

CHRISTIAN

YOUTH AND

MARRIAGE

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- Some facts about the Youth
- Basic problems of Youth
- Basic facts about marriage
- Purpose of marriage
- Biblical view of marriage
- Some system of marriage
- And lots more

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CHRISTIAN YOUTH AND MARRIAGE

According to Rev. S. G. Nwani, life is said to be measured by time and is divided into three stages namely:

- A. Yesterday – Infancy
- B. Today – Youth
- C. Tomorrow – Old age

One of the facts about life is that, there is nothing one can do about the yesterday. In human stages of life, youth is very important. It is said to be “a period of extremes, if not checked” (Nwani) and also action period. “It is good for a man to bear the yokes in his youth” Lam. 3:27 (NKJV).

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE YOUTH

- A. It is a tempting period of life
- B. It is a period when sex curiosity (desire) is said to be always at its zenith
 - 1. Boys and girls are always inquisitive to know more about each other
 - 2. The sexual organs starts to develop including:
 - (a) Development of breast and the enlargement of hips by girls

- (b) Change in voice and growing of beards by boys
 - (c) Growing of armpit and pubic hairs by both
3. At this period girls start to experience menstruation while boys often experience wet dreams or involuntary discharge of sperm while sleeping
- (a) The urge for sexual relationship continues to grow
 - (b) It can lead to awful abuse of God's given gift - **Eccl. 11:9**
- C. At Youth, one gives his or her life to righteousness at any height.
- "Remember now your creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult day come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them' – Eccl 12:1 (NKJV).

THE THREE BASIC PROBLEMS OF YOUTH

- A. The problem of destiny – Eccl 12:1; 1 Cor. 7:32-34
- B. The problem of career: the more money one make and qualification, the more attractive he or she becomes.
 - 1. Money commands respect and dignity
 - 2. Position can raise and also reduce somebody

For example:

- (a) A man to a woman and woman to man
- (b) A man to a woman

C. The problem of opposite sex – Rom. 12:1-2; II Tim. 2:22

- 1. The devil will not tell you the truth about sexual sin
- 2. Learn to watch where you put your hands
- 3. Physical familiarity must be strictly controlled; otherwise it will control you.

SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT MARRIAGE

A. Definition

1. By Oxford Dictionary

“A legal union between a man and a woman as husband and wife”

2. By Don Odunze

“God premeditated and calculated institution, designed to form a permanent union between one man and one woman as husband and wife”

3. By some people

“Life agreement between a man and a woman”

4. By Nwani, S. G.

“God’s ordained institution designed to form a permanent union between a man and a woman as husband and wife for life”

PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE

1. Companionship – Gen. 2:8; 20,23
2. Sexual relationship – Gen. 2:25, 1 Cor. 7:9
- 3.** Procreation – Gen. 1:28

BIBLICAL VIEW ABOUT MARRIAGE

- A. Marriage is good – Prov. 18:22
- B. Marriage is honorable – Heb. 13:4
- C. Marriage is joyful – Prov. 5:18

SOME SYSTEMS OF MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

A. Man-made

1. Polygamy and Polyandry:

Marrying more than one wife at the same time and marrying more than one husband at the same time respectively Gen. 4:19, 23, 24; Gen. 16: -6; Deut. 17:17; 1 Kings 11:1-3

2. Liverate:

This is considered as a widow inheritance marriage. This happens when a man marries a widow of his dead brother; children raised belong to the dead.

3. Sororate:

Here a widower marries the sister of his late wife to maintain the relationship; in some cases no new price is needed.

4. Post Humous/Ghost

Here the family marries for the brother and a substitute husband is given to raise children for the dead.

5. Co-habitation

Here an unmarried couple live together in temporary alliances or agreement. A partner is free to make change when he/she wishes. Children raised are jointly cared for or singly by one of them

6. God's Ordained - Monogamy – Gen. 1:17, 5:2; Mk. 10:6-8

These are not all the systems.

- (a) Some gifts are deadly and deceitful
- (b) Some promises are illusive and masked
- (c) After the premarital sexual relationship you will never have respect again even before their family

Note:

Avoid illicit dressing otherwise you will be pursued by wayward boys like flies following dead-bodies; be warned!

B. SOCIALLY – Gen 24:15-23

- 1. Be loving and friendly to the kind of people
- 2. Build a good public image where ever you are.
 - (a) Be sincere to yourself and others
 - (b) Be humble, respectful and cheerful
 - (c) Be hardworking wherever you find yourself
- 3. Have a rapport with people right from your very family

C. Spiritually

1. New birth
2. Have prayer partners and be prayerful
3. Study your bible always for God's guidance
4. Maintain good relationship with God so as to know when he speaks.

D. Economically

1. Prepare yourself financially. Do not rush into it.
2. Marriage requires money.
3. Do not engage yourself in faith without work.
4. Get something doing.

THE WILL OF GOD IN THE CHOICE OF MARRIAGE PARTNER

“Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtained favour from the Lord” Prov. 19:22

A. The two type of God's will

1. The will of man
2. The will of God
 - (a) Permissive will
 - (b) Perfect will

B. How to determine the will of God. Here, spiritual maturity and the knowledge of the scripture are seriously involved.

1. Through the Bible – Ps. 119: 105
2. Through dreams and visions: Any dream and vision that contradicts the Bible is not from God, therefore beware of dreams and visions.
3. Through Prophecy: like no. 2 above also be careful
4. Through signs.
5. Through circumstances.
6. Through matured Christians
 - (a) Pastors
 - (b) Elders
 - (c) Any true mature child of God
7. Through inner being
 - (a) Special love for one another – the kind that cannot be shared with another (unconditional)
 - (b) Special joy and happiness
8. Through combination of methods – Gen. 24:11-14

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A MARRIAGE PARTNER

A. Spiritually

1. Seek divine (God) guidance – Ps. 37:3-5,7

2. Look for some spiritual qualities – II Cor. 6:14-16
 - (a) New birth
 - (b) Spiritual fruits – Gal. 5:21-23

SOME OF THE BASIC REASONS WHY SOME RUSH INTO MARRIAGE

- A. Imitation of peers
- B. The need of independence
- C. To fulfill parents wish
- D. One's faith
- E. Social standard
- F. Biological needs
- G. Alleviation from problems

HOW TO PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE

- A. Mentally – Ps. 1:1-3. Attend seminars and workshops on marriage counseling.
- B. Physically
 1. Take care of yourself (Your body). Do not make yourself look shabby but avoid fashion craziness
 2. Always keep yourself and environment clean
 3. Always make yourself attractive. Dirtiness kills beauty and handsomeness

4. Do not make yourself public toilet – keep and maintain your virginity – 1Cor. 6:8-25

C. Naturally/Physically

1. Personality – Temperament
2. Character and habits
3. Compatibility – Amos 3:3
4. Age differences
 - (a) Always attracts contempt, insult, etc
 - (b) Sometimes stop the marriage half-way
 - (c) Consider menopaus age, etc
5. Educational background
6. Mutual attraction and admiration. Everybody created by God is well built and designed: no one is ugly because one who is ugly to A & B may be beautiful or handsome in the sight of C & D
7. Family background: let us take our mind back to our fore-fathers

ENGAGEMENT PERIOD IN MARRIAGE

This is an agreement made by a boy and a girl promising to marry each other.

A. The method and approach

B. This is a very tempting and dangerous period

C. What to avoid during engagement

1. Prolonged and too early engagement
2. Engagement pitfalls
 - (a) Pre-marital sex
 - (b) Multiple engagement
 - (c) Secret engagement
 - (d) Breaking engagement. This is always painful; therefore one should be careful before entering into it.

WEDDING

A. Types Of Wedding

1. Traditional Wedding. This is done in accordance with the tradition of the people. It herald the end or conclusion of the traditional right and it is very important in Africa
2. Court Wedding: The wedding is conducted in a court just as the name implies and is according to the law of the land.
3. Church Wedding: this is done in the church. It is sacred and in accordance with then Christian faith. it is classified into:
 1. Simple
 2. Moderate

3. Societal –high class from the tradition to the reception after the church ceremony or service

B. The best wedding – Jn. 2:1-11

1. God-centered
2. Devoid of Ostentation
3. A well organized
4. A wedding that ended well

The best marriage and wedding ends well, bring glory to God and make families proud

- A. Are you set to marry?
- B. Whom will you be married to?
- C. What is your preparation?

I wish you success, I wish you a happy marriage, and I wish you a right choice.

God Bless You