is created by pressure to impress wedding guests. One couple had their marriage destroyed the very day of wedding and did not make it home together and ever since.

Role of Committee of friends

Wise intending couples often activate a small committee of friends who will work with guidance provided by the Marriage Committee and budget of the spouse to plan and organise the event. They ensure that invitations are issued to those on the list provided by the brother and sister and their parents. They document RSVPs for purpose of drawing up the final list of those expected to attend.

Wisdom in sequencing

Traditional and Registry weddings should ideally be scheduled for the last few days to the Church wedding. In that way, everything can be cleared in a short space of time.

Role of Marriage Blessings

Saints who are financially challenged can request a simple, uncomplicated blessing of their marriage by their Pastors. This can happen within a normal Sunday Church service. The legal paperwork they can rely on is the Registry marriage certificate.

Role of Honeymoon

All intending couples should proactively plan to have a honeymoon of about two weeks or more. This is a post wedding time of separation from family, friends, and other people so that the two can engage in deep prayers to establish the altar of their union, enjoy conjugal intimacy, interact without inhibitions, and bond together as one. Fulfilment of the concept of being naked and not ashamed in the union starts at honeymoon.

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Genesis 2:24-25 (KJV) 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Ephesians 5:31 (KJV) 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

The reality is this: no matter how bare a marriage process and subsequent wedding is, there are inherent occasions of stress that may or may not be evident. The honeymoon does not need to be abroad or in big hotels in particular cities. The key issue is privacy and affordability. It can be done in the very next city or in an affordable retreat location or budget hotel.

Virgins need extra help

Where the sister is a virgin, as expected by the Lord, there should be no shame to ask for and get extra help from the Marriage Committee or Counsellor to prepare her mind for what lies ahead and how to mitigate potential discomfort. What is the core spiritual, social, psychological, emotional, and economic issues concerning this institution? Considerations to be kept in mind. Elohim bless couples by Election or as they walk in obedience to His Word. It is essential to understand that there may also be storms, difficulties, and challenges inherent in two hitherto separate individuals who are brought together in marriage to be one. Denying these challenges will only lead to failure! For this reason, Marriage is not a minor pact to be entered into without deep prayer, total consecration, and proper preparation. It is recommended that those who intend to marry be assisted through teaching and training such as Course 124: Kingdom Culture in Marriage. They should also receive direct mentorship from vessels Holy Spirit will lead them to connect with. In this way, they can understand the broad range of issues which conduce to a successful marriage. Local Congregations and their Pastors will do well to invest in preparing intending couples before they tie the nuptial knot. They are free to use all or parts of this Course as manual for that purpose. The hasty entry of most people into this sacred institution is certainly not wise. We believe this course has provided helpful guidance of the subject matter of Kingdom culture marriage.

It is recommended that intending couples add to their faith, the following frank benchmarks of whether they are truly ready to get into the union or whether they need some more time to prepare.

Spiritual maturity – saints should experience sanctification of soul and body before marriage so that they can love Elohim with all their heart as well as their spouses as themselves. Sanctification provides divine enablement to bear the weaknesses of each other and the grace to invest in the well-being of each other without selfish motives.

Social – those to marry must prepare socially by obtaining instructions on how to live as part of a family community. Basic social dispositions as courtesy; food and dress sense which fit into each other, and similar issues are all important.

Psychological – those who want to marry need to also prepare psychologically to bear the pressures involved otherwise they may fall apart, under pressure.

Emotional – emotions also need to be developed to a certain degree ahead of marriage. Undeveloped raw emotions can sap strength from a spouse. Emotional intelligence is an asset for success in marriage.

Economic – it is easy to claim to be living and acting in faith and ignore prevalent economic issues. While those who wish to marry should not walk by sight, they should also avoid presumption. That is why proper courtship should precede marriage. Courtship should include frank, honest discussions of the prevailing economic situation. An intending couple can ask themselves whether to marry now for instance or wait in view of employment, accommodation or other economic realities which cannot be wished away. The idea is not to be fearful or walk by sight but to be practical. Marriage is a practical institution!

Financial – The intending couple need to know each other's earnings and to what extent they can fund their preferred lifestyle and adjustments they need to make, if necessary. There should be no shame in opting for a quiet wedding, for instance if the resources are not available for a 'normal' or 'standard one'. Let us repeat this warning: Never borrow to finance a wedding. It does not make sense to lay out a huge budget for a one-day event (wedding) only to spend many years struggling with the after effect of debt with all the shame and strains in the marriage.

As mentioned before, it is practical wisdom to include spouse as co-owner of all assets and write a will to insure he/her from vicissitudes of life when one is gone.

Other Critical Questions

Q. Is Traditional Marriage and Civil Law Marriage sufficient for a couple to proceed to live together?

Answer: Traditional marriage rites and Civil Law Marriage should be regarded as a process leading to the appointed end which is the union. The union of two individuals as husband and wife is the exclusive preserve of ministers of the gospel as part of the authority which Yeshua, Jesus conferred on His Church.

To avoid sin among intending couples, it is advised that the court wedding or traditional wedding can be fixed on the same week as the Christian wedding ceremony. Alternatively, the wedding should be fixed for the next weekend or two. There is no basis of delaying marriage in Church because of money to fund expensive feasting. The Church wedding can and should be very simple.

Q. What is basic minimum for the man to get into marriage?

Answer: The man should be biologically mature; emotionally stable; be weaned off his parents; he must have a felt need to settle down and heard from Elohim who to marry. He should be able to have a job and accommodation separate from the parents. The young man should afford to support his wife to live at least on the same level she was used to. If the lady is working, both of them can plan with their combined income. It is absolutely wrong for a man to go into marriage with no asset, expecting to be sustained by the wife. A male must first become a man before he can become a husband! However, there is nothing wrong if a sister earns more or has more assets! The key thing is that the man must have left father and mother and used all opportunities to prepare himself for life of marriage before getting into it. Let us also note that there is nothing about present circumstance of a man which can define how things will turn out tomorrow. Temporal adversity should not stop a man from receiving leading from Elohim concerning marriage. The Lord can multiply the little he has to enter and sustain the union. A man with Faith can achieve breakthrough even when it seems improbable!

Luke 1:37 (KJV) 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

The sister who embraces a brother who is not financially strong but has a sincere heart is spiritual and worthy of commendation.

Q. What if Sin occurs during courtship?

If an intending Couple stumble in the process of courtship or engage in sexual interaction before or after the Traditional Marriage or Civil Marriage, should they be allowed to proceed or stopped?

Answer: The marriage can still proceed at a future date after appropriate discipline is applied - but they need to be corrected in love and given scriptural discipline. This may involve prayer, fasting and if they are working in the Church, asked to abstain from ministry service for a few months until they are purged of the contamination.

Does that mean saints cannot engage in sex before Church marriage?

The Bible teaches clearly that immoral living should never be part of the life of saints. Sexual activity is only holy within the context of a marriage relationship. Immorality involving an unmarried person is called fornication while that involving at least one married person is adultery.

Hebrews 13:4 (KJV) 4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

An intending couple owe God, themselves, the Church, and their destiny as a couple a duty of care not to give Satan the legal right to attack and afflict the house of God. To start a marriage in sin is to sow evil seeds which will produce a bad harvest. This is why loving but firm discipline should be exercised towards brethren who violate the marriage bed.

1 Corinthians 6:17-19 (KJV) 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Galatians 5:19 (KJV) 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Ephesians 5:3 (KJV) 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (KJV) 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

Q. When can IVF be permitted or forbidden for saints?

Answer: Couples can engage in IVF assisted pregnancy and childbirth if there have dysfunction in the reproductive systems or capacities of either or both. The IVF process that is acceptable is where it involves sperm and eggs from the couple within themselves. This is a case of medical science used for good purpose. If on the other hand, an IVF process involves a sperm or egg from a bank or outside donor, it is not just immorality by scientific means but a perversion that insults Elohim which lays the foundation for uncontrollable evil.

Q. Should Sisters Ignore their Fathers and Parents when deciding on suitors?

Parents are the authority over a sister until the day there is a switch, and the husband takes over. For majority of sisters, their parents would have invested considerable love, care and spent money to see them through two or three levels of education which qualified them to be who they are. The Law of equity requires that there be some consideration on how to support or assist them.

1 Corinthians 9:10 (KJV) 10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

To treat them like trash and just expect them to accept any kind of man a sister wants to marry; to expect them not to ask questions and seek assurance that their daughter is not been manipulated by a crafty man who wants to live off her is to expect too much. It is not good to leave the home and enter into marriage without parental blessing.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (KJV) 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Our counsel for Parents, especially fathers is this: ask questions and raise your objections as lovingly and firmly as possible. If she is persuaded and desires

to proceed, it is best to bless and release her in good faith. Then provide her counsel on potential problems she may face. Assure her of your love and readiness to still remain the parents who love and brought her up. Elohim can show mercy and bless her union. If it is not His will, Elohim can orchestrate collapse of the marriage process.

Faith for Forward Movement

In the process of getting into marriage, appearances can be deceptive. No one really knows who any one is but Elohim. It makes sense to involve Him from the very day the thought of marriage drops into the heart of a brother or sister. We need to trust Him to show us who the persons really are beyond their external features. We need to receive His guidance and leading every step of the way.

Hebrews 11:1-2 (KJV) 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV) 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Faith is therefore a state of mind, attitude to life, words and actions which are in alignment with the Word of Elohim! If Elohim said something, saints have no option than to know and believe same and stand on same in all dimensions of the marriage process and state. This means that Kingdom Culture Faith requires us to:

- **Know the Word** – through diligent study which transforms our hearts and renews our minds.
- **Believe the Word** – To know the word without truly believing is the forte of Christian religion. When we believe the word, our entire perspective of life changes. We know that we know that Elohim is in charge and all things will eventually work together for our good as Romans 8:28 says.
- **Speak the Word** – our Faith is proven by the words we speak when under pressure or before ‘mountains’ of life. True Faith will always speak what brings forth life, edification, healing, deliverance, and the mighty hand of Elohim.
- **Live out the Word** – True Faith leads to manifestation of Kingdom Culture – a life of optimism based on confidence and trust in Elohim. True Faith heals saints from any distortions on the heart

and mind arising from previous negative words or experiences; delivers from damaged emotions and makes saints exude the sweet aroma of life that emanates from the Lord, the Zoe type of life.

- **Be led by Holy Spirit.** Since Faith is in Yeshua and the Word, the best way to live is to come to a place where we yield to Holy Spirit Who lives in the spirit-man and leads it to exercise pre-eminence over the fleshly realms (soul and body). When Holy Spirit leads in this way, the saint is propelled into the perfect will of Elohim to believe, speak, and do the works of Faith.

Romans 8:14-16 (KJV) 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Galatians 5:16-18 (KJV) 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

James 2:18-20, 26 (KJV) 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

What is described above can only be possible when saints renounce the 'fire brigade' pattern of 'skimming' the surface of the Word looking for 'Promises' to hurl at situations. Just like Gold mines, the solid bars are in the 'deep'! Saints need to form the holy habit of studying the word, meditating on the Word to the degree that it becomes flesh or internalised within the spirit-man.

Joshua 1:8 (KJV) 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that

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thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalm 1:1-3 (KJV) 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Assignment: 1. Provide a brief summary of the three weddings described in the first part of this lesson. Can an intending couple live together after the first two? 2. Outline the key features of a Church wedding. 3. What advice would you give an intending couple about priority in expenditure. Should it be on the Wedding (an Event) or the Marriage Union (lifetime). Why? State your reasons briefly. 4. Should a man get into a marriage with nothing, expecting to be sustained by the sister? 5. Please list any 5 other things you learnt from this lesson.

CHAPTER 12

CATERPILLARS THAT DESTROY MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Caterpillars are creatures which eat up plants. When they work on huge trees, they can work inside for years, gnawing and eating away. On a particular day, the wind can blow, and the huge tree is felled. That is what happens when the Grace of Charity is punctured. In that situation, any, some, or all of these negative situations may rear their ugly heads.

1. Harbour Malice against the spouse or children.
2. Taking offence at words, attitudes, or actions of other people,
3. When a spouse becomes easily irritated by what the other half or the children say or do.
4. Stress, Tension, Depression indicates a flight of Charity.
5. Suspiciousness is an evil seed which can develop into a stronghold in the mind.

Titus 1:15 (KJV) 15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

6. Engaging in Gift Projection –always exalting one’s spiritual gift or contributions to sustenance of the marriage and family.

Romans 12:3 (KJV) 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

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Galatians 6:3-5 (KJV) 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden.

7. Resentment – a negative feeling towards the spouse or children because of what they said or did in the past. The correct thing to do is to lovingly engage with a mind to restore them.

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV) 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

8. Demand Love from people. Charity does not demand but supplies!
9. Murmuring, Complaining, Backbiting and wrong use of tongue – James 3
10. An unforgiving spirit that does not let go.

Matthew 18:21-35 (KJV) 21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked

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servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Unforgiving spirit can be fueled by perennial anger at a spouse or child which manifests in negative emotions running loose.

Ephesians 4:26-32 (KJV) 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

11. Repeating an offence done in the past to children and innocent brethren with a mind to infect and negatively influence them.
12. Creating divisions in the Family: setting the children against their Father or Mother
13. Undermining and Resisting the Legitimate Authority of the Husband. The moment a wife resists authority of the husband or makes her submission conditional, there is great danger that she may get off ramp from the divine purpose (Ephesians 5:23-31).
14. Mis-using authority of a husband to oppress the wife. The authority of the husband is not for oppression but for divine order in the home. He should model Elohim in love and using same to serve and bless his wife in every way as Ephesians 5:22-31 states.
15. Parents oppressing the children to the point they become bitter and have no incentive to aspire higher.
16. Enmity in the heart for a spouse. There should be NO ground on which a spouse will hate the other. The Bible is clear in Matthew 5 and Romans 12 on how to respond to negative behaviour from others.

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17. Lack of Compassion and Kindness towards each other.
18. Selfishness and self-centredness.
19. Playing God - Function as Accuser, Prosecutor, Judge and Jailer of one's own spouse. Harshness arising from a tendency to judge a spouse or child negatively. This is, in reality, a satanic assignment as accuser of the brethren in Revelation 12:10.

Romans 14:1-13 (KJV) 1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. 10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

20. Casting a stumbling block before a spouse. This is the intentional, deliberate words, attitudes and actions which make the spouse to stumble and fall. The bible places an onus on all saints to deliberately avoid this tendency. Read all of Romans chapter 14 to see how this ties up with the previous point.
21. Looking at others and ignoring state of our souls.

2 John 8 (KJV) 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those

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things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

We would recommend that all couples and intending suitors take time to study Course 106: The Ultimate Three – Faith, Hope Charity because the biblical principles of Kingdom Culture therein are critical for attainment of Elohim’s purpose and standard in Marriage.

22. Compare ourselves self or our gifts with others – we are to complement, not compete! Comparisons. Comparing of the spouses with each other is indicative of a dent in the armour of Love. The spirit that suggests we are better is an agent of Pride. The spirit that suggests we are worse is the basis of low self-esteem.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV) 7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

2 Corinthians 10:12 (KJV) 12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

23. Intolerance – this is the attitude of insisting on the rightness of your opinion. It is ‘my way or the highway’.
24. Refusal to embrace Justification – This is the wiping away of any past that the spouse repented of. It is wrong to hold in your heart any past sin or offence of your spouse and refusing to see them as Elohim, Who forgave, sees the person.
25. Withholding from rendering due benevolence in Conjugal relationship. The one who withholds is in danger of not just sinning against the spouse but also against the clear word (1 Corinthians 7:1-4).

The Key Pillars of Kingdom Culture Marriage

Pillars are solid structures which keep a house standing in spite of storms.

1. **Love.** Both need to live in love as the basic law of the Kingdom (John 13:34-35; Ephesians 5:1-2). For the husband, loving must be unconditional – in spite of what she says and does or not.
2. **Submission.** Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3 make it imperative that

a woman should manifest her love through accepting the husband as head and submitting without reservation.

3. **Unity.** If the couple observe points 1 and 2 above, there will be organic unity between them. As children come along, they flow into it with proper parenting.
4. **A heart which finds it easy to Forgive.** Spouses are to forgive forward, even before any offence is committed. Those who forgive forward do not retain offences in their hearts.
5. **Humility.** This will play a major role in perfecting the union. This is a state of esteeming each other highly. It leads to mutual respect and honour as a lifestyle.
6. **Willingness to serve each other.** Matthew 20:25-28 establishes the concept of service as central in the Kingdom. The couple should see themselves on assignment to serve each other. As children come, the parents serve them. As the children grow, they embrace service to parents as a righteous assignment.
7. **Shared Vision.** This is what the Lord uses to bring together two people. This is also what He uses to keep them together, in spite of any bumps on the road. If couples keep this vision in view, they will work towards same sacrificially and joyfully.
8. **Agreement.** For the above reason, vision, and all other projects demand that the couple walk in agreement. When they agree, nothing can stand between them (Matthew 18:19-20; 1 Corinthians 1:10, Amos 3:3).
9. **Communication.** The couple should have clean, honest communication. No one should dominate conversation or seek to shove down his or her perspectives on the other.
10. **Embrace uniqueness** of each other and turn different graces, abilities, and gifts into a virtue.
11. **Celebrate each other.** Be cheerleaders of each other and the children. It releases encouragement and aspiration to do better and reach higher.
12. **Consciousness that we will come before Judgement seat of Yeshua** to account for how we embraced or rejected Kingdom Culture in Marriage (2 Corinthians 5:10).
13. **Total Consecration to the Kingship of Yeshua on a personal basis.** Each spouse needs to lay all at the altar of consecration and enthrone Yeshua as King without reservation. Pressing into deeper levels of purity and holiness will make both more tender (Romans 12;1-2; Psalms 50:5).
14. **Yeildedness to leading and direction of Holy Spirit in all things.** Once a couple develop sensitivity to voice of Holy Spirit, they will receive divine direction concerning all things (Romans

- 8:14).
15. **Exaltation of the Word as final authority on all things.** All married brethren must make this a cornerstone of their union: that just as Elohim exalts His Word above His Name, so do they make a commitment to seek and submit to what the word says of everything. Receiving Grace for this will solve many problems.
 16. **Prayer.** The couple need to stand in the gap for each other. Collectively, they are the primary intercessors of the children all through life.
 17. **Spiritual Warfare.** This is a recognition that the real enemy is not your spouse, children, or parents. In this frame of mind, the family members can easily recognise the devices and wiles of Satan. Taking on the whole armour of Elohim, each spouse is called to be skilled in spiritual warfare. In this way, they can successfully resist Satan by authority of the Name of Yeshua and Power of His shed blood, bind all assigned demons so that the family is free of satanic activities. War against the enemy and love your spouse and children! (Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:7-9, Philippians 2:8-11; Revelations 12:11).

Conclusion

Understanding these Caterpillars and how they operate to eat up marriage unions from inside out will save marriages of saints from collapsing. The home of saints is the shortest distance to hell, and it can also be the fastest route to heaven! Understanding and walking in the truth which leads to installation of the pillars discussed will make Christian homes embassies of the Kingdom where Ambassadors of the King of Kings live. Their lives point people to the King, even Yeshua, Jesus because they show people a picture of Who He Is. This empowers their witness and draws many into the Kingdom.

1 Peter 3:1-7 (KJV) 1 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; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 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. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own

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husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. 7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Assignment: 1. Please list 12 Caterpillars that ministered most to you. 2. Please list 8 Pillars of KCM which ministered most to you.

CHAPTER 13

MARRIAGE CAN FACILITATE TEMPORAL OR ETERNAL BLISS OR DAMNATION

There has been a consistent witness that before we conclude this course, there is need to consider an inconvenient truth: when the Divine purpose and pattern for marriage and family is ignored or flouted, it can lead to accursed situations. On the other hand, when saints get it right in marriage and family, according to principles of Kingdom Culture, they secure for themselves a blissful, enjoyable experience culminating in eternal joy with the Father. For that reason, this Course shunned the worldly and religious approach to discussion of Marriage. Drawing from the Bible, The Holy Lord has barred to us the Divine Principle and pattern governing Marriage and family life.

Dysfunction in Marriage and Family can be deadly!

Let us take a brief review of some situations where dysfunction intruded into Marriage and Family creating negative outcomes. Some of the outcomes led to temporary dislocations while some led to eternal damnation. Every ordinance of the Kingdom is ultimately tested at the level of Marriage and Family. Here, the mask is off, and humans let their guards down to manifest strengths and weaknesses that are deep down in the hearts and minds. The situation is even more acute, if one or both spouse is called to and actually serving in ministry. If any or both of them attain to leadership at any level, there is a triple jeopardy. The first jeopardy is that Elohim embedded in His Word the commandment that Ministers should study the word in order to live by it to gain His approval.

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2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Secondly, there is the law of light. The degree of light we have imposes a responsibility on us to live them out.

James 3:1 (KJV) 1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

James 4:17 (KJV) 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

From a kingdom point of view, the law of responsibility says, to whom much is given, much is expected.

Luke 12:42-48 (KJV) 42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? 43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. 45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; 46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

A ministry themed Marriage is expected to walk in the Light of Truth, not feeling or personal perspectives. For a ministry-based family, the reality that Elohim is Supreme and should be the centre of every life should be a fundamental article of life. Where this is embraced, none of the spouses or children should seek to take His place as the centre of gravity! Neither the husband, nor wife or children should take His Place, question His voice, or resist Him regarding what He wants to accomplish through any member of the family (husband, wife, or children).

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As Elohim, He Owns all members of the family and reserves the right to use any one any time and any how He desires. No member of the family should question Him but rather there should be graciousness in dealing with phenomena that one does not understand. Joseph was a classic example of how to respond to a phenomenon:

Matthew 1:18-25 (KJV) 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

Even if we are not persuaded about something the Lord wants to use the vessel of a spouse or child to do, the best recourse is the counsel Gamaliel gave the leaders of Israel regarding their desire to shut down the Alpha Church.

Acts 5:34-40 (KJV) 34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; 35 And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. 36 For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. 37 After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. 38 And now I say

unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39 But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. 40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

In other words, no member of the family: husband and wife or Parents and children should place any other family member in a situation where they have to choose between obeying Elohim concerning what He instructed them that the others were not privy to.

Acts 4:16-21 (KJV) 16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. 17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

Consequences of despising Divine Assignment of Family members

When this approach is adopted, the Glory, Grace and Favour and Blessings of Elohim flow. When human logic intrudes into the scenario, unnecessary tensions may arise leading to separations, divorce or children breaking away from homes, prematurely. The quarrel between Paul and Barnabas over John Mark in Acts 13, for instance, was not necessary: both of the two generals in the army of the Lord were right. If Holy Spirit leads a wife, for instance to give a certain quantum of offering and she is intent to obey, her husband has no business withstanding her. He could be fighting against Elohim Who may shut the heavens and withhold funds from flowing in. If a man is stirred by Holy Spirit to undertake an act of compassion and mercy, and did not consult with his wife, she has no business being offended and enter into overdrive with arguments or emotional blackmail in order to hinder him. The Lord may take away His favour over them as a couple and

they suffer needlessly. Elohim can also discipline the spouse who is resisting His directives.

Biblical Case Studies

1. Cain slew Abel because he was jealous of his brother (Genesis 4:1-12).
2. Ham despised the authority of his father Noah, made jest of it and Noah allowed himself to be provoked to the point of laying a heavy curse of servitude on his son (Genesis 9:20-27).
3. Abraham listened to Sarah rather than Elohim in the matter of Hagar (Genesis 16). The consequences are with us till today
4. Miriam murmured against her junior brother who she took care of as a baby, Moses and committed sedition against His authority. She suffered leprosy and Israel was quarantined (Numbers 12:1-16).
5. Nabal despised his noble wife, Abigail. He died before time and David was to become his wife (1 Samuel 25).
6. Michal the wife of David despised his humility to worship Elohim with reckless abandon and received barrenness as divine punishment.

2 Samuel 6:14-23 (KJV) 14 And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. 16 And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. 18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. 19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. 20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! 21 And David said unto Michal, It was before the Lord,

which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel: therefore will I play before the Lord. 22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. 23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

7. David allowed a moment of pleasure to take him into adultery with Bathsheba and used Murder to cover it up (2 Samuel 11). The consequences of that moral failure led to various consequences of evil in the bloodline, though He was made righteous by Elohim.

- 7.1. His offspring, Solomon still holds the record for immorality of all time: 1000 wives and concubines (1 Kings 11).

2 Samuel 12:24 (KJV) 24 And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the Lord loved him.

- 7.2. Rebellion and extreme immorality became the unintended consequence. Amnon defiled his sister and died a painful death. Absalom defiled his father's crown and lost it.
8. Ananias and Shapira conspired to lie to Holy Ghost and lost their lives in Acts 5.

Familiarity Deception

It is quite easy to despise Grace and anointing of Elohim on a spouse because of Familiarity. Worse still, a spouse, children or parents can commit sin against Holy Spirit which leads to perdition at the domestic level. An illustration is this: Because of pressure to be set apart and consecrated to a ministerial assignment, a spouse failed to render due benevolence. The offended party may think he or she is justified to despise or speak evil of the one withheld from conjugal pleasure. While the one who withheld clearly did wrong, to use that as basis to reject the flow of Holy Spirit through that vessel is more dangerous than the first offence. Evil speaking towards a spouse can rise to the level of sedition which is the sin against authority. Ultimately, a spouse can become the instrument Elohim will use to save the other half!

One of the benefits of marriage is the capacity of the spouse to uphold and sustain each other when the other stumbles.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 (KJV) 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 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. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

1 Corinthians 7:16 (KJV) 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

Spouses also have the power to retain or remit sin!

By this power, couples can discharge and acquit their spouses! In other words, what you call a matter is what it will be.

John 20:22-23 (KJV) 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Those who do not walk in the light of this truth may retain an offence and in effect, they give Satan access to smite or resist the blessing of their spouse and in effect, score an own goal.

About wishing death to a spouse

Those who open their hearts to retain anger, animosity and hatred against an 'offending' spouse may gravitate to a state where they wish harm or death would visit them. In the eyes of Elohim, this is equivalent to murder. On a practical level, contrary to pictures painted by Satan, the Grass is not greener on the other side! Those who wish that their spouses will die so that they can inherit all assets, enjoy peace and life may discover, if their wish comes through, a perpetual guilt feeling, haunted by accusations of Satan, and visitations of familiar spirits. If they re-marry, they may discover hell on earth. By then it is too late to turn things around. Let each couple be humble to acknowledge that it takes two to tango! Whenever there is a problem, an intractable one, it indicates that the more spiritual simply refused to rise up to the occasion as Galatians 6:1-3 says. Silence may douse fire. Try silence when your spouse is angry. Don't argue lest passions are inflamed further. Do not boil within your heart and mind. Rather, use the time of silence to pray in the spirit throughout such times.

The Way Forward

1. Understand Kingdom Culture in Marriage and Family – it sets free as John 8:32 says. Go through the video and notes repeatedly until you understand
2. Be open to Holy Spirit to convict of your role in breakdown of relationship or injury suffered by your spouse, children, or parents.
3. Repent for your role in the situation. Repentance and Restitution is called for where Parents sinned against their children. One of the most powerful things that parents can do in bringing up their children is to demonstrate that an authority figure can acknowledge wrongdoing, repent, apologise and turn a new leaf.
4. Forgive your spouse from the heart
5. Make restitution in humility – render apology when needful. Learn to say ‘I am sorry’ without difficulty. Do and say things differently as you apply principles in the course.
6. Forgive your children from your heart. Where relevant, the children should forgive their parents.
7. If you need temporary separation to reflect and heal, it can be done
8. Stop Judging, start loving! As long as you sit in the Judgement Seat, you will find many reasons to retain offence.
9. Walk in love and internalise the properties of Charity in 1 Corinthians 13
10. We can live in Kingdom culture by Grace, not works!
11. Have Faith in Elohim; your spouse and children/parents

Assignment: 1. Please write a short summary of the core truths you learnt from this lesson. 2. How useful did you find Course 124; Kingdom Culture in Marriage: () Very useful () Useful () Average () It is of no value 3. What are you going to do with this course? 4. Are you willing to work with this Commission to take these truths to much more people worldwide? () Yes () Let me think about it () I have other things to do

COURSE FEEDBACK

Lazarous Mbola - Kabwe, Zambia - This course is vital in bringing healing and preparing saints for Kingdom culture marriage. Biblical role of marriage is to act as a ground where the fear of God, the love of God and the love of our fellow humans is nurtured from. Biblical definition of marriage is the union between a fully grown man and a fully grown woman. The role of a husband is to love his wife and sacrificially willing to pay the price it takes for her to become all that Elohim ordained just like Yeshua paid the price of death to redeem the church and to provide for her and the children if they have any. The role of the wife is to submit to her husband like unto Yeshua. The role of the children is to obey their parents and come and look after them in their old age. Divorce this is the act of breaking the union between a married couple. Separation is the period when couples are temporally living apart due to unresolved issues to allow them to reflect on their errors and make a turn from their wrong ways. Remarriage this is when a person who has been loosed from their former spouse seek to be joined to another person. Parenting is taking care of the children by providing for their material, spiritual and emotional needs. It is important to understand Kingdom culture marriage because if saints compromise in the area of marriage it results into accursed situations and may lead to eternal damnation.

Loice Gondo - Harare, Zimbabwe - Kingdom Culture in Marriage and Family is an outline comprised of what Elohim has purposed for Marriage and Family to Christians. In fulfilment of His divine purpose, as regards to family and His Kingdom. I Know that marriage is not a must for everyone. A Person can serve effectively being single. Those in marriage are to study the Word and know what it says and apply it in their marriage for peace, marriage bliss and Godly blessings or provision. Marriage is a spiritual, social economic and legal union between two adults in fulfilment of Elohim's divine purpose, their family, His Kingdom, and humanity. The husband must love his wife sacrificially. He must leave his father, mother, and siblings to be the man Elohim ordained him to be. Providing for the wife and knowing that the wife is the weaker vessel. Making life easier for her. The Role of the wife is to submit to her husband unto Yeshua, Jesus. Be prayerful and desist from love of material things. She has to honour her husband despite his stand spiritually, socially and financially. The role of children to joyfully do their share of household chores. Desire to bless their parents as they tithe to Elohim. Care for them at old age. And ensure they have a decent funeral if

they pass on. They should bring joy to their parents. Marriage was designed as a permanent union. However, when storms arise, whoever divorces a wife must give her a letter of divorce. Reason should be sexual immorality. Whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Spouses can separate if there is physical violence, verbal abuse, and threat to life. Re-marriage is acceptable only when the part did not play a part in nullifying their marriage and when they try their best to save the marriage. Also, after the death of the spouse. Parents to remember that children are fruits of the marriage, not part of the marriage. They are but stewards, not owners of the children, and are to do the best for the children. They are to pray persistently for the children, trusting Elohim to fulfill His purpose for them. They are to bond with their children from birth. Loving them unconditionally. Training them in love in the things of the Lord, bearing in mind that each child is unique. It is important to understand Kingdom Culture in Marriage and Family to avoid falling. Marriage brings together two adults from different backgrounds. Without Grace of God, it is very difficult when real marriage sets in. After the pretends of pre-marital state. The challenges are huge in marriage. Only to be overcome by those who understand Kingdom Culture in Marriage and Family.

Tecla Dhlwayo - Harare, Zimbabwe - The course is about Kingdom Culture in marriage and family. It sought to explain marriage and family from a biblical point of view as opposed to looking at it from a cultural, denominational, or worldly perspective. The course has to a very large extent extended my understanding of the biblical Law of Marriage. Marriage is the spiritual, social, economic, and legal union between mature males and females based on the perfect will of Elohim for the purpose of fulfilling His divine purpose for the couple. The husband is supposed to take the leadership role as the head of the family. He is supposed to love his wife and provide for the family. The woman is expected to submit to her husband and show him due reverence. Children are supposed to honour their parents and take care of them when they are old. The Bible does not allow divorce except in cases where there is adultery but even then, there is still room to forgive the offender. Separation can only be warranted when all efforts by one party to make the marriage work are constantly thwarted by the other party. Also, when there is domestic violence, physical and verbal abuse. Re-marriage can take place following the death of a spouse. It is important to understand Kingdom Culture in marriage and family so that we may live lives that honour Elohim by obeying what the Word says.

KeAsha Green – Texas USA - This course gave the true meaning of marriage and why God placed it on earth. Marriage is so serious/meaningful that it was the first institution on earth. This course gave detailed

understanding of the things to stay away from in a marriage concerning your spouse and children. It also gave things to enhance it. It even went into depth on courtship, when is it really court shipping, and the things you must pass before you even get into courtship. It also broke down the importance of Elohim being the matchmaker. Overall, this course broke down and went into depth on those questions someone may have on marriage. When can you marry, how do you know if that person is it. This course really gave an outline on the order of marriage. This course really has extended my understanding of the biblical law of marriage. I am more aware of the things I do now that were listed on the not to's. I can honestly say that I probably learned more than I think (as Holy spirit would be the one to bring it up at the needed time). I definitely understood more of the husband's role. I was focused on that more than on my own role. I guess it stood out to me because seeing the weight of his role would help me chill and help ease his load so to say. I also understood divorce better and separation a little better and re marriage. However, parenting!!! I grasp a lot of notes on that one!! awesome teachings. It is definitely important to understand kingdom culture Marriage and Family because that is the focal point so to say with the body of Christ and Yeshua. That is what we operate from, our relationship with Yeshua. So, understanding marriage is vital. If Elohim made it the first institution on earth and gave all these outlines on the seriousness of it (not even wanting divorce and making it known that marriage is a permanent union) then we need to grasp a hold of it and take it seriously as well.

Rorisang Radebe - Johannesburg, South Africa - This course is in simple terms restoration for the body of Christ in kingdom culture to restore biblical truths and principles in the New Testament that have been overlooked but very helpful. By taking responsibility of the souls assigned to us starting with family we can impact the world positively, raising well-mannered children and loved spouses. This course was eye opening. I am grateful I got to know the truths and commandments from Elohim. I noticed the bible has a lot to say on this topic but often ignored. I have unlearned a lot from the world and now have a broader understanding of how people miss it. The truths are not always convenient but liberating.

Juliet Nyathi - Gwenda Zimbabwe - This course unveils the hidden mysteries about marriage. How marriage can be enjoyed by two beings of opposite sex and how together they can conquer all storms when aligned with the will of Elohim and His Word. This course made me understand that when two are divinely joined together by marriage they enjoy marriage, complete each other, face life storms together and conquer in oneness with Elohim by their side. It unveiled to me that once joined divorce is forbidden to them except where immorality is involved. Their marriage vows bind the two

together till death separates them. Their bodies both belong to each other. The two are better than one in taping into blessings. It is important to understand Kingdom Culture in Marriage to get better knowledge on how that marriage is not a temporary partnership but rather a union which couples ought to enjoy and help each other fulfill their Divine assignments and be a blessing to Elohim and to those in their spheres of influence.

Winnie Mwanzi - Mombasa Kenya - The course has extended my understanding of biblical Law of marriage in such a way that everything is scriptural like in the book of Ephesians. I have learnt how courting should be done which is a contrast of what is done in our days. If saints allowed the Holy Spirit to guide them right from puberty all the way to marriage...then the world can be a very good place to live in. Kingdom marriage is beautiful. The course has helped to know clearly the role of a husband to love the wife Provide for the family that's shelter, food and comfort A husband must leave his father and mother and siblings to be able to be independent minded when handling his nuclear (new) family. I have come to appreciate the role of a wife to submit to her husband to honour her husband should be an intercessor. The role of children to make sure their parents are happy and live long to edify their parents so that they can gain from the generational blessings. Divorce is not allowed in the Kingdom Culture Marriage. Separation can be done where one party needs time to go think things over and reflect then comes back. Remarriage is only allowed when one spouse dies. Parenting by parents is done not because the children are theirs but because they are just the stewards...children belong to God. It is important to understand kingdom Culture in marriage because it was ordained by God himself between man and woman ...and there we should protect the institution because it suffers attack from Satan through very many ways...and all we learn to appreciate it and enjoy the gains that are found in it under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Definite Masarakufa - Harare, Zimbabwe - Kingdom Culture Marriage and Family is a course that opens the mind to receive what Elohim designed marriage to be like, how it is to be kept and enjoyed and what He expects people to do to make it adhere to His principles. It is a course that rebuffs human reasoning and understanding of how marriage should be. This course has given me a view I never had concerning marriage. With the rate at which marriages are dying, personally I didn't see any wrong in the way many were going about it till my eyes were opened through this course. It is a course that gives Yahweh's perspective on marriage and the way it must be embraced by all and sundry. This course has helped me understand the roles of a husband, roles of a wife and the roles of children in a marriage setup. If everyone within the marriage institution plays his/her roles we will have satisfying marriages and a very minimal number of days. Divorce is never option in the plan of

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Yahweh as marriage is designed to be a permanent union. The only ground for divorce stated in the Bible is where sexual immorality is involved. However the one seeking divorce is to know that remarriage is forbidden. It is to be noted that all avenues must be sought to avert divorce and also saints involved must be able to forgive one another as stated in scripture. Separation is to be taken as a period where aggrieved parties in a marriage take time to reflect on the failed marriage and prayerfully seek to address issues of dispute. During the period of separation, the couple are to count the cost and make necessary adjustments which will make re-union feasible. Separation should not be sought lightly. It should only be effected when the couple have exhausted private dialogue and sought counsel but still are unable to find common ground. Remarriage is clearly allowed after the death of a spouse. That is one clearly given greenlight for remarriage that is given by scripture. Other reasons are there but they depend on interpretation or what Elohim will say in the situation at hand. Where severe and unrepentant immorality is involved, others can take that as grounds for divorce and nullifying the marriage to give room for remarriage. Another reason for remarriage is when a spouse is rejected by an unbelieving spouse. Again, this is subject to interpretation. Parenting plays a major role in the making of the institution called marriage. From birth the right parenting which is according to the Word must be exercised to foster the fear of the Lord and the apt following of Yahweh's will. It is important to understand Kingdom Culture and Family because this gives Yahweh's will on how marriage should be prepared for, how it must come into existence, how it is maintained and how it is to be preserved. Families get to understand their roles according to Elohim's will and this creates harmony in marriages as well as in families.

Edah Milos – South Africa - The course was all about marriage and parenting, there are three types of marriage (a)Traditional (b)court (c)church ceremony. Love must be mutual. Couples must be prayerful and be ready (d)whereby when you get divorced no more marriage again. Husband will provide a reliable covering to shelter his wife from all temptations, trials and difficulties she would have faced if unmarried. Wife submits to her husband as unto Yeshua.

Avoid undue investment in external beautification to detriment of their inner Beauty. Every holy woman can press into the transformation life and build the home according to divine order. Children -are a blessing from Elohim. Parents should pray and teach their children to lead them to embrace Elohim salvation.

Kwabena Owusu - Ghana Africa - Course 124 is centred on the unadulterated word of God. All lessons taught in this course are word-based. It takes you from the Old Testament to the New Testament in respect to

scriptures on marriage. The word of God is exalted above humanistic and private interpretations in this course. This course has catapulted my understanding of Biblical marriage to a far level. Personally, this course enlightened me on the subject matter of marriage and has prepared me as a young man who is desiring to marry. I will call it Biblical Marriage Preparation 101. I now understand why the disciples said marriage is hard thing when Jesus explained Kingdom marriage to them. Marriage is not a joke, those who want to marry must be prepared to stay in permanently. Children are to be taught righteousness. Children are to participate in prayers and Bible studies, etc. Marriage is not man's institution but God's. If it's God's, then we need to know how He wants it to be. I appreciate Apostle George and all other people worked behind the scenes to make this course available to us free of charge.

Dan Tlhabane - Gauteng South Africa - Kingdom Culture Marriage & Family (Course 124) is a course so perfectly designed, deeply revealing, touching on every aspect of marriage and gives a great biblical definition of what marriage is. It began with what Elohim had in mind when He created mankind. It reveals the Kingdom Dominion Mandate to multiply, increase and subdue the earth, which was given to a married couple. The course distinguished between dating and courtship, steps to be taken by intending couples, the Marriage Committee and its roles and responsibilities in advising and guiding the intending couple and their families as well as accompanying them physically and in prayer. The course explained in detail the scriptures referring to marriage, divorce, separation and raising a family and children. It lists the mandate, advantages, benefits, caterpillars that slowly eat the marriage away, individual responsibilities of each spouse as well as the church. The 3 types of weddings were also explained. Understanding of Biblical Laws of Marriage: Truly the Word of God is like Water, washing away the chaff we collected over the many years of life, it is enlightening, opening doors and windows to show us the abundance of the Word of God. Through Pseudo-Gospel, false teachings, misinterpretations, and culture, we collected so much chaff that was ultimately and graciously removed during the past few weeks of Course 124. The course helped me to understand KCM as it related to: Role of Husband, Wife & Children: Each of the 3 entities have roles and responsibilities divinely given to ensure the common success of the whole family as well as individual members of the family. The corporate benefits are so massive when we stick to our divine mandates thereby accessing the divine blessings of Elohim upon us. The Bible is very clear that Elohim is totally against divorce. However, the children of Israel compelled Elohim to allow them to divorce. They had trespassed His command not to marry foreign wives. When their foreign wives led them to pray and worship their idol gods, they ultimately cried out to Elohim.

Reluctantly, Elohim allowed them but with conditions. It is to be noted that it was originally not in His plan to allow divorce. The advice is that those who divorce should dedicate their lives into serving Elohim. No one is allowed to break the marriage union. However, if they get into a ditch of irreconcilable differences and cannot walk the path of love, they are to separate, but each is forbidden to re-marry. Key Principles of Parenting begin with Modeling, Training & Upbringing of offsprings. Both parents have to start parenting at birth, consider that from infancy up to 6 years to be the most impressionable ages of kids, remember that love trumps all, that training kids is not railing and beating them and a number of other methods, all based on love. Knowing and understanding Kingdom Culture Marriage and Family is the chief cornerstone in ensuring that saints do not walk in error. Knowing what Elohim wants will guarantee that Saints access the divine blessings and always have unlimited access to the Room of Mercy.

Alice Oteba – Kenya Africa - This course talks about marriage, What is marriage? Life in marriage, Family, Husbands and wife. Children, Courtship and the types of weddings. This course has extended my understanding of biblical law of marriage in a way that I have come to understand that God hates divorce for He is the author of Marriage. I have understood that Kingdom Culture Marriage is God oriented. It is important because if we understand kingdom culture marriage and Family, we will portray Yeshua our Lord to the world. And that will bring the Kingdom of God on earth.

Phineas Fusire - Harare, Zimbabwe - What marriage is all about it has been quite helpful and highlighted some dark spots which I was taking for granted in marriage. It has helped me in that they were some small issues I took for granted in marriage which turned to be unwanted in kingdom marriage. It's important so that our marriages will be totally guided by Elohim and be a blessing.

Patience Weyimi-Oboyo - Kildare, Rep. of Ireland - Marriage is from Elohim to exercise the dominion mandate of humankind. Not everyone is created to marry, marriage is not a partnership for purpose of meeting pressing needs. Elohim is the author of marriage because He is love, as couples and family we also have to walk in love and take on the qualities of Charity in 1 Corinthians 13. It is important to understand Kingdom Culture Marriage & Family because Elohim makes them one in Him and each other, He releases blessings and those who walk in it received.

Victor Oduko - Benin, Ireland - Kingdom Culture in marriage is an exposition of Yeshua in the Institution of marriage. Marriage was first constituted by Elohim in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve to be bone

and bone and flesh of flesh spiritually. The relationship with God is most essential in marriage. Relationship with God is obedience to His words. Not all are called to marriage. The kingdom culture in marriage was also defined by Paul the Apostle. He wrote the mind of Elohim as how and what marriage should be. The course dealt with What to do before marriage consent, preparation, Church, family, and counselors. It is a lesson that both singles and intended couples and married couples should know about. The course has widened my knowledge in the biblical understanding of biblical law of marriage. God does not intend for divorce. Some people may not marry due to their duty to the Lord. Separation can be done when there is an extent of killing, fighting and habitual violent and infidelity. It is important to understand Kingdom Culture Marriage and Family as a standard to Christian who want to follow Elohim precepts and aim of the Institution in marriage for Elohim and His Kingdom to perform His multiplication of being in the world. The way it should be spiritually, holistically, economically, psychologically and with all its hegemony. God bless our marriage and family IJN Amen.

Telitha Courmier - Texas USA - Course 124 Kingdom Culture in marriage and family is an in-depth study of What a kingdom marriage is and how it should function organically by way of Elohim when each party does their part to fulfill the Lord's commandment to love one another. This course also speaks on the "what Not to do's" and "being single is actually not a bad or cursed thing". The greatest commandment of Love one another, Charity Love in action is the ultimate way to create an organically blissful home and marriage situation. When doing anything in marriage beyond acting out in love to your spouse you are walking in sin, which jeopardizes both parties to go before the judgement seat. Divorce- is not ok in the eyes of Elohim, He despises the putting away of a spouse, when 2 become 1, there is not separating that in His eyes, it's hard to think about the subject of divorce without the playdough analogy now. Short version... when you mix 2 colors of playdough, and then separate them you still have a remnant of both colors on the other. Separation- is allowed when going through the church to guide the process and should be for a certain amount of time for the spouse who needs help, or inner healing to do the work to receive it. Meanwhile the other spouse is to pray vigilantly in spiritual warfare for his or her spouse. After the allotted time, both parties should come back together to try and reconcile Re-marriage- the only effective grounds for a person to remarry is if a spouse passes on. Even then there needs to be at least a years' worth of time for healing and grieving to take place not just for the spouse left on earth but also family, friends and especially children. We are not owners of our children but stewards of them. We must allow Elohim's will and calling to come upon their lives so they can fulfill their destinies He has for them on

earth. It is not wise to hinder their destinies for we will face the judgement seat if so. Without this understanding there can be continued confusion within the church leading to the world being confused with what they see outside the church buildings. This confusion can lead to the church being called hypocrites, and there will be no desire for those outside the kingdom to seek salvation for they would not see a difference in kingdom marriages and families. Beyond what the world sees, how about what Elohim sees? If we are not seeking to be charitable to our spouses and children, we are living in sin, meaning future judgement.

Moses Mutale - Kabwe, Zambia - This course has come as a guide to my way with Elohim even in the ministry called marriage because have come to know that there is more to it and less to selfishness. This course has extended my understanding that marriage is more spiritual than physical. Marriage is a binding union of 2 who become one [the couple] Role of the husband is to love, provide and dwell with the wife. Role of the wife is to submit, honor her husband with her heart. Role of children is to respect honor and always be the students of the things their parents are teaching them. Divorce can only happen when the two meaning the couple are failing to reconcile or when they is no love between them anymore and for this same reason when the two divorced they do need to re-marry, and in the same way divorce can only be granted on the ground of fornication or adultery. Separation can be done only when the couple and not getting in the same understanding of things and this stands as process of helping the couple to come back with clear understanding of each other, and during the period of separation both are not allowed to marry or commit sexual sins. Re-marriage is only permitted under the following circumstances, which is death of spouse, when one of the couple is irredeemably with immoral living, and when the unbelieving spouse rejects to have faith in Yeshua. Parenting involves both husband and wife meaning thy are the key or role model of which their children get what they will be after they left their parents' home so as far as Elohim is concerned parents has the same responsibility of raising their children and both are the custodians of parenting. This course is very important that we as families we understand so-that we avoid failing into the traps that Satan has set in marriage and on the other way it is important that we live in understanding of this course so that our families and marriages has order and unity.

Nancy Mugabe - Harare, Zimbabwe - Marriage is the highest expression of unity in the earth realm. Course 124 helped discard and reshape my notions of marriage. Marriage is where we submit ourselves as clay to be remoulded. The course encouraged us to embrace the Devine process which can turn marriage from a painful experience to a joyful one, trusting Elohim through the journey. Allowing the Holy Spirit, The Blood if Jesus, Passed

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experience and The Word as instruments of transformation. The course explained how Apostle Paul the Master Builder pronounced marriage. Clearing certain practical issues. The union of marriage is glued together by love only, therefore both people should first be true kingdom citizens. Following biblical roles for husbands, wives and children and being aware of the little foxes which spoil the marriage vine. In the case of divorce or remarrying the course clearly stated how and what should be done following biblical principles. The blessings that parents in Kingdom culture marriage were explained. Parents should be good models of Kingdom culture marriage as they are their children's examples of marriage. From puberty children should be taught about marriage. Children preparing for marriage should avoid worldly courtship and follow Kingdom culture. Both girls and boys should be equipped with certain abilities early. Girls need cooking skills; boys also learn to cook as insurance policy. Congregations should have marriage committees. The three weddings were explained traditional, registry and church. Once in marriage caterpillars that destroy marriage should be avoided. Key pillars of Kingdom culture marriage should be practiced. When the Devine purpose of marriage is ignored, it can lead to temporal or eternal damnation and if followed eternal bliss. When the couple gets it right, they secure a blissful, enjoyable experience whereas dysfunction in marriage and family can be deadly. This course had extended my understanding of biblical law if marriage by expanding on the plan laid out by Jesus and Apostle Paul the Master Builder if the church. It is important to understand Kingdom culture marriage and family because it is the highest expression of unity. It is embracing the Devine process of Elohim to present us in radiant glory as the show piece of His creative work.

COURSE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. True or False: Not everyone is created to marry
 True True
2. True or False: Marriage is not a partnership for purpose of meeting some pressing needs
 True True
3. Which of the following is not one of the four benchmarks for confirming the choice of a suitor?
 Righteousness
 Peace
 Grace
 Joy
 Love
4. Which of the following is not a commitment both husband and wife are commanded to submit to each other?
 Allow third parties in the marriage
 Teach and exhort each other
 Respect, honor and celebrate each other
5. Under what circumstance is divorce allowed?
6. Select one of the following conditions which may occasion separation and explain the biblical terms of the separation:
 - a. Domestic violence and abuse,
 - b. Threat to life,
 - c. Threat to mental and emotional stability,
 - d. Habitual Infidelity
 - e. Consistent perversion which defiles the conscience
7. Please explain the three spiritual grounds for re-marriage
8. True or False: It is ok for saints to engage in sex before Church marriage?
 True True

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9. True or False: Elohim alone is the matchmaker
 True True
10. It is ok for Christian widows and widowers to engage in which of the following:
 Annual remembrance of the departed
 To hope and mourn ceaselessly for the dead
 Swearing and oath of perpetual fealty to the marriage covenant which was broken at death
 To wait for children to reach a certain age before remarriage
11. Which is a little fox that would indicate dysfunction in marriage
 A man is able and willing to provide for his wife and children
 A man who compares his wife to other women
 A woman who does not consult parents or sibling about home issues
 A woman who does not attempt to manipulate and control the will of the husband
12. True or false: The one seeking divorce must understand that re-marriage is permitted
 True True
13. Explain why Repentance and Restitution are important
14. Which of the following is not a kingdom culture perspective of children?
 Children are part of the marriage rather than fruit of the marriage
 Children are a blessing from the Lord
 Parents are stewards not owners of the children
15. Which of the following is a key principle in parenting?
 The parenting process begins after the child reaches a certain age
 Beating or railing your children into submission
16. Explain the responsibilities children have
17. Elohim used Paul to establish the reality that the woman is of the man and should be under his authority. Summarize what this means using scripture reference to support your response
18. Which is not a little fox that destroys the vine of Parent-Children relationships

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- Provoking children to wrath
 - Comparing children with themselves
 - Cursing children
 - Being circumspect when making verbal declarations over children
19. True or False: Love and Unity are of great price in building a healthy Christian family
 True True
20. True or False: Parents should demonstrate Christlikeness to their children
 True True
21. Which of the following is not a responsibility of children?
 Open to works of grace
 Disobedience
 Submission
22. Explain how saints should proceed with the Marriage process from a Kingdom perspective and what should be avoided?
23. Briefly summarize the three weddings

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

If you would like to be part of the elect who Elohim will use to impact and transform the Church world-wide with this revelation, there are various ways you can be involved, depending on your skills:

- i. Promote these revelations to the wider Body through electronic or print means or via Facebook and other Social Media platforms.
- ii. Be part of those who will use revelation in this course to train other leaders and saints within your loop of Kingdom influence – on and off Facebook
- iii. You have the skills/capacity to edit or proofread these materials
- iv. You can support in any other way: Financially or otherwise. Please send a note to: visionarymail7@gmail.com

MASTERCLASS CURRICULUM

The curriculum includes 41 modules and is divided into five courses consisting of basic and advanced courses. The basic courses are foundational Christian doctrines and beliefs, based entirely and completely on the bible as well as practical principles and practices concerning Ministry and how to fulfil same.

Course 1. Systematic, Applied Kingdom Theology (Study of the Godhead) - 4 Modules

Module 1. Course 100: Constitution of the Kingdom

Module 2. Course 101: Understanding Elohim

Module 3. Course 102: Understanding Yeshua Ha Maschiach

Module 4. Course 103: Holy Spirit: Who He Is and What He does

Course 2: Systematic Applied Kingdom Culture (Identity and Life of Saints as Kingdom Citizens) - 9 Modules

Module 1: Course 104: The 16 Fundamental Glorious Truths

Module 2: Course 105: The 9 Fundamental C` s

Module 3: The Ultimate Three: Faith, Hope and Charity

Module 4: Course 107: Grace

Module 5: Course 113: Spiritual Gifts: What, Why, How.

Module 6: Course 120: Personal Spiritual Growth and Maturity

Module 7: Course 136: Divine Perspective of Purpose

Module 8: Course 138: Legacies of Yeshua

Module 9: Course 124: Kingdom Culture in Marriage

Course 3: Systematic Applied Kingdom Leadership Studies - 9 Modules (Leadership in the Church from Kingdom Perspectives)

Module 1: Course 108: The Church

Module 2: Course 109: Kingdom Oriented Church Growth

Module 3: Course 110: The Church of His Vision

Module 4: Course 111: The Kingdom of Elohim

Module 5: Course 114: Leadership in the Household of Faith

Module 6: Course 115: Authority

Module 7: Course 117: Ministerial Ethics

Module 8: Course 135: Priesthood and the Kingdom Church

Module 9: Course 140: Strategic Kingdom Leadership

Course 4: Systematic Applied Kingdom Assignment and Ministry - 7 Modules

- Module 1: Course 116: The Great Commission
- Module 2: Course 118: The Call, Cost and Rewards of Discipleship
- Module 3: Course 119: Ministry: Discover, Pursue and Fulfilling
- Module 4: Course 112: The Fivefold: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers
- Module 5: Course 121: Market Place Ministry
- Module 6: Course 122: Women in Ministry
- Module 7: Course 123: Rewards of the Faithful

Course 5: Systematic Applied Kingdom Dominion Mandate - 7 Modules

- Module 1: Course 125: Kingdom Finances and Stewardship
- Module 2: Course 127: Signs, Wonders and the Miraculous
- Module 3: Course 128: Understanding the Human Nature
- Module 4: Course 129: Critical Adversaries
- Module 5: Course 130: Prayer, Fasting & Spiritual Warfare
- Module 6: Course 134: Apostasies, Heresies, Errors, and the Pseudo-Gospel
- Module 7: Course 125: Finances and Stewardship in Elohim's House

Course 6: Systematic Applied Kingdom Eschatological Studies - 5 Modules

- Module 1: Course 131: Dispensations, Seasons and Times
- Module 2: Course 141: Understanding the End Times
- Module 3: Course 137: 7 Letters from Heaven
- Module 4: Course 143: Apocalypse Decoded
- Module 5: Course 139: Completing the Unfinished Reformation

The curriculum is released free of charge to saints worldwide who are willing to utilise the courses to empower other saints by training them to function as the Royal Priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek. In some parts of the world, Bible Schools have requested and received the curriculum which they use for training. A great company of saints have been trained and ordained through the process worldwide and serve as mentors to saints participating in the Master Class

MASTERCLASS MENTORS

Apostle Kolade Akin – United Kingdom
Deacon Eddie Gaston –Michigan USA
Pastor Barbara Gaston – Michigan USA
Apostle Brenda Jamison –Pennsylvania USA
Apostle Dr. Katherine Jones –California USA
Minister Taylor McCarty – Texas USA
Minister Jacqueline McCarty – Texas USA
Minister Brittney McCarty – Texas USA
Apostle Anthonette Morehead – Arizona USA
Apostle Jerry Okojie – Ireland
Minister Ann Watson –Maryland USA
Minister Tavon Green –Texas USA
Jackson Gabriel-chiloh - Nigeria
Pastor Dan Tlhabane - South Africa
Chewe Mulenga Musandu –Zimbabwe
Evangelist Karene Chingwanangwana - Zimbabwe
Minister Benedicte Musanga Mulyangote –Botswana
Evangelist Helen Nnenne Anyadike –Nigeria
Apostle Jacky Hughes – United Kingdom
Olufunke Aliu – London, United Kingdom
Pastor Olabisi Ogunsakin –Ireland
Minister Mario Sandoval –Texas USA
Minister Susan DeRiso –Texas USA
Minister Michelle Wilson –Pennsylvania USA
Pastor Godfrey Maenzanise - Zimbabwe
Pastor Mollie Maenzanise - Zimbabwe
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OTHER BOOK BY APOSTLE GEORGE

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 Women in Ministry
 Rewards of the Faithful
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 Doctrines of the Bible
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The 6 Fundamental C's: response of the Truly Redeemed
 Apostasies, Heresies, Errors, and the Pseudo-Gospel
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 Grace: Basis of Kingdom Life and Ministry
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 Kingdom Finances and Stewardship
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7 Letters from Heaven: Interim Assessment
 Strategic Kingdom Leadership
 Divine Perspective of Purpose
 Prayer & Spiritual Warfare
 All that Yeshua Jesus Said and Did
 Kingdom Oriented Church Growth
 Constitution of the Kingdom

Most books on marriage and family tend to take sides in the culture wars between the Right and Left of Religion and human ideologies. Invariably, there is always a tendency to back the pro-male or pro-female narrative. This groundbreaking study takes a different approach by staying on the narrow way of fidelity to the spirit and letters of the Word which is Constitution of the Kingdom. Kingdom Culture in Marriage and family examines the oldest institution which Elohim our God gave to human beings right at the beginning in Genesis as expressed in these two passages:

Genesis 1:26-28 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ 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 2:18-21 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; ²² And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.²³ 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. ²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Read on to understand Marriage and Family from a Kingdom rather than humanistic or religious perspectives. You will surely be glad you did!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Apostle George and Pastor Grace Akalonu are products of the Grace, Mercy and Favour of Elohim. Divine election enabled them to be His vessels of honour for downloading high quality resources which ministries and ministers worldwide are using to empower multitudes for ministry.

The Teach, Train, Equip, Activate and Release paradigm of ministry training they developed called Global School of Ministry is a curriculum freely available to all saints at www.kingdombooksclub.com and www.gsomonline.org. They are visionaries of International Ministers Fellowship, the Global Advanced Mentorship Program, Global Missions Board and the Global Prayer and Spiritual Cabinet. The videos of this teaching are among over 1,200 free videos at the True Kingdom Live Channel on YouTube.

They live in Hornchurch, London, United Kingdom with their children, Favour, Elect, Arise, Praise and Destiny

KINGDOM CULTURE IN

Marriage
AND
Family