



DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

34 LAWS OF COURTSHIP

Over 100 QUESTIONS YOU MUST ANSWER
JUST BEFORE YOU SAY “I DO”

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DR. DANIEL OLUKOYA

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All scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.

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LOVE YOU!*



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preface

Marriage is a lifetime covenant and as such, should not be handled casually. It is a very serious matter and should be treated as such.

-- DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

COURTSHIP IS THE JOURNEY from the decision to the marry to the formal acceptance to marry at the altar. It contains the last major steps to be taken before the solemnization in holy matrimony and it determines a lot in how the marriage will go.

It is unfortunate that these days, some people have come out to discountenance courtship. They say there is no need for it and that you can go ahead and marry without courtship. While indeed you can if you choose to, doing so will amount to erecting a building without a foundation. A good home is built on a good marriage and courtship is the foundation for marriage. Anything you do during courtship will determine how your marriage will play out.

This manual reveals the important principles you need to know so as to enable you implement them during courtship. It reminds you of the hard facts about marriage which is your destination. And most importantly, it teaches you the laws you need to follow so as to have a successful courtship.

A number of men and women have bungled their relationships due to ignorance about what courtship entails. It is said that every man's mountain is his mountain of ignorance. Once you damage your ignorance, every mountain before you will become a level ground.

There are a lot of vital questions that need to be asked before you get married. You need to ask yourself some of these questions about your partner and some you have to ask him/her directly. There are certain things you need to deduce and observe before going into marriage. A lot of people, when they are courting these days, do not even bother to ask themselves questions or discuss to know each other better. It is very sad that many just jump into bed with each other, thinking that it is the way to know your partner. But that kind of knowledge, according to God, is meant for after the wedding and not before.

I have therefore taken time to compile a checklist of over 100 questions to ask before finally agreeing to get married. It is very important that you answer these questions before getting married. Courtship takes time because you definitely cannot answer all these in your relationship in one day. These are the important things that you must discover and know before going into marriage.

Marriage is a lifetime covenant and as such, should not be handled casually. It is a very serious matter and should be treated as such. If you handle your courtship carelessly and feel that these things do not matter, you may find yourself staring at a letter called divorce after marriage, which I can assure you, is not a palatable experience. I pray that this will not be your portion in the name of Jesus (Amen).

As you read on, heaven will open your eyes to see those things that you need to see to enable you make the right decision, in the name of Jesus. I decree upon your life that you will not miss it in marriage, in Jesus name (Amen).

Dr. D. K. Olukoya

Chapter 1

COURTSHIP IS A NECESSITY

Courtship given you insight into your partner's values and an understanding of his/her own perspective on life.



Chapter 1

Courtship is a Necessity

EVERY STRUCTURE THAT WILL STAND must have a strong foundation. A home can be compared to a building just like a man's life can also be mirrored as a building as seen in the Scriptures below.

Proverbs 24:3-4 "Through wisdom is a house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all pleasant and precious riches."

Proverbs 14:1 "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."

Matthew 7:24-25 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods come, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

In the same manner, marriage can be compared to a building which ensconces the home. For you to have a successful marriage, you need wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

Alongside prayer, courtship serves as the foundation to marriage. Before you can go ahead and conduct a wedding which marks the beginning of marriage, you must first of all undergo the process called courtship. It's almost the most important journey people take before entering into matrimony proper.

***COURTSHIP IS THE PERIOD BETWEEN
AGREEMENT TO MARRY AND THE***

WEDDING.

It begins at the time a man makes a marriage proposal to a woman and the woman accepts the proposal. It starts at the acceptance of the marriage proposal and ends on the wedding day. That is, courtship is the gap between "Yes, I will do" that you say to the man and then the "Yes, I do" that you come to say either/both in church and/or in court. The purpose of courtship is to allow two intending partners to get to have a basic proper understanding of one each before going into marriage. It is a time that helps the couple to determine how compatible they are with each other. This period enables both partners to understand each other's nuances, foibles and scruples. It gives you insight into your partner's values and an understanding of his/her own perspective on life.

Courtship is important because it lays the foundation for a good marriage. Joseph and Mary, the mother of Jesus courted.

like 1:26-27"And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

At the time the birth of Jesus was prophesied, Joseph and Mary had been engaged but not married. They were thus in the process of courtship.

Couples in the Bible who did not undergo courtship eventually had marital problems. For example. Isaac found Rebecca when the servant brought Rebecca home. One problem with that relationship was that there was no courtship. Even though the choice of Rebecca was brokered with angelic assistance, it did not prevent problems from later arising. Because there was no courtship, this couple really did not understand each other very well. And they divided the family into two. The mother preferred Jacob while the father preferred Esau and there was a lot of trouble as a result. Take note that the fact that you have heard God clearly and you are sure that a particular person is your divinely ordained spouse does not take away the need for courtship. You will still need to take time to build understanding between yourselves.

The purpose of courtship is to allow two intending partners to get to have a basic proper understanding of one each before going into marriage.

Somebody in the Bible that sometimes when I read about him is strange to me, sometimes it's even hard to understand what is wrong with the man was Samson. It is hard to understand what really went wrong with him. His birth was prophesied by an angel of the Lord and he was a Nazirite, dedicated to the Lord. Yet he lived his life as if he did not understand the purpose of God for himself. He behaved as a man with no sense of destiny. Delilah was not the first woman that Samson had, she was number three. He did not take any time to pray before jumping into relationships. He even went to the Philistines to take a wife, after the Lord had banned the Israelites from taking wives from foreign nations. He took the first one, went to a prostitute; the man was just playing around and doing all kinds of things which eventually destroyed him.

The same thing went for Solomon. Solomon did not do any courtship with anybody. He would have spent the rest of his days doing the courtship because there were a thousand courtships to do. But the first wife of Solomon was an Egyptian. If the foundation of his marriage was in Egypt, then don't be surprised that he went from one to a thousand wives later. He accumulated wives as if they were treasures. The preponderance of foreign wives in his house eventually drew his heart away from God in his old age.

If you take a look at Moses in the Bible, you will never see where he had a discussion with his wife. The first time we read about Moses and his wife, they were fighting. That man would have been greater and perhaps he would not have gone the way he went if his wife had been okay. If you are a minister of God, it is extremely critical that you marry the right woman. So if you know you have the call of God upon your life and you are reading this book and you are still single, I strongly advise that you take this message to heart because if you marry a fire extinguisher, just forget about ministry. Your wife will either help to grow or kill your ministry. Moses' ministry would have been a lot better. This is why courtship is non-negotiable.

We are talking about the fact that you have prayed, you know where you are going and you are following it. Men and women who have made impact were those who knew where they were going and followed it. It is of extremely high importance that you understand that destiny comes before partner. You must know the purpose of God for your life before you begin to pray for a partner. This is because your partner is meant to support you in your drive to actualise your God-given destiny. It has been rightly said that marriage is where destinies cross paths. That is why marriage should not be treated as if you are playing a game of Russian roulette. Marriage is too sensitive to be handled as a gamble. You should not use the trial and error method in selecting, nor the random '*sampling*' they do these days. Sampling is a slang that has become common in Nigeria and it means to sleep with a woman/man or different women/men while dating or courting in order to appraise her/his sexual performance, and as a result determine if she/he is fit for a wife or not.

...if you know you have the call of God upon your life ...and you art still single, I strongly advise that you take this message to heart because if you marry a fire extinguisher, just forget about ministry. Your wife will either help to grow or kill your ministry.

It is appalling the rate at which sampling is becoming acceptable as a viable method of choosing a life partner. Men, and even women, now feel that it is compulsory for them to go to bed with a prospective partner before determining if he/she is suitable for them. If you are a university student and in your campus, you sample somebody from one hall, you sample from another hall, you sample from one department and you keep on sampling. By the time you finish sampling, you won't know that you are the one being sampled. You may think you are having fun, that you are smart or you are a good 'player' but by the time the chickens begin to come home to roost, you will bite your fingers in regret.

Proverbs 5:7-14 "Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way from her, and tarry not nigh the door of her house: lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; and thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy

body are consumed, and say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!"

When I was a visiting lecturer, an external examiner in the university; I went to the University of Benin as an external examiner. When I got there, a professor came to welcome me. The professor looked after me very well and was very friendly. He then took me to the university guest house. As he was checking me into my room, he looked back and said,

"Dr. Olukoya?" I said "Yes?" He asked, "Do you need a spare tyre?" I didn't understand. I said, "Prof, but my vehicle has a spare tyre". But I noticed that my driver was laughing. He said, "No, I mean do you need a woman to stay here for the night?" I said, "Oh, I see. Is that what you call spare tyre?" He said, "Yes. Or do I bring you some samples so you can pick?" He added, "Okay. You don't understand. Do you need bush meat?" I asked, "Which one is bush meat?" he replied, "women too". I said, "Prof, what you don't understand is that you are the bush meat." (Bush meat normally, is used to describe animals such as rabbit, squirrel etc. which are often caught by hunters in the forest and are considered delicacies in Nigeria, thus leading to my confusion in this case, as I did not know initially that he was using it as a slang for something far more sinister).

A young man and lady wanted to marry and they started praying. Pay careful attention to this. This happened many years ago. As they were praying, one day, God opened the eyes of the lady: she saw the man going deep down into the ocean and he brought out a chain and sat down back where they were praying. The lady stopped the prayer and bluntly confronted the young man;

"I saw you in a vision; you went to the bottom of the ocean and brought out a chain".

The man became silent with apprehension, knowing that the courtship was over. He did not argue because he knew it was true. Involving God through prayer during your courtship is an indisputable fact. This lady wouldn't

have had access to this spiritual mystery that her husband to be was someone who has connections with the water spirit. This shows why it is important for you to pray before choosing and keep on praying even during courtship. Courtship is not a period for you to relax from running on your knees in prayer.

NEVER FEEL THAT YOU HAVE PRAYED ENOUGH ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP, UNTIL IT ENDS ON YOUR OWN WEDDING. YOU CAN NEVER PRAY ENOUGH, NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU DO SO.

Chapter 2

PRINCIPLES OF COURTSHIP

Courtship is a time to pray about your respective foundation, careers, ministries, finances, the future of the marriage and settle certain thing.



Chapter 2

Principles of Courtship

HAVING UNDERSTOOD THE SERIOUSNESS of courtship and how vital it is to having a successful marriage, let us now go into what the time of courtship is meant for.

Courtship is:

- . A TIME FOR YOU TO LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR YOUR MARRIAGE.** The greatest foundation you can lay for your marriage is prayer. It is a time to pray about your respective foundations, careers, ministries, finances etc. It is also a time to pray into the future of the marriage and settle certain things. You can pray about the children to be born into the marriage, pray against future home breakers or the spirit of divorce, etc.
- . A TIME OF GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER VERY WELL.** It is a period when you should take time to understand your partner by careful observation so as to understand his/her personality to prevent unnecessary friction. It is also a time to ask pertinent and relevant questions about your partner, his/her family, background, future goals, important values etc.
- . A TIME FOR SPIRITUAL FINE-TUNING.** Whatever is absent in both of your lives, spiritually, it is time for you to pursue it. It is a time for you to prayerfully seek the qualities that you need and you know are lacking. For example, if you are lacking in wisdom, you need to ask for it; otherwise, like in the Scripture we read earlier, you may end up pulling down your future home with your own hands. It is also a time to resolve issues of collective captivity. For instance, if you notice that you come from a family where marriages don't last or members of your family wait for so long

before they can have children, you better pray so that the same story does not repeat itself in your life.

. A TIME FOR EXHORTATION AND MARITAL COUNSELLING. It is like a small holiday for you to run fast and gather strength. It is so sad when you see people these days who want to get married without going through the required counselling and processes laid down by the church. For some, their partners refuse to show up for counselling claiming that they are extremely busy. It simply shows lack of understanding about the delicate nature of marriage. Many see the counselling and lectures as unnecessary protocol and some even go ahead to get married without going through them. They feel they already know what it takes to be married; hence they claim no further lectures are needed. Some even go ahead and lie to the marriage committee rather than telling the truth so that they can be properly advised. Of course, such people will definitely face the consequences of their actions. The truth is that the church is not out to hassle anyone, but rather is simply there to guide the children of God so that they do not make mistakes due to ignorance. Courtship is a period when you need to begin to study about marriage intensively, especially if you have not done so before. You should buy good books and read so as to ensure that you are properly prepared for the changes that marriage entails.

Courtship given you an insight into your partner's values and an understanding of his/her own perspective on life.

. A TIME OF PLANNING ABOUT THE FUTURE. Courtship is a time for you to share your dreams, vision and goals in life with your partner. It is a time for you to discuss your intended career path and take certain vital decisions such as how many children you want to have, how you want to bring up your children, etc. If you would like to emigrate in the future or you have the call of God upon your life, this is the time to discuss it. It may interest you to know that people have had their marriages end in divorce simply because they couldn't agree on some of these issues that may seem so minor. It is better that you discuss and agree on some of these vital issues before exchanging marriage vows. Marriage is more than a contract; it is a covenant and as such, you must be very sure about your decision before

going into it. Resolving some of these issues during courtship will prevent future crisis.

. **A TIME OF DISCOVERY.** That is, you are able to identify your common areas and your divergent areas. Maybe you come from a family where you have a particular eating pattern that differs from that of your partner. You need to find out all those things. You should know where you have common ground and where you are miles apart. This will help to reduce incidents of conflict between you.

. **A TIME OF EXAMINATION.** It is a time for you to do a thorough self introspection. You need to examine yourself and see if you are ready for marriage and its attendant responsibilities. You need to prepare yourself mentally to accommodate a partner, get ready to be a father/mother etc. It is also a time to assess your goals, dreams and vision and determine what impact raising a family will have on them. The fact is that the life of a bachelor or spinster is different from that of a husband or wife. You also need to check your resources and see if you and your partner will be able to collectively bear the responsibilities required. You need to know if you will be able to pay your bills without straining yourself financially.

. **A TIME FOR MUTUAL PRAYING.** One thing about prayer is that; the awesomeness of the power of prayer is still not clear to the modern day man. Prayer is awesome. I tell you the truth, it is actually the greatest energy on earth. And if you are a prayer warrior, there is really nothing to worry about. Jesus did not say, "*Men ought always to preach and not faint*". He didn't say, "*Men ought always to read the Bible and not faint*". He didn't say, "*Men ought always to have wisdom and not faint*" or "*Men ought always to evangelise and not faint*". He said, "***Men ought always to pray and not faint***". Prayer is the greatest power. The more you pray together during courtship, the happier your home will be. This is a vital point that is worth repeating and re-emphasizing.

. **A TIME FOR LAYING A STRONG FAMILY ALTAR.** If you take time to inquire from all those women who are married now, "*Why don't you do family prayer meeting?*" They will say, "*Daddy (referring to their husband) does not pray with anybody. He says we should pray on our own*". It did

not start that time, it has started since. That praying on, your own was there before the marriage. As stated above, you should cultivate the habit of praying together. Your family altar should be built even before you enter into the marriage.

0. A TIME TO "FIGHT". Many years ago, there used to be this anointed marriage counsellor called Walter Tropisk. He lived before this present generation. The first book on marriage was written by him in those days. If you go to Walter Tropisk and you say, *"Pastor, we want to marry. When will you be available to conduct our wedding?"* the first question Pastor Walter will ask you is, *"Have you quarrelled?"* If you reply and say, *"Pastor, we don't quarrel, we don't fight, we love each other very much"*, he will say, *"Get out of my office, go and quarrel!"* What he was trying to say is that you must demonstrate the ability to settle quarrels. If you have not successfully device a method of settling your differences while courting, it will be difficult by the time you now marry. So if you ask a couple, *"Have you ever quarrelled?"* And they say, *"No, no, no; we had never quarrelled, the love is too much"*, it is a lie. Conflicts are a part of marriage and it is good that you develop a healthy conflict resolution mechanism between yourselves before going into marriage so that you don't have a quarrel and end lip divorcing the next day simply because you don't know how to resolve your differences.

You should cultivate the habit of praying together. Your family altar should be built even before you enter into the marriage.

1. A TIME OF PREPARATION FOR THE WEDDING. Courtship is a time for you to prepare for your wedding, which is the ceremonial part of the marriage. Let me state it here that in planning a wedding, you do not need to have a very elaborate one, particularly if you cannot afford it. The level of success of a marriage is not based on the level of noise you make during the wedding. Many times, the marriages which started with the noisiest weddings often make the most noise when eventually crashing. If you take a look around, many of those celebrities' weddings that were termed *'fairytale weddings'* have collapsed spectacularly. A so-called celebrity recently had such a wedding that cost \$10m (Ten Million US Dollars), only for her to file for divorce after 72 days of marriage. It is a

sign of high level foolishness and profligacy for you to start your marital life together with your partner with a mountain of debt waiting for you. Those whom you borrowed to impress, feed and entertain would have gone back to their houses to rest while you have lost your peace because you now have to dodge your creditors. You should start cutting your coat according to your pocket, even before your wedding day. If you start marriage with the habit of borrowing, it is most likely that you will end in bankruptcy.

2. A time for preparation of the home for the marriage. This is when you should prepare to begin living together. You have to decide where you want to live, the type of apartment you want etc. and begin to make the necessary arrangements. If as a man you are still squatting, you have to get an apartment and prepare it for you and your wife. It is unseemly for you as a man to move your wife in to where you are squatting and then impregnate her in such situation.

You can see that in all the twelve I have listed, I did not include "*A time for sex*", "*A time for kissing*", and "*A time for letting your fingers miss the road; for smooching, caressing etc.*" and so on. We are talking about pure courtship, having respect for God in it. A lot of people wrongly think that courtship is a time for sex and they justify it saying, "*After all, we are getting married*". I say this without apology to anyone: sex between two engaged people is still fornication, even if the marriage is just a day away. Self control is part of the fruit of the Spirit, and as a child of God, you should be able to discipline yourself and wait.

The prevalent attitude in this age is against delayed gratification, but if you will live a holy life, you should not succumb so easily to the lust of the flesh.

Thessalonians 4:4 "*That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour, not in the lust of concupiscence even as the Gentiles which know not God; that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter.*"

Sex before marriage is one of the foundations of marital distress in the world today. It is the main factor responsible for the high rate of divorce in

the Western world today. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

GOD DOES NOT COMPROMISE WITH HIS PRINCIPLES AND CANNOT BE MODERNISED. STATED ABOVE ARE PRINCIPLES FOR PURE CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP, FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH GOD.

Chapter 3

HARD FACTS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Do not a perfect marriage or a perfect partner as you will most likely not find one. What is important is that you are working to make your marriage grow.



Chapter 3

Hard Facts About Marriage

HAVING GONE THROUGH THE PRINCIPLES of courtship, we will now examine marriage and why courtship is important in ensuring a successful marriage. Just like fingerprints, all marriages are different. The Bible says comparing themselves by themselves, they are not wise. Marriage is like tea. There are two characteristics of the tea: the *colour* and the *taste*.

Marriage, when it happens is normally very colourful but when you get inside and begin to taste, it is another thing. I want you to understand this very well. Tea can be seen and correctly identified by an observer by virtue of its colour regardless of what brand name it is. But such an observer cannot tell how the tea tastes by looking. This is why everything about marriage has to be prayerfully done and you have to use all the spiritual intelligence that the Almighty has given you. Being alone is the only part of creation that God declared is not good. After looking at everything and declaring that it was very good, it was being alone that God said was not good. Hence marriage is a peculiar blessing from the Lord.

We are now going to take a look at fourteen hard facts about marriage which you must know so as to understand the importance of courtship before going into marriage.

14 HARD FACTS ABOUT MARRIAGE

1. There is no perfect marriage. The only place to find a perfect marriage is the cemetery. As far as both partners are still living and breathing, there is no perfect marriage. Even the best of couples still quarrel and settle afterwards. That is why it is important to know each other very well. Do not

look for a perfect marriage or a perfect partner as you will most likely not find one. What is important is that you are working to make your marriage grow.

2. The family that prays together stays together. When you meet a man/woman and he/she complains anytime you talk about prayer or when you try to initiate a prayer session, he/she objects. And rather he/she prefers to use his/her hands to examine the nooks and crannies of your body to sexually arouse you, you better run because the family that prays together stays together. Know for sure that a man who does not want to pray before marriage will certainly not pray when the marriage comes. Do not think that as a wife, it is not important for your husband to know how to pray because you can and your prayers will cover him. It is important that both partners know how to pray so that they can jointly raise their prayers to heaven. The Bible says one shall chase a thousand, and two shall chase ten thousand. The two of you coming together in prayer releases tremendous power that is not available individually.

3. Disagreements can be solved without argument. This is one of the reasons why you must know the person you want to marry very well. You can discuss and then get results instead of continually arguing. Somebody has said that 'argument is a sign of ignorance; discussion is a sign of knowledge'. This is why it is important to discover and understand your partner's personality. If you have to continually argue every time an issue arises rather than discuss, such a marriage is heading for the rocks. If the marriage manages to last, there will be no peace, and eventually, no love.

4. To apologise is a sign of maturity and strength. Once you find somebody who finds it hard to say *"I am sorry"*, you better carry your Bible, your shoes and run. Or somebody who is always right. Or someone who says, *"Look here, I am older than you, therefore you cannot talk"* (that is, using age as a justification not to be opposed or contradicted) or *"I went to the University of Wisconsin and University of Toronto, therefore when people, like us with University of Cambridge and University of Toronto degrees are talking, people like you who went to just a High School should keep quiet."* (that is, claiming superiority on the basis of academic qualification and intellectual prowess). He/she then says, *"Do you*

*understand?" or "Did that enter into your thick skull?" You say, "Yes, my lord", you better run. If you marry such a man or woman, the only way there will be peace in that marriage is if you keep quiet all the time. That is, you don't contribute verbally in anything and you don't have an opinion. And a wise man once said, *"We begin to die the day we begin to keep silent about the things that matter"*. Marrying such a person is equivalent to sentencing yourself to a gradual and silent death. Inability to apologise is a very accurate indicator of pride. When someone does not feel he/she is ever wrong; when a person finds it hard to admit wrongdoing in any matter and cannot apologise; or worse still, he/she tries to make you feel guilty whereas he/she is in the wrong simply to avoid having to apologise; just thank God and run. The truth is that, marriage to such a person will not last because an issue will arise one day that will break up the marriage. And if you manage to remain together, you will always have to keep placating such a person and you will not be happy in your innermost being.*

5. Be aware that you are marrying into a family. Even if you did a secret wedding, silent wedding or even quiet wedding, the fact still remains that you are marrying into a family. A lot of the female folks need to pay attention to this. Quite a number of ladies are not interested in having anything to do with their mother-in-laws and are going about saying this openly. You may claim that your mother-in-law is a witch or an ill-behaved old woman. But one thing you should get very clear here is that suspicion is not an accurate tool in detecting witchcraft. You have to let the Holy Spirit help you to discern or reveal to you the kind of spirit that dwells in a person. Even if it has been revealed to you, the way forward is prayer, not accusation. If she is truly a witch and you are loaded with the fire of the Holy Ghost, she won't be able to come near you or do you any harm. Accusing and fighting may only help to usher you to the door out of your marriage.

You also have to learn to accept his family. It is wrong for you not to want him to help any member of his family while yours are always frequenting the house. You should learn to embrace members of his family.

6. Intelligent partners have a solid financial plan. You may not have all the money to start with but you must have a plan. It is important that you

spend considerable time thinking and planning about marriage. You need to examine your individual current income, current expenditure and check the necessity of eliminating some expenses for the other. There are some expenses that will be eliminated, such as paying one rent instead of two and those that will be created such as children's school fees. You need to consider if one party may need to go back to school; then its costs and impact on the family budget. If you don't have a balanced budget as a bachelor/spinster, you need to sit down and calculate if you will have one as a married couple. It is a fact that money is the root cause of quarrels and the leading factor in divorce for over 50% of the marriages that break up.

You may say *"The just shall live by faith"*, but in the same Bible, Jesus says, *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it, begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish, it". (Luke 14:28-30)*

So this is a very important issue. If as a bachelor, you are building a house, you need to factor in additional costs that will arise as a result of marriage and plan well so that you will be able to continue after marriage. If not, you may be unable to continue and begin to accuse your wife of being responsible for the stop of the building project. The truth is that she is not to blame, you simply failed to plan.

7. There is a strong relationship between collective captivity and marriage. By collective captivity, I mean generational problems and inherited problems. Don't deceive yourself, there is something known as *"like father, like son"* and *"like mother, like daughter"*. I prophesy upon the life of anyone reading this book, whose father or mother had marital problem and the problem wants to spread to you, that your case shall be different, in the name of Jesus. As choirboys in those days, I still feel sorry for my self whenever I remember this. Any time there was a burial, the choirboys were the ones in charge of the singing they do before the corpse will finally be covered up. We went for one of such funerals and while the pastors was delivering the eulogy of the deceased woman, he said, *"We thank God for the life of this woman who died in the Lord, when she was*

alive she had seven husbands, she had two children for the first one, three children for the second one" and they kept counting till they got to the seventh one. And the pastor said, "Don't you think she has lived a good life and has gone to heaven?" we said "Yes!!!" That was many years ago when I was a small boy. At that time, the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries had not started. Then one day in my counselling room, a woman came to see me and was complaining about marital problems; her first, second and third husbands had all left her one after the other. She kept on talking and talking, but I was looking at her because she looked so familiar. I then asked her, "What is your name? Is your mother so-and-so?" She said "Yes, do you know my mother?" I kept, quiet. Her mother was the person we went to bury and they counted seven husbands; she was already on number three! I am praying again for anyone reading this book that like father, like son problem; like mother, like daughter problem, shall be melted away by fire, in the name of Jesus. There is a strong relationship between collective captivity and marriage. This is part of why courtship is necessary so that you can ask questions. For example, if you ask, "How many wives did your father have?" He says, "27". And "How many children are in your family?" He says "92". Or "Where is your mother?" She says, "She is with the third husband". You say, "What happened? Did he pay the bride price of your mother?" She says, "Nobody paid her bride price, she just moved in." Then you know you have prayers to pray.

I handled a strange case many years back too. This woman said the man just sits at home and watches CNN. He will not do anything and does not go to work. It is only the wife that goes to work. The man does not want to work, and anytime the woman is getting ready to go to work, he would tell her, "Dear, make sure my breakfast and dinner is already in the fridge; don't worry, I will warn it myself God bless you. Greetings to your boss, bye". Then when it is getting to festive periods, he would say, "Dear, will it be nice if your husband follows you to church in a knickers and singlet?" The woman would say, "No". So, he would say, "Well, you need to buy me nice clothes then". She would get clothes for him and that is when the man would follow her to church. This woman was worried and as a result, she came for counselling. I started praying and the Lord spoke, "Son, collective captivity. Ask her how many people are married in her family." I now said,

"How many children are in your family?" She said, "We are 6 girls". I then asked, "How many of you are married?" She replied, "I am the only one". We thought the man was the problem; we didn't know that there was a collective captivity in place. I pray once again, every collective captivity assigned against your marriage shall scatter, in the name of Jesus.

8. Ensure that you establish your own private home.

Genesis 2:24 says,

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife."

It is spiritually abnormal and scripturally incongruous for you to remain in your father's house or in your mother's house and that is where you bring in your wife. It is unscriptural. You have to leave the place. Even if it is only a room you can afford and your father has a mansion, take your wife to that one room and leave that mansion. So, when you find somebody who does not want to leave his father's house and is saying, *"My sister got married here, my brother got married here, all of them are here in the family house, therefore this is where you have to be"*, it is not proper. The Bible says leave and cleave to your wife.

9. Marriages do not just happen, they must be developed. And development starts from the foundation which is courtship. A number of things that should be done have been mentioned earlier: praying together, planning, understanding each other, sharing your goals, dreams and vision and so on. Courtship is a time when both of you begin to coalesce together, so that by the time you eventually get married, you won't feel as though you have married a stranger. You have to understand though that development takes time. You must be willing to invest time in developing your marriage and the best time to start practicing it is during courtship.

10. Never go to bed while being angry with each other. Never go to bed in anger, it is a spiritual rule for unity and peace in the home. It prevents the devil from having a hold on your home. If a couple goes to bed angry with each other, the devil will be their bedfellow that night. When you quarrel as a couple and you allow it to linger, it is as if a brick has been dropped in

your middle. If you allow the quarrel to escalate, that single brick eventually becomes a brick wall. If you allow yourself to remain annoyed with your partner after a quarrel, you will begin to find fault with everything and it leads to more quarrels. Quarrels have the ability to snuff out life from a marriage if not doused on time. Before long, such a person will find that marriage devoid of love, peace and happiness and begin to think of a way out. Some people have followed this path and are now living together as cat and mouse. The marriage has collapsed but they are simply trying to hold it together for the purpose of keeping appearances. Quarrels can be very deadly if not properly handled. Be humble enough to apologise and reconcile so that your marriage continues.

11. Criticisms and nagging destroy love. So if you are always the critical type or always nagging, there will be trouble. As a man, you should learn to compliment your wife when she dresses well, cooks a good meal or does something good. If as a man, you get home from work and your wife serves you food, you taste it and spit it out because it is burnt or too salty; the truth is that you are simply not mature. Conversely for the woman, you should always learn to appreciate your husband and thank him for the things he does. It is wrong for you to be complaining if he doesn't give you up to the amount you request for and as a result, you begin to accuse him of having an affair, claiming that he is spending money on another woman elsewhere and that is the reason why he is not able to meet up. Both of you must not take the other person for granted. Many women have, with their own mouths, chased their husbands into the arms of strange women. And when the man stops sleeping at home and things begin to change, they begin to climb mountains like monkeys praying for solution. The truth is that such people don't need prayers; they need a change of character.

12. Never try to force personality change. Only God can change a person. You can't force anybody to change. Even our traditional Yoruba fathers (*the Yoruba are an ethnic group in Southwest, Nigeria*) who never read the Bible said "*It is hard to fold a dry fish*". (*Dry fish refers to fish in Nigeria preserved by drying it in the sun until the water content is down to almost zero. As a result, it loses its flexibility and breaks if you try to bend it*). It will take God to make a dry fish fold, if not it will break. Let me state this

very clearly beloved, once you are courting someone and you find certain things about him/her intolerable, irritating, absolutely disgusting and repulsive, just take time before you make any further move. What you know you cannot tolerate or accept will be difficult to change because it already irritates you. Though with gradual effort to change it, while you allow a room for it your heart, positive result can be achieved. If approached otherwise, I can guarantee you that it will simply amount to a waste of time and energy. You have to be honest with yourself and your partner. The truth is even if it seems you have gotten the person to change; still be very careful because it may simply be a show of pretence in order to get the wedding done. Once you have been joined together, the person may revert to his/her old ways and you will have to bear the brunt. You are not the potter, so do not think you have the power to reform anybody, it takes God to do that.

13. The right thing at the wrong time is still wrong. Right timing for every thing you do is another vital thing you must learn while courting in order to make your marriage a success. Plan your timing for child-bearing, project execution, etc. by this, you attain progress without stress.

14. A healthy and pure courtship is the foundation for a marriage that is heaven on earth. It is important that you keep yourselves pure in a courtship. As children of God, it is not right that you begin to sleep with each other while unmarried. This is another point that is worth repeating because so many people have missed it in marriage because of this. You have enough time when you are married to enjoy sex, so don't be in a hurry. Courtship is not a time to defile each other; rather it is a time to build each other up in righteousness.

Chapter 4

34 LAWS OF COURTSHIP

Marriage a person because of beauty or handsomeness is an act that displays immaturity and error of the highest order.



Chapter 4

34 Laws of Courtship

1

Courtship must only begin after you have discovered the will of God in marriage.

In order words, you only make your marriage proposal or accept a marriage proposal once you confirm that God has a hand in it. Asking someone out because of beauty is ungodly and dangerous. Marrying a person because of beauty or handsomeness is an act that displays immaturity and error of the highest order. The beauty which is like a newly painted house will wear off and where do you go from there? The other time I was humbled and very worried when a woman was brought to me for prayers. She ran mad at the CMS bus stop in Lagos, Nigeria in the full glare of people. But people who were intelligent managed to get hold of her and brought her to the headquarters of Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries for prayers. When I saw her, the face looked familiar. I began to ask questions. I discovered that she was a former Miss Nigeria. A former Miss Nigeria now in that state; she entered our office and wanted to urinate there. With the beauty, will any man want to marry her? No, of course not!!! So, begin courtship only after you have discovered the will of God for you in marriage.

Don't start courtship with anybody when God has not spoken. For God to speak to you, all that is required is for you to move close to Him. He says, *"If you move close to me, I will move close to you"*. The fact is that everyone in the world today is as close to God as he/she wants to be. If you want to be closer to God, after you have given your life to Him, begin to pray more, begin to read your Bible, begin to pray in the Spirit more; you

will find out that you will become more spiritual. Those who want to target high spiritual level are those who wake up in the middle of the night, pray for 30 minutes to an hour, and then go back to sleep. Such people are very strong spiritually. It may be the prompting to urinate that wakes you up; you can seize the opportunity, urinate and then begin to pray. It is important for your spiritual eyes to be open. I decree into your life right now that the power of open eyes shall come upon your life, in the name of Jesus.

2

Someone in authority over you must be aware of your courtship intention.

It could be your father, your mother, your pastor, etc.; at least, one of them must know. It shouldn't just be anybody and I am not referring to your friends here. That is, don't keep your courtship among your friends only; let these adults know about it. This is a very important point because your parents or your pastor will be more experienced than you and see things you may not be able to see. They will be able to examine your partner and test the person's genuineness and sincerity. Also, with the benefit of hindsight, they will be able to advise you when issues arise, having had the experience themselves.

When the only people who know are your friends who are probably on the Same level of maturity with you, they will not be able to guide you properly. A lot of young men and women have taken foolish advice from friends that ended their relationships. As they begin to get older and find that they are left on the shelf, they begin to regret their decisions and are willing to accept just anybody or anything. Another major benefit is that they will be able to pray along with you and confirm your partner prophetically. You are meant to hear God directly on the choice of your spouse, while those in authority over you should confirm it. That way, you will be doubly sure and reduce the propensity for error.

3

Do not do anything in the secrecy of your room or any other hidden corner.

If you are courting and you are already breaking this law, then you are looking for trouble. Most of the problems that come later during marriage are due to these laws that were broken during courtship; the consequences can be very serious. The Bible says, *"Flee from every appearance of evil"*. Don't wait for it to turn to evil before you flee. Don't seat like a dummy and somebody is going all over your body and you are saying, *"Heh, stop it; I don't like it, take away your hands from that place"*. The right thing for you to do in such a scenario is to say a bold NO, shove his hand away and take your leave. So anytime you visit, the person wants to go all over you. Or in the case of a man, a lady you are in a relationship with is telling you, *"And you call yourself a man, show it now!! Prove that you area man" (that is, requesting for sex as proof that you are not impotent)*.

Isalm 74:20 *"Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places Of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."* (Emphasis mine)

Dark corners are meeting points for children of darkness to carry out evil deeds. When the two of you go to a dark corner and you are the only ones there, the tendency that you will be tempted into sin is very high. If you visit each other, it is advisable that you have someone in the house with you to ensure that you do not start anything immoral, most especially if you feel sexually aroused whenever you are together. In the 18th century England, if a lady was to go out, she had an elderly woman who would follow her, called a chaperon, to ensure that she did not get into any improper behaviour. If you must meet in a private place, it is advisable you have someone who can play the role of a chaperon around, not a friend who would excuse you.

4

Avoid sex completely.

This includes any form of body contact that can fire up lust inside of you. Avoid it. Every sex before marriage lays a terrible foundation for the marriage that is coming. Because you are breaking the law of heaven and it makes it so difficult for you to move on. And once you begin to sleep with a woman and a woman begins to allow sex before marriage, what it does is that it would block your spiritual eyes. All the information that heaven is supposed to show you about the family you are about to enter into, about what you are going into; you will not receive it and so you begin to live in the dark. There are so many issues that can result from sex before marriage. Some men think they are smart and insist a lady must be pregnant before they can marry her and as a result, they begin to engage in continuous sex. This is a demonic wisdom and any child of God who engages in such automatically becomes a child of perdition except he repents. And even then, the consequences remain.

5

Withdraw from the relationship immediately you discover it is not God's will.

Be courageous enough to withdraw once you know it is not God's will. Don't blindly go on. Withdraw! There was a lady and man who were about to get married and were courting. Normally, the lady did not like MFM prayers. She believed that the prayers were too unkind and too wicked to pray. Anyway, one day, someone invited her to one of our services and she reluctantly followed. On that day, we were talking about "*The secrets of God*". When she got home, she began to pray, "*Father, I want to marry this man but I don't know much about him, show me the secrets of his life, of his family etc.*" She just prayed as an experiment, she was not expecting to see anything. But after she prayed, she had a dream. She saw herself and her husband-to-be at the altar. A pastor was preparing to wed them. But as she looked at the husband (*she was wearing her white flowing wedding gown and the man was dressed in a suit*), who was physically taller than her, she found out that she was marrying a pygmy. In fact, she had to be bending down to hold the hand of the man at the altar in that dream. It was still the same man with the same face, but he was now much shorter in the dream

compared to his physical height in real life. And then, she woke up. She ran quickly to me saying, *"Man of God, I had a strange dream"* and she explained to me and asked, *"What does that mean?"* Then I told her, *"That is very straightforward, the Lord is simply telling you that you are about to marry a baby"*. She still went ahead and did that wedding. As at the last time I saw her, she had lost the front teeth and the right eye, and the marriage is no more. The time she was supposed to withdraw, she went on.

6

Do not pretend in courtship.

It is important that your partner knows you for what you are. Do not claim to be the daughter of a senator when your father is a retired railway worker. Do not exalt yourself above what you are. Do not live above your means thinking that you are impressing your spouse. If you get him/her used to living a highbrow classy life, it would be hard after marriage to get him/her used to your normal hand-to-mouth life. Some men are fond of borrowing friends' cars to take their fiancées' on outings. If you don't have a car, let her get used to walking with you. Also, be truthful about your spiritual life. Do not pretend to be Brother Holiness when you are Brother Cleverly Concealed Sin Expert. If you know that you are ashamed about your spiritual level, then take time to improve on it. Don't pretend that you listen to only gospel music whereas you are a diehard fan of worldly music. All these pretences for the sake of marriage will only cause problems later, because you have painted a different picture from what you really are to your partner; and he/she will expect that picture to be consistent. But when you get married and a different picture begins to emerge, your partner will begin to feel as if he/she has married a stranger. It will be hard to rid your partner of the distrust that will subsequently emerge.

7

Live a pure and transparent life.

That is, be yourself Let your partner know the real you. Pretence is a dangerous game during courtship. For example, you go to a restaurant to eat

and your partner says, *"My dear, what will you like to eat?"* And then, you say, *Well, I like rice and meat*". So he says, *"Serve my dear rice and meat, and serve me also rice and meat"*. And they put a small portion in the plate and the man says, *"Is that okay?"* You say, *"Yes, that's fine"*, when under normal condition, that quantity that you said is alright is just enough for appetizer and is nowhere close to what you would have for the main dish. You are just pretending. So the man ends up thinking you don't eat much whereas it is a lie. When you now get married and your food forms a heap on the plate, the man becomes surprised. Pretence is dangerous; be the real you. Be truthful about your likes and dislikes. Don't think that you have to pretend because you want to get married.

8

Don't double-date.

That is, don't be involved in two relationships at a time. Some believers do and it is a dangerous game. They call it extra tyre (*comparing it to the extra tyre a vehicle has in case of a puncture*) it is not an extra tyre; it is pure destruction. Those that double-date say *"I have the main one and I have the side attraction, so that if the main one fails, I can always rush back to the side attraction"*. We don't do that as Christians. Doing so is subscribing to a demonic insurance policy and by the time you submit your claims for payment, you will receive a satanic compensation. When you are giving your partner the impression that he/she is the only one in your life, meanwhile you have another partner somewhere, you are sowing a seed of deceit and you will surely reap the fruit. Please avoid it.

Remember the word of God in ***Galatians 6:16***

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"

9

Do not begin to wear the same attire, you are not married yet.

You say, *"I saw this material and it is very fine, I bought for both of us"*. Not then, you are not married yet. God forbid, if anything goes wrong after you have been going around with your attire, people will laugh at you mockingly. It is best to maintain separate identities until you have been married. A situation where you are moving around as though you are husband and wife is not good. Let me sound a note of warning here: courtship does not automatically translate into marriage. The fact that you are courting does not mean you must get married. Certain things may occur that may lead you to rescind your proposal or acceptance. Therefore, if you are aware of this fact, you would not begin to act the couple when you are not.

10

Ladies should not turn themselves to cooks or drycleaners.

This is very common and you find quite a lot of sisters engaging in it, because they feel they need to prove that they are capable of being good wives. As a lady, someone sees you coming out from your fiancé's house and you are asked, *"What are you doing there?"* you say, *"I went to wash my fiancé's clothes"*; the question is who sent you there? Or you say *"I went to cook, he wants to know if I can cook"* you are not expected to do that. If you visit the man, you visit him as a guest and that is what you really are, you are a guest. If he visits you in your own house, you can entertain him, but don't go to his own house to cook for him. Also, avoid cooking in your own house and carrying it there as if you are a mobile caterer. God forbid, if he eats that food and trouble starts, you will be arrested for poisoning. You cheapen yourself as a woman when you begin to perform the functions of a wife to a man whom you are not married to. By the time you begin to handle his laundry and his kitchen, the next thing he would want you to service would be his bed. He should wait until you have been married before you begin to fulfil those roles.

11

You must avoid secret courtship.

Your pastor and your parents must be aware that you are into it. Any man who is serious about marrying you would not object to you telling your parents and even meet them. So also, he should tell his parents about you and take you to meet them. You are not supposed to push for this, but once you have spent quite a number of months courting and he has not done this; it shows he is not really serious about the marriage. Courtship is by no means a secret affair. Any man who is trying to tell you, *"Let's keep it secret"*, what he is trying to tell you is that he has another interest somewhere else. He keeps saying, *"Don't let them see us together"*, you are walking on dangerous ground. A serious man or woman should not be ashamed of being seen with you. If he/she is, it is an ominous Sign.

12

Never cohabit.

That is, living together before wedding. It is unholy and it annoys God. Never cohabit. You find this happening, for example, you go to a man's house early in the morning and a lady comes to open the door. You ask, *"What are you doing here?"* she says, *"We are courting"*. You ask, *"Is this where you are living now?"* she says *"It is just one week to the wedding and our parents are aware"*. As a woman, you are not meant to move into a man's house until you have been properly married to him. Cohabitation before marriage is dangerous and is a major factor in the high rate of divorce in the Western world. I pray that the Lord will help us, in Jesus name and we would not make mistakes.

13

Do not pretend in courtship.

You must be your actual self and let your partner know you as you really are. Pretence damages all forms of relationship. Let him/her know the real you and love the real you. One of the reasons why people have problems in marriage is because when they were courting, they felt they were not good

enough for their spouse, so they had to pretend. But while it is easy to pretend in courtship where you see each other and everyone goes back home; in marriage, you are in the same house. So everything is laid bare and then problems start. So be real. Do not be a fake person. Project the real you.

14

Do not neglect God in your courtship period.

The Bible says "*Do all things to the glory of God*". God must hold the centre of your courtship if you intend to build your home around Him. Whatever you cannot do at the front of the altar, where people are watching you, don't do it at all. Whatever you are doing behind closed doors must be something angels can applaud, if not, don't do it. Ensure that you do not rush so much to get married, that as a result, you end up breaking godly and divine principles. Also, do not let your Christian life suffer because you are courting. It is good to spend time with your intending spouse, but if it leads to reduced time for prayer, Bible study, evangelism etc. so much so that you no longer fast because you are always going out for one date or the other; such time spending has become excessive. You need to cut it down.

15

Avoid dishonesty in your courtship.

Whether you are a man or a woman, never ever lie because you want to preserve a relationship. It can lead to a cataclysmic disaster, if care is not taken. For example, as a lady, if your spouse asks you whether you have a child and you do, admit it to him. If you lie and say you don't and justify it because all other men you told the truth left you afterwards, and you feel that he would simply have to accept it when you get married; you may be in for the greatest shocker of your life. Building a marriage on the foundation of dishonesty is tantamount to erecting a building on sand. Such a marriage will eventually sink because there will be an irreparable breakdown of trust. Even if you don't have a womb, let him know. Our God is a God of signs and wonders and nothing is impossible for him. There have been

testimonies of sisters with out wombs giving birth to children. So, if he is truly your divinely ordained spouse, he would not leave you because of this. Be truthful and faithful.

16

Use your courtship period to carry out research into your family foundation for the purpose of rectifying any evil foundation which could ruin your marriage.

This is one area that is extremely important. Due to ignorance, a lot of people spend the time of courtship going on dates, spending time with each other, visiting relatives etc. and they spend all their time basking in the euphoria of the upcoming wedding. They do not understand the need for very high-level intensive prayers, especially in the area of foundational deliverance. If you had not done it prior to beginning courtship, then it is highly imperative that you do it during courtship. You need to spend time inspecting marriages in your family starting with your parents, your elders, cousins, grandparents and so on, checking for any negative traits. If for example, your parents' marriage ended in divorce, then you need to pray hard so that you do not continue the pattern. You need to take time to prayerfully deal with all forms of marital curses, covenants, evil patterns etc. in your family, clan, village, tribe etc. If you do not deal with them, it is sad to say they will deal with you. As a Christian, you need to learn the art of spiritual warfare. Especially if you are to succeed in this end time and also in marriage, spiritual warfare is one area where you need to practice it as a matter of necessity.

17

Attend seminars, workshops and conferences on marriage that will build your marital life.

As you take time to pray about your upcoming marriage, it is also important that you invest time into the physical aspect of your marriage. It has been said that Prayerful and Powerful Preparation Prevents Poor Performance. This is not true only in career and academics, but also in every area of life, including marriage. You have to take time to educate yourself and arm yourself with practical knowledge on marriage. The sad thing is that many couples do not prepare for marriage, rather they prepare for the wedding. They forget that the wedding is a ceremony that will last only a few hours. Marriage will last for an entire lifetime and where a wedding stops is where the marriage starts. Both spouses should judiciously use their time in courtship to educate each other. The man can go for men's only events while the lady goes for the occasions for only ladies and they can go together for those open to everyone. Most people who never bothered to educate themselves in this way, prior to marriage, ended up learning about marriage while in it, often through turbulent experiences and after a lot of mistakes. It is not smart for you to want to learn from your own mistakes when you can learn from the mistakes of others. Seminars, workshops, conferences etc. all present a viable learning opportunity and both of you should take them seriously.

18

Avoid courtship without focus.

A courtship without focus is one where you are just moving around with no tangible goal in front of you. When you, as a man propose to a lady, you should have a target date or period by which you intend to get married. And then you begin to plan accordingly with that date in sight. But a situation where you say you are courting and ten years later, you are still courting; it does not show any sign of seriousness. You must have goals and plans on how to implement them. For example, if you have a date in sight as your wedding date, then there are certain things you should start getting ready e.g. your apartment, furniture etc. To ignore all this reduces the courtship to a mere charade.

19

Do not start pecking, kissing, hugging and fondling in courtship.

Most times, these acts do not end where they start. They get to a level where they become unsatisfying; hence you begin to see the reason why you should go further there. Before you know it, sex has occurred. I am aware of hugging being a way to share greetings in the western world but I am particular about the hugs that partners indulge in which could be referred to as sexual foreplays. Foreplay precedes sexual intercourse. So if you are not planning on engaging in sexual intercourse, then DO NOT by any means engage in any of the above.

If you do and you fall into sin, you cannot then claim it was a mistake because your case is like that of someone who is dancing close to a fire and falls into it and then says it was an accident. It was not an accident because that person was aware of the danger and did not take sufficient precaution; rather he/she was taunting the danger.

You have to be very careful when it comes to things like this. They may seem so minute and inconsequential, but if you engage in them and fall into sin, you will find out that the effects are life-changing and have the potential to alter your destiny. Your partner may even be the one demanding you do it as an act of affection; however, you should wait until marriage before you begin to show such affection. The right thing at the wrong time is wrong.

20

In courtship, open your mouth for each other in communication and not your skirt or trousers.

The best way for you to get to understand each other is through proper communication via talking. It is sad however, that many people do not bother about this; rather the first thing they want to do is jump into bed with each other. The fact is that if when you get married, no matter how high your libido and sex drive are, you cannot spend more than 15% of your total

time (at a go) having sex, except there is a spiritual undertone somewhere. So if when you are courting, and you see sex as the ultimate, by the time you enter into the marriage, the remaining 85% will be spent solving problems and agonizing over the other issues you ignored in your quest to satiate your lustful desires. Courtship is an excellent period for you to practice self control. You should spend more of your time getting to understand your partner and not to x-ray his/her entire body.

21

Ensure that you honour your parents by obtaining their blessings over the courtship.

The parental blessing is very important before going into the marriage and as a result, should be gotten at the early stage of courtship. Even if both of you have prayed and are very sure about going ahead. and either of the parents says NO, it is not a recipe for rebellion. It is improper for you to begin to fight and quarrel with your parents because of this. Rather, what you should do is to pray that the Lord will touch their hearts and get them to agree as well. Do not let your case be like that of a man who, many years ago, told the marriage committee of his church that his parents were not coming for his wedding. The members of that committee, being mothers and fathers themselves, decided to investigate. They then found out from the parents that because their son did not want to heed their advice about certain things, he had told them that they should not bother coming for his wedding as he would hire people as his parents. That is an example of crass rudeness and total dishonour. The Bible admonishes all to honour their parents and it is the only commandment with a promise: the promise of long life. Ensure that you give your parents their due honour so you can receive their full blessings. When Isaac in the Bible wanted to bless Esau his son, he asked him to prepare his favourite food so that his soul could bless him. When you give your parents the full honour, you will get their full blessing.

22

Let your intended spouse see how you live and understand your correct life.

It is possible that you might not have been able to meet up with certain requirements when it comes to assets. Comparing to what your mates have acquired, you may not be qualified to speak whenever they chat. That notwithstanding, they are not yardsticks for measuring success in anything. Hence, don't camouflage, let your spouse-to-be in on how you intend to get the necessary things before your wedding. Rather than faking things up as this would certainly cause the confusion that is more than what you lack. More so, let him/her know your plans. It is important that you present yourself as you are. Some men in particular, are fond of passing off their friends' houses as theirs. They feel too ashamed to show their fiancées their own apartment. This is pure deceit. You should let your fiancée know the true state of your affairs. You should not make things that you can only afford periodically seem as though they are everyday events e.g. going to fancy restaurants, buying expensive gifts etc. Do not let the need to impress push you into deceiving your intended spouse. Your divinely ordained spouse would not leave you because you are of low means; rather, he/she will pray along with you, encourage and advise you until your means increase.

23

Lay a solid foundation in prayer during courtship period.

This is one point which cannot be overemphasized. In courtship, pray, pray, pray, pray, pray, and pray!!! If during the process of courtship, you become a prayer warrior, it is worth it. It is the time to develop your prayer muscles. It is not a time for enjoyment; rather, you should soak yourself in prayer. It is a time when your spiritual eyes should begin to see more clearly, deeper and sharper. It is a time when your spiritual ears should become more sensitive. It is a time when you should grow closer to God. It is important

that you take each other along in this. Take time to pray individually and also collectively.

24

Initiate physical and spiritual plans towards your marriage.

Courtship is the time to begin planning for your marriage as well as your wedding. If as a man for example, your wife comes from a place where the bride price is very high, you may need to begin to save and reduce your expenses so that you can meet up. If also there are requirements that you have to meet, you should envisage them, budget for them and begin to lay the money aside. This is important because nobody is forcing you to marry, so you should be prepared to meet the necessary requirements.

25

As a lady, learn to cook and do house-keeping.

It is appalling that in this era a lot of young ladies have become functionally deficient in carrying out simple house duties. So many do not know how to cook, wash or sweep. If you cannot perform simple house chores as a woman, the truth is that you are simply spoilt so you better begin to re-train yourself if you want to have a peaceful marital life. So many ladies in the name of modernity, feminism and women's liberation feel that doing housework is beyond them, and as such, they leave everything to their housemaids. The maid is the one who cooks, washes, sweeps, serves the man food, makes his coffee for him and does every single thing. Before long, the maid takes over the bed and the woman is sent packing. In Nigeria, a lot of such incidents have occurred in the past and are still occurring, where women lose their husbands to housemaids. If you are a woman and the only thing you can cook is noodles and your fiancé is the type of person that likes *eba* and *ogbono* soup (*a Nigerian delicacy*). There will be problems because he cannot change his diet overnight. You will have to take the pains to learn how to make it, especially if it is his favourite

dish. As a woman, you should be prepared to learn how to prepare your fiancé's favourite dishes if you want your marriage to last. A lot of women have lost their husbands to strange women due to their lack of culinary expertise in the dishes that matter, especially to their husbands. This is one area you need to work on during courtship as a lady, especially if you are found wanting. It is said and it is true that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. A lot of married women will tell you that some quarrels can simply be settled with food. Just prepare the man's favourite dish and apologise after he finishes eating it. You will find out that what seemed like a mountain reduces to a speck. So if you know you are lacking here, go and learn!

26

Take time to understudy a properly married couple who lives their marriage to the glory of God and with integrity.

Modelling, that is, when you take someone and begin to understudy his/her way of life, manner of speech, behaviour, character etc. with the intent of replicating same in your life has proven to be a very effective way of duplicating success. Even God Almighty recommends this method to man as the Bible states that Jesus is our pattern. So God sent Jesus to the world in flesh not only so that he could die, but so that man could observe the kingdom lifestyle being practiced in the flesh. And it was recorded for everyone to read in the Bible. The same thing also applies in the area of courtship. It is good for you to seek out a godly Christian couple in your environment, be it in the church, in your neighbourhood or workplace; and begin to understudy them. If possible, you can approach them for mentorship especially after you have scrutinized them carefully from a distance. This will help you in no small measure.

When you are travelling on an unknown road, nothing will make your journey smoother, easier and faster than having someone who has travelled on that same road as a guide with you to direct you. He/she will warn you of any pitfalls and prevent you from taking the wrong turn. This is what will

happen when you have an experienced couple to guide you. You will be well prepared to confront whatever challenges you may end up facing in marriage.

The best marriage is a growing marriage, as no marriage is without its fair share of challenges. Having an older couple to mentor you will also help to boost your confidence as the best antidote to anxiety is preparation. The reason why so many people are afraid of marriage and as a result, they hesitate to a commitment is because they don't know what to expect. This can be overcome by having a mentor couple to help you prepare.

27

Visit the hospital and carry out medical analyses.

This is another important part of the preparation towards marriage. You should go for tests to know your blood group, genotype, HIV status, fertility etc. It is pertinent that both you and your partner know your status on all these issues. For example, in the past, a lot of couples went through untold agony due to ignorance about genotype. You had two people with genotype AS (*carriers of sickle-shaped red blood cells*) getting married and they began to have children with genotype SS (*sickle cell anaemia victims*). For many of them, they went through a lot of pains to bring up these children only to have them die. Since medical science has been able to discover this, there is no need for you to suffer foolishly in the name of love.

If for example, both of you are carriers, it is better to pray until that genotype is changed before getting married. It is true that with God, all things are possible, but in this case, it is not advisable that you proceed with marriage without seeing a confirmed change in genotype. Unless God specifically assures you to go on; if not, pray until it changes, and then you can get married. So also for someone who is HIV positive. You need to ask how he/she contracted it. You need to know if it was by accident or a past reckless lifestyle. If you are still going ahead with the relationship, you must have been led by God and additionally, meet a medical practitioner for adequate advice on how to go about things. Don't allow blind love to push

you into foolishness. This will prevent you from having unnecessary headache in marriage.

28

Maximize the benefit of your courtship period by doing useful things for God within that period.

Corinthians 7:32-35 "But I would have you to be free from cares. He that is unmarried is careful for the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord: but he that is married is careful for the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and is divided. So also the woman that is unmarried and the virgin is careful for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy, both in body and in spirit. But she that is married is careful for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. And this I say for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is seemly, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction."

The period of courtship is the last time you will be single in your life and you will be able to serve God without any distraction. When you get married for example, you may not be able to leave the house for a week and go to a village for an outreach. You will be thinking about your husband/wife and children. But as a single man/woman, you still have that time. So make best use of this period to serve God with all your heart.

29

Courtship period is not for joint account or project because anything can still happen.

When you are courting, your accounts, assets and properties should remain separate. Do not begin to build a house together or invest together in a business. Wait until you are married before doing this. One thing you should have at the back of your mind during courtship is that there is still a possibility of break-up. So don't carry on as though you are already husband and wife. Thus, it is better for you as a man to treat your fiancée as your

sister and you as a woman to treat your fiancé as your brother. So in case you split later on, there will not be any form of complication to resolve. Because if for example you begin to build a house together and you split, how do you share it? This can result in problems.

30

Do not eat together.

As said above, you are not yet a couple. Do not begin to eat together. Do not go to a party and you begin to feed each other publicly, even privately. Do not request to be served in the same plate. You are not yet married so act accordingly.

31

Always commit every moment of the courtship into the bands of the Almighty God.

It is very important that you let God take total pre-eminence in your courtship. Put Him first in everything. In every step you take, as you draw closer to the wedding, put God first. Surrender everything in prayer unto God. Let God direct you in everything. Do not become over confident and think that you can do it on your own. Rely on God totally as you take the last steps on the path towards marriage.

32

Do not cover up any iniquity, believing that a change will come after marriage.

The moment you find out any sin in the life of your partner, you have a leeway to quit if you cannot stand it. If for example, you discover that your intending spouse is a fornicator, then know for sure that after marriage he/she will become an adulterer. The only thing that will change is the name appended; the act remains the same. If you cover it and think he/she will change, you are deceiving yourself So also if you discover that he/she is an

alcoholic, a drunkard, a smoker, a night crawler, a thief, a fraudster etc., it is better you end the relationship. You should thank God for revealing it to you and leave. If you decide to go ahead, then be ready to endure the pain.

33

Watch out for danger signals during your courtship period.

See the next chapter for details.

34

Ask all the right questions during courtship.

There are various questions you need to ask and also provide answers to in order to successfully make a smooth journey into a blissful home. Some of these questions demand a research-making by you to avoid errors of those that have gone ahead, etc.

Chapter 5

DANGER SIGNALS DURING COURTSHIP

If you keep on having sharp differences that cannot be reconciled...then it is dangerous to move on with such a relationship.



Chapter 5

Danger Signals During Courtship

There are warning signals that you need to look out for during courtship. There is a need to exercise caution and seriously pray in case you experience any of these signals.

- 1. Lust:** If all your partner is interested in is kissing, fondling and such, then that is a danger signal in your courtship.
- 2. Constant Argument:** If you constantly argue, separate now or live a miserable life after.
- 3. Constant Display of Anger:** The Bible says "go not in the way of the angry man..."
- 4. Loss of Peace:** If you discover this, please stop the relationship immediately. You should not continue in a relationship when there is constant turmoil.
- 5. Affection famine:** When you find out that your intending spouse does not show any form of affection for you; he/she is always cold, answers you in monosyllables and does not really care about what you are going through, it is a danger signal.
- 6. Communication breakdown:** If you cannot freely express yourself or mind, don't go into the marriage. Once you find it difficult to discuss with your partner, it is a danger signal.
- 7. Sharp Differences:** If you keep on having sharp differences that cannot be reconciled, it is a danger signal. That is, none of you want to shift ground, then it is dangerous to move on with such a relationship.

8. Backsliding: If in the course of the relationship, you or your partner end up backsliding and you move away from God, it is a danger signal.

9. Spiritual Demotion: That is, since the relationship started, your spiritual life has not improved rather, it keeps on going down.

10. Uncaring Attitude: You don't see or get in touch with each other for up to a week and nobody bothers about it, it is dangerous.

11. Fear: If you are afraid of your partner. do not marry that person. You should marry someone to whom you can speak your mind freely.

12. Unreasonable demand: For instance, if your partner is asking you to buy a very expensive thing, like a car, or constant request for one thing or the other. It is a danger signal when it seems that all your partner wants to do is sponge off you.

13. Character disorder: If you discover bad traits in your partner like stinginess, stubbornness, stealing, pride, prayerlessness, oversleeping, dirtiness, pettiness, strife, unforgiving spirit, talkativeness etc. You need to be extremely careful and prayerful.

14. Irreconcilable doctrinal differences e.g. use of cosmetics, make-up, mode of dressing, the church you attend etc. For example, if your spouse attends an Orthodox church where they use rosary to pray and you are a Pentecostal, there will be issues.

15. Childishness: If your partner always acts childish, never behaves maturely and always has to consult his/her parents or siblings before taking any decision, it is a danger signal.

16. Regular disappointment: When he/she keeps on making promises and always fails with one excuse or the other, it is a negative indicator.

17. Disobedience to parents: If as a man, your intending spouse does not obey her parents, she will definitely disobey you if you eventually get married to her.

18. Insultive to parents: If your partner is insultive to his/her parents, does not have respect for them, talks to them any how, talks back at them, shouts at them or perhaps, even beats them; then you can be sure that you are in for trouble if you continue.

19. Pride: If your partner always looks down on other people, finds it hard to greet people of lower status, feels too pompous to do menial tasks etc., it is a symbol of pride. You have to be careful before continuing in such a relationship.

20. Lying: If he/she does not tell you the truth always, misrepresents facts, specialises in telling half-truths or even tells you some that when you confront him/her, he/she says it's a "white lie", it is a danger signal.

21. Unfaithfulness: If you are not yet married and your partner is having affairs with other men/women, he/she sleeps around, you catch him/her with other ladies/men, it is a signal for you to flee.

22. Absence of the fear of God: If your partner has no respect for the things of God, he/she blasphemes, is always coming late to church, talks anyhow about men of God, chews bubble gum during church service, sits at the back ping-pong on a Blackberry while the service is going on, lies without remorse etc., all these are signals that you need to reconsider your decision.

23. Smoking, drinking etc. Smoking and drinking are terrible habits that involve consumption of harmful substances which are also capable of messing with the behaviour of a person. Alcohol causes the senses to be muddled up while smoking releases nicotine which is also dangerous. There are also health implications for anyone who consumes these things.

24. Addictions: There are different types of addictions: hard drugs, prescription drugs, work, food, "sweet tooth", alcohol, pornography, masturbation etc. All addictions have negative consequences. When you are involved in courtship with someone who manifests any form of addiction, you better run. The thing about addiction is that to the addict, every other thing comes second to the addiction including you and an addict does not mind losing everything he has just to satisfy his/her addiction.

Chapter 6

QUESTIONS YOU MUST ASK OR ANSWER

To marry a person because of monetary, societal or political position is equivalent to auctioning yourself to the highest bidder...then be ready to live the rest of your life as a slave.



Chapter 6

Questions You Must Ask Or Answer

Just Before You Say 'I Do'

Q1. Is this person truly born again?

This is one question that is very important. A question that you must ask yourself and your partner: as a man before you propose, and as a woman before you accept. If you yourself are not born again, then it is futile for you to hope to marry someone who is born again. But if you are a child of God, then you cannot marry anyone who is not genuinely born again.

Corinthians 6:14-18 *"Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with, darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement hath a temple of God with, idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you, And will be w you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."*

As we can see in the Scripture above, separating yourself from unbelievers is a condition for you to be a son or a daughter of God. Therefore, you cannot even talk of marrying someone who is not born again, no matter what qualities the person possesses. How do you know if a person is born again?

He/she must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he came in the flesh, died and resurrected on the third day and that he/she is saved by the redemption in the blood of Christ.

. He/she must live a life of righteousness.

Timothy 2:19 *"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

Joh" 3:8-10 *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 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."*

Any form of sin is an indication that such a person is not born again, including demanding for sex. Even though you are going to get married, sex should wait till you are married. Any form of sex during courtship is regarded as fornication and heaven does not take such lightly. You will be doing yourself great harm if you as a Christian decide to marry someone who is not born again. Whatever problems you encounter will not receive any form of intervention by God because you wilfully disobeyed. You will be as they say, 'on your own'.

Q2. Is he/she truly the will of God for me?

This is another question that is very important. The fact is that God has a woman specially created for every man and so also, for every woman, a man for you. You cannot therefore just choose anyhow. You must receive a divine leading from God to let you know that a particular person is the right person. There are many ways God speaks to man e.g. through dreams, visions, trances, inspiration etc. You must identify the way through which God speaks to you personally and through that, distinctly confirm the identity of your God-ordained spouse. When God was creating a wife for

Adam, He said, "*I will make an help meet for him*". There is a specific purpose why God created you and your partner is meant to assist you in fulfilling that purpose. That is why you cannot just marry anyone. You must hear distinctly from God.

Q3. Do I love him/her and does he/she love me?

Marriage is not just a spiritual thing, it is also physical. In marriage, as a couple there is a possibility that friction may occur. Arguments, misunderstanding, quarrels and fights can / and do occur. However, love is the lubricant by which the wheels of marriage keep turning smoothly. When there is love, any conflict can be easily resolved without resulting in breakup. You must be honest with yourself about loving the other person. You can assess whether the other person loves you or not, by his/her attitude and disposition towards you. Is he/she interested in your well-being? If the person does not see you, does he/she bother to look for you? If you are ill, does he/she care? Does he/she remember your birthday? Does he/she buy you any form of gifts? The gifts don't have to be expensive, but little gifts show that the person cares about you. These and other signal scan help you determine whether the person loves you or not.

Q4. Is he/she truthful and faithful?

Truthfulness and faithfulness are very important qualities that you must look out for in someone whom you are spending the rest of your life with. If you marry a liar or an unfaithful person, there will be a breakdown of trust and you will find it hard to live with such a person. You can know this by observing him/her. Does he/she tell you the truth? Does he/she claim to be somewhere and instead you meet or see him/her elsewhere? Does he/she say one thing today and another the next day? Does he/she tell you one story about himself/herself ten times with ten different versions? Does he/she hide things from you? Does he/she keep to appointments? These are some of the traits by which you can determine if indeed, your intending spouse is truthful and faithful.

Q5. Will I still love him/her if his/her present status changes?

To marry a person because of monetary, societal or political position is equivalent to auctioning yourself to the highest bidder. If you sell yourself, then be ready to live the rest of your life as a slave. There are women and even men who have married because of money, position, status etc. only to find out that after the marriage, they have no voice. They do not take part in making decisions in the house. Their spouses have no respect for them or even any member of their family. It is wrong to marry a person because you see him/her as your meal ticket out of poverty. One reality of life which the Scripture confirms is that money has wings and can fly. So the question is this, if money decides to grow wings and flies away from your partner after marriage (God forbid), will you be able to continue? Do you really love this person or is his/her money the main attraction? If this person was not rich, would you still marry him/her? Do you find the idea of being married to the person appealing if the money, position etc. is no more there? Money is important but should not be the determinant factor in choosing who to marry.

Q6. Have I known him/her long enough?

Before you decide or agree to marry someone, you should have known him/her for a while. This is to prevent a scenario where you end up marrying someone who later seems to be a stranger. Even when you are not able to study him/her for a given period of time, you must make sure you don't deceive yourself. Make sure you have accurate information about your partner before you go to the altar. Do not marry a stranger out of desperation. Some ladies, for example, are "arranged" for some men and simply because they hear that the man lives abroad, they agree to the marriage without even bothering to meet the man. The same thing goes for men. This is dangerous and should be avoided.

However, there are some things that you can never know unless God opens your eyes to see them. This is because there are a lot of smart pretenders

around who are expert at hiding secrets. You will never know the real them by observation until after the wedding, except by revelation.

There was a brother who had a good job with an oil company and was a pastor-in-training in his church. He was engaged to this lady who was a choir mistress in another church. They courted for 2 years and were about getting married. Shortly before the formal introduction between both parents, he had a dream in which wolves were barking at him and pursuing him. The dream kept on recurring. So he went to his pastor for advice and his pastor advised him to pay a private investigator to conduct a background check on the lady. The investigator found out that this lady who was pretending to be single had two children for another man and was living in the man's house. When this brother confronted her with these facts, the lady was speechless. She disappeared shortly afterwards and has not been seen by him ever since.

So apart from physical observation, prayer is another way of getting to know someone. When you are courting someone, you can pray for God to show you the person's secrets and He Will.

remiah 33:3 "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

So God is willing to reveal things to you if you are willing to ask Him.

Q7. Can I live with his/her dirty past?

This is one question that you can only answer if you have answered the one above. If you don't know a person well enough, you cannot know whether he/she has a dirty past or not. If for example, your intending spouse is an ex-convict,. former assassin, armed robber, drug dealer, courier or baron; former rapist, child molester, has lost her womb to abortion, been involved in incest etc., will you be able to stand it? Will you be able to stand the shame attached if it was something that is publicly known? You have to be real with yourself :about this however, you should note that just because your partner has a dirty past does not mean he/she will not make a good spouse. If he/she is open about it, and has asked God for forgiveness and

done proper restitution, then you can still go ahead. This must also depend on your confirmation from God; that is, you have prayed and God has told you to go on and you are sure within yourself that you will be able to live with it.

Q8. Am I doing the right thing?

You need to be very sure of this before you agree to marry a person. There are many definitions as to what constitutes what is right. But what determines what is actually right is God's standard. There are many questions to ask yourself Is this person the right person for me? Have I prayed enough? Did I hear convincingly from God? Are my parents involved? Have they given their approval? Did I snatch someone else's (friend, family etc) fiancé/fiancée? Am I marrying because of money? Will this make me happy? All these questions are not to create unnecessary jitters but you must understand that marriage is a lifetime covenant and as such, you have to be very sure before going into it. Divorce is not palatable, so it is better to be sure now than sorry later.

Q9. Can this give me joy?

Just as clearly mentioned above, marriage is what you are supposed to be in for the rest of your life. Thus, you have to take the proper steps that will give you joy in the marriage. Joy and happiness are two different things. Happiness is caused by external events i.e. it usually occurs when things that you like happen. But joy comes from within and is not usually dependent on anything happening. They are however interrelated in the sense that you cannot have joy without constantly being happy. Now there are a number of factors that you have to consider in answering this. For example, if you are marrying someone who is much older than you, will you be able to cope with the age gap? If your intending spouse is in a profession that will take him/her away from home very frequently, will you be able to cope with the long periods of absence without feeling lonely? Are you sure that you will not use that as an excuse to then cheat on him/her as a result? Does your intending partner understand you? Or is his/her way of thinking archaic to you? Are there certain peculiarities about his/her family?

Does he/she come from a place where they practice some ancient customs and does he still follow those customs? These are some of the questions to ask because sometimes while the person in question may be okay, there are certain conditions around that person that may end up making the marriage miserable for you. So, not only should you examine your spouse, you should also examine the situation around him.

Q10. Am I happy being With him/her?

This is a rather simple one. Are you happy when you are with the person? Do you miss him/her when you are not together? If you were to meet and something happens and you could not, do you feel bad about it? Do you think about the person regularly? Do you look forward to going out together? Do you love receiving text messages from him/her? Note that this is a physical thing and not spiritual. So you have to be honest about your feelings.

Q11. Is he/she happy being with ma?

Just as you asked yourself if you are happy being with him/her, you have to also ask yourself if he/she is happy being with you. There are ways of deducing this. Does he/she genuinely smile when coming to meet you? Does he/she genuinely smile and laugh when you are together? Does the person look forward to seeing you or does he/she always try to avoid you? You have to be a bit sensitive when it comes to this. For some people, he/she may not be able to see you regularly due to the nature of their work. This is in the case of extremely busy people. Does the person call you frequently, especially when he/she is on a journey and is far away from you? Is the person comfortable when you are together or is he/she always tensed up? These are salient questions that can enable you know if the person is happy being with you.

Q12. Can I trust him/her?

You should ask yourself: am I confident about this person? Do I doubt what he/she says? Do I find it hard to believe him/her? Would I entrust him/her

with my money? Will I trust him with my sister (as a woman)? Will I trust her with my brother (as a man)? Will I trust him/her with my friends? In all these scenarios, am I sure that he/she will remain faithful to me and not betray me? Can I confide in him/her? Trust is one of the major ingredients for a marriage to work. When you do not trust a person, it will be extremely difficult to live with that person because you will become suspicious of every move.

Q13. Can he take care of me? (Lady)

This is an important question for all sisters. A man is the head of the home and as such should be able to meet the needs of the family. He should be able to take care of food, clothing, housing, children's school fees etc. In this 21st century, double income households have become prevalent. So you should ask yourself: if we combine resources, will we be able to meet up with necessities? Another factor apart from ability is the will. Some men do not feel they owe the wife anything. Their belief is that the woman should take care of herself and the children. Some are also irresponsible. They prefer to waste their money on alcohol, drugs, strange women etc. So the question is: does he display these archaic beliefs? Does he engage in negative habits that consume his resources? For example, now that you are courting, are you the one buying everything for him? You bought his clothes, shoes, mobile phone; you pay the bills when you go out, he is always asking you for money or asking to borrow from you and never repays. All these are alarm bells that you should heed, because a man who is dependent on you during courtship will not suddenly reverse positions after marriage. Rather, you should be sure that he would prefer to maintain the status quo. A man who will take care of you will start doing so during courtship.

Q14. Can I submit to him? (Lady)

This is another important question for the ladies.

1 Thesians 5:22-24 *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 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. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in EVERY THING." (Emphasis mine)

The Bible, as seen above, requires that the wife should submit to the husband and the Bible is superior to any feminism, women's liberation or any other movement that says the woman has equal authority in the home. You have to submit to him. So as a lady, you should ask yourself: *Am I humble enough to subject to him? Will I be able to submit to this man? Will I be able to accept orders from him? Will I obey him?* If you do not submit, there will be chaos in the home because you are not following the divine pattern of order. Now, you can answer this question by examining his thinking pattern: do we reason alike? Do we think alike? Does he accept opinions from different perspectives? Does he believe he is always right? Does he want to always dominate? Does he argue, quarrel and fight when there are opinions different from his? This is because even though you are to submit, he is meant to love you. He is not meant to treat your opinions as waste to be disposed; rather, he is to listen and as the head make the best decision, considering your views. He should be the kind of person who should be able to humbly admit that he was wrong when he is. He should be teachable and willing to admit ignorance when he is, rather than trying to use braggadocio for everything. These are the things that will make submitting easy for you. But if you marry an authoritarian dictator who is hell bent on enforcing a totalitarian regime in the house, the task of submitting becomes a burden which you will want to get rid of. So to avoid countering the divine order, you need to ensure that you get married to a God-kind of leader and not a 'boss' who claims to be always right.

Q15. Can she submit to me? (Man)

As a man, it is paramount that you ask yourself this question. There is a Nigerian proverb that says *"You can force a horse to the stream, but you cannot force it to drink water"*. There is nothing as difficult as trying to force someone to do something against his/her freewill. As a man, you are meant to lead the house and your job becomes very easy when you have a wife who submits to you. But when you have a wife who opposes you on

every little thing, who argues with you about every decision you make; then your job becomes much more difficult. Therefore, you need to assess your prospective wife to know if she will be submissive. And these are some ways to find out: does she argue with you all the time? Does she want to be the one to always decide what to do when you go out? Now that you are not yet married, is she trying to control you? Is she against all your friends? Does she criticize you in a way that completely deflates your ego? Does she pass comments in the public that embarrass you? Does she love your family or does she hate them? These are signs by which you can detect if a woman will submit to you. If your answer is yes to all these questions, then the truth is you have not found a wife. You need to go and pray again.

Q16. Can I control her? (Man)

This is another critical question. A woman who is truly submissive should be willing to take instruction and follow directives from you. As a man, you are the head of the house and it does not speak well of your leadership if your wife goes against your authority. If as her husband, you say, "Don't go there" and she does, it is a problem.

The indicators during courtship are: are you able to regulate her behaviour? Are there certain things in her character that you have complained about and you have seen changes? Does she listen when you speak? Does she take your advice when you suggest doing things differently? If your answer is yes, then you are on the right track.

But if your answer is NO to any of the following questions, you may need to sit down and do a serious rethink. Does she go her own way when you have decided on doing something in total defiance of you? Does she despise you? Does she mock you? Does she boast and downgrade your family because hers is richer, more powerful and more popular? It is not wrong if your wife comes from a richer family, but she has to be humble about it and not rub your nose in it every second. You have to think about this very seriously. It is only a man who has completely lost his ego as well as every sense of dignity who will marry a wife he cannot control with his full consent. And if you are not controlling her, then it means she is controlling

you and that is the spirit of Jezebel. The spirit of Jezebel is not peculiar to females, but it is in operation everywhere you find someone else taking over by controlling the person in authority. Please note here that when I say 'control', it does not mean you have to be a dictator on her. Remember she is your helpmeet and also part of you, hence handle her with love and make effort to teach her submission if she lacks. Above all, do not marry a woman who cannot listen to you.

Q17. Do I appreciate him/her? Has he/she been an addition to you, in any way?

For any relationship to last, both parties must be convinced that the relationship is mutually beneficial to them. There must be an inner satisfaction that is derived from the knowledge that they are gaining something from each other. This does not necessarily have to be material or monetary, but rather, it can be extremely positive and progressive impartation.

Now, when you say something e.g. a property, artwork, shares in a company or any kind of asset appreciates, what it means is that there has been an increase in the value of that asset. So, if you connect the two points above together, you will find out that appreciation in a relationship can be defined as increase in value to both parties involved as a result of that relationship. That means, for you to truly appreciate someone in the real sense of the word, he/she must have added something positive, tangible, meaningful and beneficial to your life. Now, the question is: can you say that about your intending spouse? Since both of you started courting, can you point to any thing that has been added to you? Has he/she given you any advice that has brought progress to your life? Have you grown spiritually as a result of his/her influence? Has he/she contributed positively to your career in the form of advice, informing you about opportunities etc.? Has your view of life been enhanced during your courtship via your interactions? These are ways you can measure your intending spouse's contribution to you, and thus truly know if he/she is worth appreciating.

Q18. Is your partner God-fearing, committed to Christ or just a mere church attendee?

The truth is that Christianity is becoming fashionable these days, most especially in Nigeria. Nowadays, because Christianity has spread across the length and breadth of Nigeria, God has blessed His people and the church is now prospering; it is now 'cool' to be identified as a Christian.

Also, because evil powers are failing everyday due to the aggressive warfare prayers and intercessions of Christians who have been empowered with divine knowledge on these issues, a lot of people now throng churches, not because they believe in Jesus, but simply because they need a solution to their problems which their alternatives they used to consult cannot solve.

Thus, the congregations in most churches today can be classified as a mixed multitude. As a Christian brother/sister who is interested in marrying correctly, you have to be very careful. It is not everyone who comes to church that is a Christian. This is where you need discernment.

Ladies have to be particularly careful about this. A lot of worldly men know that true Christian sisters have good character and as a result, when they want to marry, they come to the church. They pretend, act churchy, use all the right phrases, *"Oh, Praise the Lord!", "God is good", "Bless God"*; they formulate their own tongues and speak them, join groups and seem to be very committed. But it is all an act to trap virtuous sisters. So by the time they become well known in the church and then propose to any lady, the lady begins to rejoice and does not bother to pray, not knowing that it is all a façade. There was a case like that some time ago. This man had been a member of a church for five years; he was also a member of the choir, seemed faithful and committed. He proposed to a sister and she agreed. So they went through all the procedures and got married. On the night of the wedding, the man got up from bed, took a mat, spread it on the floor and began to chant Islamic prayers. The woman could not believe her eyes and her ears. When he finished, she confronted him. His reply left her jaw hanging wide open. He said, *"I simply came to the church to look for a wife."*

I was never a Christian. Now that I have found a wife, I am going back to my religion". The sister was utterly confused. She did not know what to do.

Some signals you can use to detect this are: does the person have a true, sincere, deep and burning love for God? Has he/she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Do all the nine components of the fruit of the Spirit reflect in his/her life? Does he/she have a passion for righteousness? Does he/she live a life of holiness? The separating fact or here is that a true Christian will have the God-kind of character while a religious person will try to project it but will not be able to stand a thorough scrutiny before the smokescreen fades away.

Q19. Are you both compatible?

This is one of the most vital factors that determine the success of a marriage. Compatibility is simply this: will you be able to stay peacefully together without any problem? Will you be able to coexist peacefully for the rest of your life? There is a very simple test for determining this: how regularly do you quarrel? While courtship is a time to fight, the fighting should not be an everyday affair. In fact, the purpose of quarrels in courtship is simply to enable you know how to resolve your conflicts, and not for you to practice turning your home into a boxing ring. But when you fight everyday and over everything, the truth is that you are not compatible and the marriage will simply not last. There will be constant quarrels, fights, splits etc. It will be a living hell hole. When you cannot spend just a week without fighting, it is an ominous sign. You should have a courtship that is relatively peaceful with few and reasonable quarrels.

Q20. Can you love each other for life?

This is a very important question. Just like I said earlier on in this book, love is the lubricant that keeps the wheel of marriage turning. So if there is no love, there will be a lot of friction, which will produce a lot of heat and lead to a total breakdown. Friction normally causes wear and tear, so continuous friction without any lubrication will lead to severe damage. Marriage has its challenges and love makes it easier to cope with them. But

when already there is no love and then you now begin to have challenges, you feel so tired and worn out that you will feel like quitting. And God hates divorce.

Malachi 2:16 *"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."*

Putting away means divorce. Divorce is not an option and its experience is very obnoxious yet, it is becoming frighteningly common these days. Love is necessary in marriage. Apart from helping you to deal with the challenges, there is the question of growing old together. You should ask yourself: do I see myself growing old with this man/woman? As a man, you should ask yourself: will I still love this lady when she is old? When her breasts begin to fall, will I still love her? The lady that is a sweet sixteen now, will I still love her by the time she begins to have children and she adds more weight? Will I still love her when wrinkles begin to appear on her fine face? These questions may seem funny, but you should be sincere with yourself about them. As a woman, the man who is so slim now, will you still love him if he grows a potbelly? Will you still love him if his beautiful teeth begin to fall out? These are questions you have to answer. Some people, when their partners grow old, they begin to look for a younger person. But that is against God's divine order. So you have to be really sure about this.

Q21. Do you have vision and purpose for your life?

It is important to have priority. The divine order is purpose before partner. Before you talk about getting married, you should know God's plan for your life. You should ask yourself: do I know the reason why I was created? Do I have the call of God upon my life? What am I called to do? Take note that God may not show you every thing about your life at once, but at least, you must have a clear understanding about His purpose for you. You must also have a vision. Where do you picture yourself in the next five years? What contributions do you see yourself making to your environment,

community, nation, the body of Christ and the world at large? It is important that you have one and that your partner has one too. You can ask your partner about his/her vision and purpose in life. If he/she does not have one, or if he/she has one that is diametrically opposed to yours, then you have a problem. The Bible says, "Can two walk together except they agree?" The answer is NO. Without knowing your purpose, you cannot be fulfilled and without having a vision, you cannot achieve anything tangible. To be successful and fulfilled in life, you need a purpose and a vision.

Q22. Can you proudly introduce each other in the public?

This has to do with the social aspect of marriage. When you get married, as a couple, you will go to a number of places together and will be seen together. Will you be ashamed to be seen with him/her? Can you introduce him/her to your friends, colleagues and family? If you are unable to do so, then there is a problem because you will find yourself under pressure to dump him/her. This is because the reason for your shame is that you are with someone far below your status and you will find it hard to continue that way. You cannot ignore this.

Q23. Are you both ready to accept each other with your individual strengths and weaknesses?

The fact is that no human being on the face of this earth is perfect. We all have our strengths and weaknesses. Considering that marriage is a lifetime covenant, you have to be sure if you will be ready to accept your spouse with his/her strengths and weaknesses. The first thing to do is to analyze him/her and note his/her strong points and weak points. Then you have to ask yourself: do I love his/her strengths? Do I hate his/her weaknesses? Can I tolerate them? If he/she does not change, will I be able to live with it? If you marry someone whom you are unable to accept, he/she may end up irritating you during marriage. A home in which one partner is irritated with the other cannot be harmonious.

Q24. Are you friends?

It is important that you are friends with the person who you plan to spend the rest of your life with. Can you confide in each other? Can you share your dreams, hopes and aspirations with him/her? Can you share your fears with each other? Does he/she have a pleasant personality? Do you like being around him/her? These are vital questions that you must answer in the affirmative if the marriage will work. The bottom-line is that you have to be friends.

Q25. Do you talk together?

Communication is very important in marriage. It is one of the pillars that will ensure that your marriage passes the test of time. If your partner does not talk to you or if he/she only speaks occasionally, it will be very hard for your marriage to last. You will feel unloved, especially if you are a woman. For you to understand each other, it is important that you start talking during courtship, before going into marriage so that it will become a habit for both of you. A communication gap could cause a great damage and even total break-up of a marriage.

Q26. What do your parents think about your partner and your relationship?

Your parents' opinion is very important in your journey to marriage. As elders, they have the benefit of hindsight, and as such they can see what you would not readily observe. They will also be in the best position to guide you and counsel you, in line with what is best for you. If your parent(s) do not seem to like a person, you should take time to find out why so you don't fall into any trap.

Q27. What does your pastor think or say about your partner and relationship?

Your pastor is your spiritual father and as such, is important as you plan to get married. He sees farther than you (he actually represents God), so you should not take his words for granted. For example, if you say you have prayed and your pastor says you should go and pray again, what he is simply telling you is that you have made a wrong choice or you have an issue to clear in that relationship. So you should involve your pastor to ensure that you do not take wrong steps or make a wrong decision.

Q28. What if he/she refuses to change?

There are certain things about your partner that you may hope to change during the course of your marriage. I am not talking about habits like smoking, drinking, drug addiction etc. or sins such as fornication, stealing etc. It is an exercise in futility to go into a marriage thinking you can change such. But rather things like stinginess, dress sense, attitude, drive etc. If you have noticed certain things you do not like, you have to sincerely ask yourself if you will be able to cope if he does not change. While some things may appear minute, they have actually been ingrained into that person. Getting them to change can be rather difficult. You have to be realistic about this and sincere with yourself.

Q29. Do I love to pray for him/her?

One of the ways you can know if you genuinely love a person is if you take time to pray for the person. Do you love praying for your intending spouse? If you do not take time to pray for him/her, it is doubtful how serious you are about marrying him/her.

Q30. Will I like my firstborn to look like him/her?.

You have to recognize that you and your intending spouse are going to raise a family together and both of you will contribute to the genetic pool from which your children will get their features. Aspiring for your first child to look like him/her is a pure reflection of your love for him/her. If this is your

desire, it means you have already successfully constructed the pillar of love for your future home.

Q31. Is he/she what he/she claims to be?

You need to confirm this. The truth is that in these last days, there are a lot of liars and pretenders and you may come across them in your quest towards marriage. That is why the Bible says, "Watch and pray". It is not enough to pray hard, you must also watch carefully. Take time to investigate the claims of your intending spouse. Confirm his/her workplace, house, school etc. Do not be fooled by empty name dropping. Check them out. And if the person is truly a sincere person, he/she will not be angry at you for doing so.

Q32. Do I love his mother? (Lady)

This is a very important question for all ladies. Your relationship with your mother-in-law goes a long way in determining the success of your marriage. You should cultivate a pleasant relationship with her. As a result, before going into marriage, you have to ask yourself: do I love her? Do I find her agreeable? Is she someone I can be free with? Can I relate with her easily? Are we presently having problems even now that I am not yet married to her son? If you love and respect your mother-in-law, it would ensure that your home is peaceful. In such a case where your mother-in-law is late, there might be other relatives of his family that play the role of a mother, you have to love them.

Q33. Am I ready to adjust to suit his/her purpose?

This is one of the reasons why it is important that you know your purpose, so that you will know if your individual purposes are compatible or if there are adjustments to be made. For example, if as a sister, your husband is called to be a missionary, will you be ready to abandon your work and follow him to the mission field? If as a man, your wife is a banker, will you be ready to put up with her long hours away from home and assume the

attendant responsibilities? You need to be sure that you will be able to adjust and cope, if this is the case for you.

Q34. Do I know how to cook his favourite food? (Lady)

As a sister, apart from knowing how to cook generally, you should be able to cook his favourite food, most especially if he cares about it. Everyone has their own preferred delicacies and it will be hard for you to change someone else's taste by imposing yours on him/her. This is simply one of the major ways to win a man's heart. To do so, you should be able to prepare his favourite food. If you can't, go and learn it!

Q35. Can my finances cater for at least three (3) people for now? (Man)

This is part of planning and is very important for the men. As you get married, you are starting a new family of which you are the head and you have to be able to adequately cater for them. You should be budgeting for 3 people counting yourself, your wife and at least a baby. If it happens that your wife delivers twins at the first conception, then you would have to cater for 4 people! So, you need to be very well prepared. It would be very unfair and inconsiderate as a man to subject your new family to hunger and lack due to your lack of planning. Now, you do not have to keep millions of naira in your account, but you should do your calculations properly and be sure that you are up to the task. If you cannot do it alone, then you need to involve your spouse in the planning and see if your joint incomes will be adequate. If not, you need to begin to think creatively on what to do, either look for a better-paying job or start a business on the side. As a man in marriage, you are in a position of governance so you should get your shoulders ready to bear the responsibility.

Q36. What is his/her first and last name?

This may sound funny, but some people do not know the full name of the person they are in a relation ship with. They only know his/her nickname. You should know the real name of the person you want to marry and you can request for an identity card to verify this. This may sound funny or unnecessary, but a lot of people are victims of this point.

Q37. Do you have his/her home address and phone number? Does he/she still live with his/her parents? Why?

A person who is serious about getting married to you should let you know his/her home phone and address. You should have 24/7 access to this person if he/she is really serious about spending the rest of his/her life with you. A situation where you are courting someone, you do not know where he/she lives, the person is completely unreachable and you do not have any idea where he/she is spells danger.

Also if this person still lives at home with his/her parents, you have to know why, especially for the sisters. If as a lady, you are about to get married to a man and he is still living in his parents' house, he should have a very good reason for doing so. One of the signs of a man who is serious about getting married is that he has moved out of his parents' house and has his own personal apartment, no matter how small. It shows that he is mentally, financially and materially prepared for marriage. Failure to do so may be an indication that you are about to marry a man who is still tied to his parents' apron strings. You need to seriously consider this.

Q38. Where does he/she work or school?

This is also part of having access to the person. If for any reason, your intending spouse does not let you know his/her workplace or school, and is always evading any attempt you make to do so, it is grounds for suspicion. Except he/she has something to hide, there is no reason why he/she should keep you from knowing these places. Transparency is a vital ingredient of trust. So if your spouse is hiding things like this from you, you should begin to question if you can really trust him/her.

Q39. Does he/she have a similar back ground to yours?

This question is important because it contributes to determining how compatible both of you are. For example, if as a man, you grew up as the son of a fisherman and you were used to eating staple food like *garri*, while your wife grew up eating imported foods like baked beans, sausages, ham etc.; eating together in the same house can be a problem. Your dietary preferences will be different. Or if as a woman, you grew up in a rich family where your allowance, even as a child, was so high and compared to your husband's, what you used to get in a week is what he was given in 2 months, then don't be surprised if he classifies your spending habits as wasteful. These are some of the issues that arise when people of different backgrounds decide to marry. Having similar backgrounds generally helps in having better understanding as both of you will tend to see things from the same perspective. So all you need to do here is to understand the difference and address issues accordingly.

Q40. How long has he/she lived in this state and town? Does he/she change addresses often?

This particular question could be addressed from two different perspectives. First, staying long in a particular place is an indication of responsibility. It shows that such a person is contributing positively to his/her community, is growing in his/her career and is making gains. There is a popular saying that, "*a rolling stone gathers no moss*". If a person keeps on moving from place to place without making any tangible gains, it is likely that such a person will have achieved nothing in the long run. Moving up and down without achieving anything tangible is one of the traces of the vagabond spirit which causes poverty. So if you now decide that you want to marry such a person, the success of that marriage is doubtful unless he/she evidently changes from that way of life. Moving up and down can also be an indication that the person cannot tackle challenges head-on; thus, when he/she meets any, he/she runs. Then, you should be prepared for the possibility that should there arise any challenge in your marriage; he/she

may just pick up his/her bags and leave. You should check for this. Know how many years he/she has lived in your town/state etc. If he/she was living somewhere else before find out where and why he/she left. Frequent moving about can be a sign that the person is a fugitive. You have to be very careful about this.

Q41. Where was he/she raised?

Where a person was raised can say a lot about the person's outlook and perspective. It also indicates the level of exposure a person has and dictates his/her possible tastes. For example, someone who was raised in a village in Eastern Nigeria will differ from someone who was raised in Lagos, which is a city and will also differ from someone who was raised in London. Knowing this simply helps you to understand the person better by having knowledge of the environment he/she was during his/her impressionable years.

Q42. Are his/her parents alive, married, widowed, or divorced?

It is important you know the marital status of his/her parents, whether they are alive or not. Knowing their status helps you to know how to relate with them effectively without offending them, either by your words and actions. Also, the present status helps you to know the type of prayers to start praying. If his/her parents are divorced or widowed, then you need to begin to pray so that your own marriage does not follow the same pattern.

Q43. How many brothers and sisters does he/she have? Where do they live?

This question is highly relevant. You should know how many siblings your intended spouse has and where they live. It is important that you know if your spouse is their breadwinner or they are his/her dependants. This will help you determine if you are prepared to assume such responsibilities together with your spouse. It is however not advisable for any family

member to live with a newly married couple during the first year of their marriage so as to allow them get to know each other well without any form of external interference. So if all the siblings of your spouse live with him/her, courtship is a good time to plan their accommodation or plan things out in away that things will not go wrong.

Q44. Does he/she get along with other people in his/her family? Do they like being together?

Some people, especially ladies, prefer to marry a man who has all his family at arm's length, thinking that it will ensure the security of their position in the home. But such a man is in reality dangerous. No matter how bad a person may claim his/her family members are, there must be at least one person who he/she gets along well with. If he/she claims there is no one, then you are in for serious trouble if you go ahead with the marriage. Recently, a crime network began a series of broadcasts on men who kill their wives. It was discovered that there is a profile for the average wife killer and this includes being aloof from their family. The first subject analyzed did not have his family at his wedding and went on to brutally murder his wife 4 years later. So you have to look into this critically. If someone cannot get along well with his/her family whom they have been together for decades, then it shows you the trend that may emerge in the family you intend to start with him/her after a period of time.

Q45. What are his/her father and mother like?

The character or personality of your parents-in-law is of great importance. The atmosphere in which your spouse grew up in will definitely affect your own home. If your spouse grew up in a loving, kind, happy and godly atmosphere, he/she will definitely replicate same in your home. But if your spouse comes from a house where the parents would fight and be pursuing themselves with sticks on the road, then you have to be careful; if not, the repeat will be the case in your home. The question for you here is: do I like his/her parents? Do I feel at home with them? Do I feel comfortable with them? Do they show love to me? The demeanor of your parents-in-law goes a long way in determining whether there will be peace in your house or not.

Q46. What dose he/she feel about his/her own parents?

The feelings a person has for his/her parents is a very good way of gauging the person's personality. Does he/she love them? Does he/she like visiting them? Does your partner take care of them as he/she ought to according to his/her means? Even if your partner claims that he/she was unfairly treated in his/her childhood, his/her relationship with his/her parents will show whether he/she truly has the forgiving spirit or not. A good Christian should love, honor and respect his/her parents.

Q47. How does he/she feel about his/her childhood?

The years of childhood are the most impressionable years in the life of a person. It has been discovered by scientists that by the age of three, a child has already learnt 75% of what he/she needs to learn. So, the childhood years determine a lot about the personality of a person. There is a saying that the child shows the man. To understand how your spouse feels about his/her childhood, you have to listen to him/her speak. What choice of words is used to describe his/her childhood? Does he/she talk about it at all? Does he/she smile or laugh when talking about it? Psychologists have come to find out that it is during childhood that most people nurture terrible emotions that devastate them in future. So, you have to be careful so that you are not marrying someone who is still nursing some very grievous emotional wounds internally.

Q48. Does he/she talk about past relationships often?

When you have a spouse who is always talking about his ex-girlfriend, her ex-boyfriend, past failed relationships etc., it is a very dangerous sign. It means that such a person is still living in the past and that he/she has not yet completely broken whatever attachment he/she has with that person or persons. It is not bad if your partner has had relationships in the past, but

what is bad is when he/she refuses to move on. The danger with such people is that if their ex resurfaces, they will simply run back into his/her arms and would not mind dumping you in the process. The people of this world will say, "An old flame has been re-ignited". If you are going to be married and have peace of mind, you have to ensure that all the old flames in the heart have been extinguished. If not, one day, a little air will blow and you will have a fire on your hands.

Q49. What does he/she do for a living? Is he/she happy doing this? If not, why?

It is important that you know what your intending spouse does for a living. As said earlier, you should know his/her workplace. But more than knowing that, you should also know if he/she is happy with what he/she is doing. You need to ask: Is he/she fulfilled? Is he/she happy when talking about his/her job, office, colleagues, supervisor etc? Does he/she grumble constantly about pay, working conditions etc? And if he/she is not satisfied, what has he/she done to change it? Has he/she tried looking for another job? Make sure you understand your intending spouse's satisfactions or dissatisfactions with his/her Job or business so you do not become a victim of transferred aggression when you get married. Also, this can help to indicate your spouse's attitude. Is he/she simply complaining unnecessarily? Is he/she grouchy? Does he/she find a way to work around things or does he/she just give up once things don't go his/her way? Your spouse's attitude towards his/her job is one of the ways of understanding his/her temperament and as a result, his/her potential success.

Q50. Does he/she have allergies to pets, food or medicines?

This is a very serious health matter. Some people have allergies to certain things and they react seriously to them. Some can even lead to death, especially if those around them are ignorant about it when the person starts reacting. So you have to know so you don't put your spouse's life at risk; due to your ignorance of his/her health peculiarities.

Q51. Is he/she married, widowed, divorced or separated? If divorced, why did it take place and is it final yet?

Do not throw a deaf ear to the legal marital status of your intending spouse. That a person is unmarried does not mean that he/she is single. If he/she has been married before and is now divorced, you have to be sure that the divorce is complete. You have to confirm that the marriage has been formally dissolved by the court before you can go ahead to marry such a person. If the divorce has not been finalized and you go ahead to marry, such a marriage will not be legally recognized nor heavenly honoured. Also, you have to find out the reason for the divorce. It is your duty to ask your spouse-to-be and make your own enquiries about what happened. You must also go through proper counseling, allow the church to carry out proper scrutiny and also pray serious deliverance prayers before going ahead with the marriage. One thing a lot of people don't know about divorce is that if it is not properly addressed, spiritually, it can lead to a vicious cycle in which the person gets divorced over and over again. To avoid falling victim CO this, you have to pray and make enquiries diligently.

Q52. Does he/she have children? Where are the children now? How often docs he/she see them? Do you like them? Do they accept you?

If your intending spouse already has children, either from a previous failed marriage or a previous relationship, you should be told. You must also know where the children are and how often he/she visits them. If he/she does not care about those children, there is no guarantee that he/she will responsibly take care of any children you both may have as a good father/mother. If you see a man or woman neglecting his/her children and you begin to rejoice, thinking that there will be more space in the house; know for certain that a time will come when he/she will neglect you too. Another important aspect of this is: do you like them and do they accept you? Arc they wayward children that lie, steal and are stubborn? Do they

accept you in their father/mother's life? The fact about this is that you cannot, in one way or the other, avoid those children entirely. Even if they don't live in the same house with you, they will visit. So the main question is: will I be able to live with them in peace and harmony? If the answer to this is no, that marriage may end up being very difficult. So you have to take time to consider things properly.

Q53. How long has he/she been a Christian? How did he/she come to know Christ?

If your partner claims to be born again, then he/she must be able to say when he/she gave his/her life to Christ. If he/she cannot state how he/she became born again, then such a person's salvation is subject to doubt. The question of how long he/she has been a Christian has to do with maturity. It is often better for you to marry someone who is spiritually mature as or even more mature than you. But in case God leads you to a person who is not as spiritually mature as you, then you have the responsibility to bring him/her up. You must have been led by God, because spiritual growth is not achieved only by a man's effort. God does it Himself if you ignore the role to be played by God over this matter and you go ahead to marry someone who is not so mature. he/she may find it hard to understand certain decisions or doctrines e.g. fasting, warfare prayers etc. and trying to explain them will end up being like banging your head on a wall.

Q54. Is he/she active in Bible studies or church groups?

Being active in bible study is a sign that your spouse intends to grow spiritually and increase in knowledge and understanding of God's word. Being active in a church group can be a sign of commitment to the things of God as well as a heart of service. Both traits are indicators that your spouse has a teachable spirit, has a heart of service and will be willing to commit to a cause and pay the price for it: qualities which are all required for a successful marriage. They show you that your spouse will grow both physically and spiritually as the marriage progresses.

Q55. Does he/she do kind and loving thing for others without being asked? Does he/she do helpful things for only those who will give him/her something in return (another favor, good grades, a higher raise or public praise)?

In essence, is your intending spouse kind? Or is he/she the kind of person who can only give you something when he/she knows that he/she can get it back or something else in return? Know for sure that the way your spouse treats others outside is the way he/she will treat you in the house. Though we have cases of some people being nice outside and unkind to their own inside or vice versa, that notwithstanding, the truth is that you cannot so long hide your real identity for long. Situations will soon bring them out. There are women who deny their husbands sex because their monetary requests were not granted. So, ensure that you examine your intending spouse's character as you will be the first beneficiary or the first to suffer it, as the case maybe.

Q56. Does he/she apologize for misbehavior? If the behavior continues, is this okay with you?

It is possible that during courtship, you may offend each other and do things that do not please each other. It is expected that the offended party lets the other person know that he/she is displeased with what happened. But when the other person shrugs it off as nothing and does not even bother to apologize, such an attitude can be deeply annoying and increase the anger felt than over what was actually done. Unfortunately, some people do not know how to apologize. So, you have to ask yourself if you will be able to tolerate that attitude for the rest of your life. Also, some people fall into another category. They are always sorry, but never change: if they find out that they offend you, they could go to any length to beg but the next day, the same old story will repeat itself. Such people can be termed '*repeat offenders*'. So if your intending spouse is a repeat offender, will you be able to tolerate such behavior. This requires deep thought and serious

consideration. Note however that you could help him/her to improve most especially when you are sure he/she is the perfect will of God for you in marriage.

Q57. Have you met his/her friends? What are they like?

People pick friends like themselves. If his/her best friends are liars, prostitutes, thieves, wizards/witches; it is most likely that he/she is one also. The white man has a saying: *"show me your friend and I will tell you who you are"*. So your spouse's friends are mirrors that can adequately show you his/her true character.

Q58. What does he/she do with free time? What are his/her hobbies? How much time and energy does he/she put into interests and hobbies? Politics? Sports? TV? Shopping? Socializing? If it never changed, could you live with it without complaining?

Hobbies are part of life and part of a man, but no matter the hobby you choose to spend your time on, it should not be excessive. Your spouse's hobbies should be of interest to you. What are his/her hobbies? Does he/she spend all his/her free time on hobbies? Or does he/she channel it into something more productive? As a man, does he spend all his time watching sports, television or discussing politics? Some men do not bother to do anything in the house: they simply cross their legs and watch TV.

We have cases of thousands of people that have good hobbies but they are unable to discipline themselves in such a way that the hobbies do not 'kill' their time. If this happens, it will tell all other important areas of your life, even your matrimony. Hence, if your intending spouse abnormally spends his/her time on hobbies or some social interest, it is never going to help

your home. It has to be successfully worked on during your courtship with him/her.

Q59. Do other men like him? Do other women like her?

Same sex friendships are important to have. If the only friends your fiancé/fiancée has are of the opposite sex, it is indicative of danger. Same sex friendships show a healthy self esteem and ability to get along with others.

Q60. Does he/she have odd opinions, poor manners or trouble keeping friends? Does he/she brag or boast about himself/herself?

If your intending spouse has problems retaining friends, it indicates that he/she does not understand the unwritten rules of human relationship. If he/she has odd opinions and is always arguing with others as a result, does not have manners and insults people or is always bragging about his/her achievements; it becomes a problem. You will find it hard to relate with him/her, let alone your family or your friends.

Q61. What are his/her goals and dreams for life? Dose he/she want to have children?

Hope you are not surprised to hear that some people that marry never plan to give birth to children. When you get married, you are starting a new life together with your spouse as well as a new family. It is therefore paramount that you know your partner's goals and dreams for life. You must have a vision and check that his/her vision fits with yours. You must also know whether your partner intends to have children or not. It is not everyone who wants to have children. Some women claim they want to retain their slim shape and as a result, they have decided not to have any children. So, you must ensure that you and your partner are on the same page here.

Q62. Does he/she seem to be optimistic or pessimistic?

A person's energy level is important as it determines the level of achievement of that person. If a person is constantly lethargic and weak, he/she will be unable to engage in activities that will aid his/her growth and development in life. Low energy can be due to health reasons, but most times, it is an indication of low drive for achievement. If you are a high flyer or you want to be one, you should not get married to someone whose energy level and drive is low; if not, he/she will kill your own drive. Some people are not bothered at all about achieving any thing in life. As long as they get their daily bread, they are satisfied. They are not concerned about making any mark or leaving any footprint on the sands of time. If you want to be an achiever, having such a person as a partner will simply constitute a drag on you. Appearance also plays a big role in this. If someone cannot be bothered about his/her appearance and always appears like something that has been chewed on by mice, then definitely he/she will not bother to pay attention to the finer details in anything he/she does. And going the extra mile is what makes the difference between ordinary and extraordinary people. The nature of the person also determines a lot about success. A pessimist for example does not see the need to do anything because he/she believes that things will always remain the same. Such a person finds it impossible to envision change.

Q63. Does he/she make excuses for behavior that is odd, strange or unusual?

If your partner has certain strange or odd behaviors, it is usually an indication of something fishy. Does he/she do certain things and claims afterwards that he/she was not aware Le. that he/she had a '*blackout*'? Does he/she talk with certain unseen beings? This may show involvement in the occult.

Q64. Does he/she demand that you change?

Change is not something that is forced on a person. It should be done out of personal volition. If a person is demanding that you change before he/she can continue the relationship, you have to be careful. If it does happen that what your spouse is complaining about is negative and does indeed need change, he/she should be willing to give you time to do so and you also must sincerely be committed to a change. But a situation in which your partner begins to complain of your friends, family, clothes, dressing, job etc.; he/she is displeased with everything and is complaining, it's a serious matter. That person is trying to remake you to his/her own taste and this is dangerous because if you do not match up, he/she will be forever dissatisfied and may eventually leave you.

Q65. Do you find yourself apologizing for his/her behavior?

If you are courting a person and you find out that every time you go out, you are always having to apologize for his/her behavior; you are signing up for something called bondage because if you go ahead to marry such a person, then be prepared to spend the rest of your life apologizing to people on his/her behalf. A person who would make a good spouse should not be uncouth and should be able to relate with other people and express his/her mind without always offending them. Marriage requires good interpersonal and relational skills for success.

Q66. Do you feel that he/she is very misunderstood and that you are the only one on his/her side?

If your spouse has succeeded in portraying himself/herself as such and you believe, then you have fallen for something that psychologists will call '*playing the victim*'. This is when a person does not want to accept responsibility for his/her actions and as a result, seeks to evoke compassion from others by portraying himself/herself as being victimized. You have to be wary of such people as they fit the classical profile of exploiters. Such

people hope to use the pity they have generated to move ahead in life without putting in any effort of their own.

Q67. If you were a boss, would you hire this person?

If your answer is no, then it is a sign that you should have a rethink. There are qualities that a boss would want in his/her employees: character, competence, confidence, initiative, creativity etc. So if your answer was no, then it means your partner lacks this, which should make you to query the sustainability of the marriage if you go ahead.

Q68. Can he/she be honest about his/her own strengths, weaknesses or mistakes? Willing to work on them?

No human being is perfect. As long as we put on this body of flesh, we are all mortal with our weaknesses. Even the anointing cannot cover a man's weaknesses. But it is important, especially for those who want to make progress, to identify their weaknesses, admit them and be willing to work on them. Refusal to do so is simply arrogance and such a person will remain the same for the rest of his/her life. He/she may even get worse because things generally have a tendency to degenerate if they don't get better. So if your intending spouse lacks this trait, and you go ahead; it means that he/she will remain the same and will be unwilling to accept any correction or even be willing to admit that he/she made a mistake. You should ask yourself if you can live with that.

Q69. Do you have a patient-therapist relationship With this person or are you both emotionally strong?

If your intending spouse is the kind of person whereby every time you meet, you have to comfort him/her, pet him/her and counsel for about an hour

before you can do anything else, then there is a problem. While life can be challenging and everyone does not possess the same strength emotionally. you have to be realistic when considering this in a spouse. The question is, will you be able to put up with such for the rest of your life? In marriage. even though you are partners. it is not possible that you will always be at each other's side all the time. If your spouse is emotionally volatile, he/she may not be able to cope with some of the challenges that will be encountered during marriage and you may find yourself staring at a divorce or separation in the middle of your marriage. If this is not the vision you have for your family and. your spouse possesses this character, then you may need a serious rethink and counseling.

Q.70 Does he/she have to know where you are all the time?

If this is the case, then it means you are dealing with a jealous and insecure partner. And the problem with such a partner is that he/she will find it hard to trust you even when you give him/her no reason to the contrary. He/she will always be suspecting your movement which will make you angry and tired of the whole relationship. No marriage can last without trust.

Q71. Has he/she ever asked you to keep a 'bad' secret about addiction, health, habits or actions?

Someone who is caught engaging in any negative addiction, behavior or action by a loved one and requests to keep it secret does not want to be helped. Such a person rather is in love with it and is content to retain the status quo. That means, you should be ready to play second fiddle and endure that addiction if you get married. You have to ask yourself if you can do so.

Q72. Does he/she hold you down and tickle you when it is no longer fun?

This may seem harmless but it is actually wrong. Your spouse should respect your wishes at all times. Too much intimate body contact is not right during courtship, especially this being an involuntary one. You have to respect each other's bodies while still single if you will do that when married.

Q73. Does he/she have a history of mental health problems such as addiction, manic-depression, depression, anxiety disorders, or panic attacks?

This is a very serious question. Any form of mental sickness is not a joking or laughing matter. The fact is that, many times, psychologists or psychiatrists are not able to fully cure people who suffer from mental disorders. While they may be declared mentally fit, many still have traces of the sickness in their lives. It is only the Almighty that can heal such completely. Thus, if your spouse has a history of such, you need to consider your decision carefully. You should ask yourself: if there is a recurrence, will I be able to overpower him/her? Will I be able to sedate him/her if necessary? Will I be able to carry out the required first aid before taking him/her down to the hospital? Will I be able to help him/her manage it? Brain depression is a dangerous condition which weakens the sufferer considerably. He/she will not be able to do anything meaningful and will spend his/her days moping. You have to be very realistic about this. If you will not be able to cope, it is best that you back out.

Q74. Dose he/she have any major medical problems including sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, syphilis, herpes or others?

The medical condition of your spouse is of great importance. Health, as the saying goes is wealth. There is no point getting married and then you spend the next few years running in and out of hospitals, only to have the person die. If your spouse is suffering from a terminal disease and you still want to marry him/her, it is better you pray, seek divine counsel both from God and

men/women of God. What can our God not do? Healing is sure, if your faith can uphold it but if not, please put things into serious consideration before you enter the matrimony. If not, you will suffer a lot of agony.

Q75. Is the person you are courting rebounding from another relationship?

When a person breaks up from a relationship, especially one in which he/she was close to his/her partner, there is a tendency to feel very lonely due to the former closeness. As a result, such a person entering into a fresh relationship at that period is very volatile and will stay close to whoever can give the comfort so desired. It is only after the person has recovered from the shock of the break-up that his/her real feelings begin to show. Thus, if you are in a relationship with someone who is rebounding, it is possible that the feelings he/she has are as a result of being dumped in the last relationship. You will have to give that person time to determine if he/she truly loves you. You should not rush to marry anyone who is rebounding. Rebounding as the name implies is something coming back up to its former level. So, wait for the person to become emotionally stable before taking any relationship with him/her seriously. That way, you will not allow your hopes to be raised only to be dashed to the ground again.

Q76. Is one of you too young to get married this year?

Marriage is not meant for boys and girls, but rather, for mature men and women. The seriousness of your relationship is in doubt if one of you has not yet met the minimum legal age for marriage. It is not right to engage in courtship if within the year or next, you will not be qualified to get married. It is best to start when both parties have met the age requirement. It shows seriousness of purpose as well as allows for proper thinking in finally making the decision to marry.

Q77. Is one of you in a hurry to get married?

A lot of people rush into marriage forgetting that they have their whole lives to spend in it. So, if you are in a relationship and your partner seems to be in a rush to get married, you should query it. Most of the time, you will find out that it is for the most stupid of reasons people rush.

There was a lady who was involved in courtship with a man. She, all of a sudden, decided that they must get married on a particular day. The man was surprised and enquired why she was in haste all of a sudden. It turned out that there was another lady in the choir who was getting married and who was junior to this lady. So as a result, she wanted her own wedding to be first. The man simply told her that it was not possible. Only God knows whether she was double dating or not, but she got married to another man on that day she fixed. Her wish was fulfilled and she married before her junior. But the marriage was a complete failure. After she waited for eight years, she eventually had a baby girl. But shortly after, she and the man separated, he went to jail for a criminal offence and died. The first man she was originally engaged to is still alive till today. She simply short changed herself for nothing.

So, it is not wise for you to rush to get married. Marriage is not like a plaque or medal that you collect and add to your long list of awards. It is a delicate issue with lifetime consequences.

Q78. Has one of you been engaged one or more times before?

If one of the partners have been engaged in the past, it is good that the other person is brought into the knowledge. It is necessary to deal with the powers causing failed engagements so that the present one does not fail as well. Also, all gifts collected from past partners should be returned, where applicable. If as a lady, a previous fiancé has bought you a wedding gown, return it. Do not try to sell it, but return it so that it does not constitute a hindrance to you.

Q79. When you say you are waiting until marriage to have sex, Will he/she reject you?

Corinthians' 6:18-20 *"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

Any sex outside marriage is a sin. If you have a partner who is pressurising you to have sex with him/her before marriage, then he/she is definitely not born again. For a true child of God, there can be no compromise on this. Even if he/she threatens to leave you, let him/her go. It is for the best. Do not be cowed by any means and succumb to pressure. It is better to please God than any other person.

Q80. Does this person hope you will solve some serious problems in his/her life such as finances, loneliness, stability, trouble with parents or depression?

Peter 5:7 *"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."*

Marriage is not an escape route from problems. It is wrong for you to think that the solution to a particular problem in your life is to get married. The reasons why some people have dashed hopes in marriage is that they went into it with the mindset that their partner would help to solve all their problems. And when the partner ends up failing woefully, they cry bitterly. The proper thing is that, before entering into marriage, you are a complete man/woman and the same thing goes for your partner. From the above Scripture, you can see that your burden is meant to be placed on Jesus and not on your spouse. It is true that your partner is meant to be a helpmeet; but the meaning of that is to help you with your burdens and not to take over them completely. Partners can assist each other and help each other out, but this should not be the primary reason for going into the relationship.

Q81. Do you feel physical attraction for this person? If not, are you just in a relationship with him/her to please your parents, to get married or to achieve status?

Marriage is both physical and spiritual. So, you will be doing yourself a big disfavor if you are too 'spiritual' to recognise some of the physical truths about marriage. When you see your spouse approaching, does your heart leap for joy? Are you excited to be around him/her? Do you lose your breath? Do you take great care of your appearance prior to a meeting so as to look your best? These are questions by which you can know if you are truly attracted to this person physically.

A man went to his pastor many years ago and told him that he wanted to marry a particular lady in the church. The pastor asked him some of these questions I have given you above. He did not give an answer to any, but said that he chose the lady because she was very spiritual and could pray very well. The pastor asked him to go and think again and the man still affirmed that it was that same sister he wanted to marry. They went ahead and got married, but few years later and after two children, he ran away with his female business partner. Even though the sister was still spiritual, it did not stop him from leaving. So you need to balance things here and make sure you groom yourself on both sides as you prepare for your matrimony.

Q82. Do you both intend to marry With the relationship or is any afraid of commitment?

Matthew 19:5 "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 ?'"

Once you are in courtship, your sights should be set on marriage. If you claim to be courting and you are not thinking of getting married, that is not courtship; you are both simply fooling around. Take note that, one day, the fooling will stop. If you fear commitment, getting married will almost be an impossible thing for you. The bottom-line is that, marriage it self is all

about commitments. A number of things could be responsible for this fear, among which are; selfishness (never being used to sharing what you have like your salary, time, etc), inexperience (just as noted in one of the questions above, you need to learn from a godly couple who are doing well in their own marriage). For some people, the fear of commitment may be resulted from the failure of their parents' marriage and the attendant sorrows and so, have vowed never to get married. So, even if they meet the right person, their fears keep holding them back. If there are emotional issues holding you back from commitment, it is recommended that you see a counselor for more information and direction.

Q83. Have you known each other more than a year?

Proverbs 19:2 "Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth."

Marriage is not something to be rushed into. It is not something to be taken lightly. So you have to take time to know each other well before agreeing to marry. You have to take time to understand each other, share your vision, goals, dreams etc. You have to understand each other's perspectives, habits and preferences. There are a lot of things that you need to understand. Some cannot be asked. They have to be observed and deduced. That is why we have such a long list of questions to ask before marriage. All of them cannot be asked or answered in one day. You cannot take these questions and sit your spouse down and begin to interrogate him/her. You are going to have to watch. And this takes time. So to avoid making a mistake, it is advisable you take time to know each other well before taking the leap into marriage.

Q84. Does he/she seem to have a vital relationship with God or does he/she just say religious things?

John 2:3-6 "And hereby do we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are

in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

The Scripture above gives us a litmus test in determining the answer to this question. Anyone who claims to love God but breaks His commandments is a liar. There are a lot of people these days who claim to be Christians but their lives are diametrically opposed to the ways of God. They are awash in sin and are rejoicing in it. Such people do not see anything wrong in committing sin and going to church. Some even have fellow church members as their partners in sin. According to 2 Timothy 3:5, have nothing to do with such people, including marriage.

Q85. Does he/she joke or brag about doing wrong things?

Proverbs 10:23a "It is as sport to a fool to do mischief....."

Anyone who does the wrong things is classified as a fool according to the above passage. Someone who now goes ahead to boast about such is therefore an unrepentant fool. There is no pride in doing wrong. If your partner is doing so, it shows that he/she has a wicked and unjust heart which God hates. And if you go ahead to marry such a person, then know for sure that you will be his/her next victim. This is a sign for you to call it quits.

Q86. Does he/she laugh about other people's misfortunes?

1 Corinthians 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

A person who rejoices at other's misfortunes can be simply classified as being heartless. It means that if anything bad happens to you, do not expect any sympathy from such a person.

Q87. Does he/she make wise decisions?

Proverbs 13:14a *"The law of the wise is a fountain of life...."*

The Bible also says in Proverbs 4:7 that wisdom is the principal thing. It will be foolhardy of you to decide to spend the rest of your life with someone who is foolish. As his/her spouse, there is no way you will not suffer the consequences of his/her foolish decisions or actions. A Yoruba proverb says, *"They say (to you, assuming you are a parent) that your child is foolish; and you say you are satisfied as long as he/she does not die. What kills faster than foolishness?!!!"* (This is a rhetorical question)". The point being made here is that foolishness is the fastest killer. If you are in a relationship with someone who is foolish, the first question is does he/she admits that he/she makes foolish decisions? If he/she does and wants a change, such a person can pray to God because James 1:5 says that anyone who lacks wisdom can ask God and God will give him. Until you see positive changes, the marriage should be put on hold.

Q88. Does he/she seem to be courteous and responsible?

Peter 3:8 *"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." (Emphasis mine)*

Courtesy is a virtue and it helps to make a relationship more pleasant. If your spouse-to-be is always talking to you rudely, harshly and without respect during courtship, it is an indication of more terrible things. If now when you have not been bound together, he/she does not value you enough to treat you politely or with courtesy; by the time you have both said *'...till death do us part..'*, he/she will simply take you for a ride. Being responsible is also a desired quality. It is to be conscientious, trustworthy, reliable, sensible and mature. An irresponsible man is the kind of person who will not give his wife housekeeping allowance. An irresponsible woman will abandon her children and not see to their welfare. There are ways of detecting irresponsibility. Does your spouse take a by thing serious? Does he/she bother when he/she has a deadline at work? If he/she is a student, what is his/her attitude to studying? Does he/she take his/her studies seriously? Does he/she lose valuable things easily? Does he/she sleep when

there is serious work to be done? Does he/she pay his/her bills? Are creditors always dragging him/her? When you go out for dates, does he/she ever offer to pay or are you the one always paying? It will result in sorrow for you to marry someone who is irresponsible.

Q89. Does he/she make choices based on what God wants, or based mainly on his/her own wants and desires?

Matthew 26:39 "And he went a little, further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Submission is one of the fundamental requirements for anyone to be a child of God. This is how to test how yielded your partner is to God. Does he/she pray before taking major decisions? Does he/she bother to hear from heaven before going ahead on important issues? This is important because someone who is truly submitted to God will not treat you wrongly; though he/she may not be perfect, but submission to divine authority will be evident in his/her life. He/she will always follow divine ordinances in marriage. But someone who has not surrendered fully to God will listen to the voice of the flesh, and this can lead to the end of the marriage in the future.

Q90. When this person makes promises, does he/she always keep them or make excuses? (James 5:12)

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

It is possible for someone to make promises and fail, perhaps due to circumstances beyond his/her control. But when it becomes a constant habit and he/she never or rarely fulfils any promise that is made, it is an indication that such a person is highly deceitful and irresponsible. It shows you what he/she will do when you both eventually get married.

Q91. Is he/she usually running late to church, school and or meetings?

Perpetual lateness shows a lack of respect of time. It is possible due to traffic or unexpected events to show up late occasionally. But when it is a regular thing, there is a problem. It shows that such a person is disorganized and is a bad manager. It may interest you to note that management is one of the skills that anyone who will be successful must have. You must know how to manage time, money, opportunities, resources, situations etc. So, constant lateness shows that your intending spouse needs to improve his/her management skills.

Q 92. Is he/she nosey, gossipy, or unable to keep a secret about others?

Proverbs 11:13 "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

If your intending spouse cannot keep secrets, it will be a problem. For example, a man who cannot keep quiet will tell everyone when his wife becomes pregnant. So also a woman who cannot keep quiet will tell everyone her husband's pay package. A spouse who cannot keep secrets will be a hole in your armor because he/she will, through his/her careless talking habits, expose the family's secrets to witches and wizards. And then you begin to engage in spiritual warfare as a result. If your spouse is also the type of person who is nosey or gossipy, you will always have to apologize when he/she gets into trouble for it.

Q93. Does this person flirt with others?

Corinthians 13:5a "Doth not behave itself unseemly...."

The Scripture above is talking about love which does not behave unseemly. It is wrong and distasteful for your spouse to flirt. It is a slight to you and an indication of future unfaithfulness. If such a person does not stop, you have enough ground to end the courtship.

Q94. How does he/she drive? Cautiously? Hostile? Take chances? Put other's lives at risk? Laughs at your fear?

Your partner's driving habits says a lot about him/her. It shows the value he/she places on human life. It shows how he/she appreciates the way his/her actions may have an impact on others and his/her better Judgment. It also shows how much he/she considers your feelings. If his/her driving shows the opposite of all the above, then you can take time to talk to him/her about it. If he/she does not bother to change, it shows the attitude he/she will reflect sooner or later on in marriage.

Q95. Does he/she have a criminal record?

It is important that you are aware if your spouse has a criminal record. If he/she does, you have to be sure that he/she has dropped the life of crime. You will know if your spouse has truly repented; if he/she does not maintain any form of friendship with anyone from his/her past life of crime, Another thing you should note is that every sin has its consequence. The Bible says *'even though hand be joined in hand, the sinner shall not go unpunished'*. So, you should also ask yourself if you will be able to bear the punishment with him/her if heaven decides to unleash it.

Q96. Does he/she have consistent trouble paying his/her bills? Does he/she try to borrow money often? Does he/she repay loans quickly? Is he/she in debt? How much in debt?

mans 13:8 "Owe no man anything...."

If your intending spouse is a chronic debtor and he/she has to look carefully before leaving home in the morning in order not to run into his/her creditors, it is a critical situation. If as a single person, he/she is always in debt; then you can imagine what happens when he/she has to cater for a

family. One of the signs of being responsible is for a person to be able to manage his resources well enough to meet his needs and not fall into any debt. If your spouse is wallowing in the ocean of debt, you need to take time to investigate why. Is it due to poor business and investment decisions? Does he/she fritter away his/her income on frivolities? Does he/she have any savings? You have to take time to see if his/her income is extremely small or if he/she is simply a spendthrift. You also have to consider: does he/she repay loans quickly? Does he/she have the money to repay and refuses to? The Bible classifies this as wickedness.

alm 37:21 *"The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy and giveth."*

If your spouse does not get rid of the culture of borrowing, then what is written in **Proverbs 22:26-27** may end up happening to you, if you get married. *"Be not one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. If thou has nothing to pay, why should he **take away thy bed from under thee?**"*

Q97. What does he/she do with his/her free times? How much time and energy does he/she put into interests and hobbies?

Though I explained a point close to this above, but I see the need to emphasise free time spending for women. No matter how meticulous and caring a husband is, the wife has a bigger mandate to spend more time with the family, especially the children. If unnecessary time is spent on flimsy things by a wife, neglecting the home, it is an act of pure irresponsibility. The marriage will not only suffer even the children and the husband will too. As a woman, does she spend all her time shopping and socializing? If it never changes, could you live with it without complaining? Some women prefer to spend hours on the phone talking or watching soap operas on television. They neglect the house until it begins to look like a pigsty. Examining how your intending spouse manages his/her hobbies can help you envision how living together will be like. It is good to have hobbies, but

when you neglect other vital responsibilities for hobbies; that hobby has become an addiction.

Q98. Do you think his/her goals and dreams are realistic? Is he/she making steps towards them?

Proverbs 20:4 "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he begin harvest and have nothing."

It is good to have dreams and goals, but what is even better is to work towards accomplishing them. A great man of God once said, *'It is not that people don't dream; some people just never wake up'*. When God gives you an idea, you have to go out and execute it. Some people will say for example, *"I have a call of God upon my life; God is calling me into the ministry"*. And then, he sits down doing nothing. When you ask him why, he will say he told his pastor and the pastor did nothing about it. When he should have gotten involved in a group in the church, shown dedication, commitment, zeal and righteous living which will then bring his gifts to the limelight; by his lack of diligence, he will end up being classified with the unserious church attendee. Such is the case of a man/woman who has a dream but does nothing to have it achieved.

It is also important to have realistic plans to achieve your goals. Most goals are not unrealistic, but the plans to achieve them are. A goal can be compared to a destination whereas; a plan is the road by which you get to that destination. So when you have a goal and you do not have a feasible plan to achieving it, that goal becomes unrealistic. Newton's First Law of Motion states that *"An object will remain in a state of rest or uniform motion unless an external force acts on it"*. Your goal will remain in inertia until you do something about it. So, if your spouse is the kind of person who does nothing about his/her dreams but instead consoles himself/herself by saying *'Whatever will be, Will be'*, you need to reconsider your decision. If not, you will have hooked yourself to an unsuccessful man/woman.

Q99. Has he/she had premarital sex?

1 Thesians 5:3 *"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;"* (Emphasis mine)

Colossians 3:5 *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:"*(Emphasis mine)

Hebrews 13:4 *"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."*

All forms of premarital sex constitute fornication. All the above shows how seriously God takes the issue. This will affect you because when two people have sex together, a soul tie is formed. We can see this in **1 Corinthians 6:16**. *"What? Know ye not that he **which is joined to a harlot is one body?** for two saith he, shall be one flesh."*

So, if one of them now has sex with someone else, the soul ties begin to multiply. And the implication of this is that covenants, curses, demons, etc will be transferred between the members of the sex chain. So if your partner has engaged in premarital sex, he/she will need to repent, ask God for forgiveness and go for deliverance to break the soul ties as well as all curses, covenants and bondages that he/she has accumulated. If you also have engaged in it, then you need to do so as well. If not, your marriage will simply lead to the multiplication of bondages. My explanation here does not give you the warrant to have sex with your future partner, proving that since you will eventually marry each other. No beloved, don't do it. Premarital sex is sinful and its consequences are also awful.

Q100. Is his/her taste in music and clothing acceptable?

Galatians 5:16 *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."*

You have to check your spouse's clothing. Does his/her clothing portray a responsible person? As a woman, does she expose her cleavage, belly button, buttocks, lower back, thighs and underwear? Does she wear tight

fitting clothes that leave no room to the imagination? As a man, does he expose his chest and wear tight fitting clothes? Does he dress like a street urchin? You have to check these things now so that you will not be embarrassed in future. You should also examine your intending spouse's musical tastes. Does he/she like worldly music? Does he/she go to clubs in the name of music? These are some of the things that show whether a person is living a Spirit-filled life or not.

Q101. Is he/she good at making others feel comfortable?

Thessalonians 5:11 "Wherefore comfort yourselves, and edify one another, even as also ye do".

When you get married, you may have to interact with a lot of people e.g. family members, in-laws, neighbors' etc. It is a sign of hospitality to be able to make people comfortable.

Q102. What kind of temper does he/she have? Has he/she ever broken things or injured anyone in anger?

Thesians 4:26 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down on your wrath:"

A hot tempered man/woman requires a lot of patience to handle, most especially in marriage. If your spouse's temper rises so hot that he/she breaks and destroys things or injures people around, it becomes frightening. It means you and your children will become his/her victims when you get married. There is a sticker with the inscription: "Anger is a small madness, so do nothing when you are angry; because what you will destroy will be more than what causes your anger."

If your spouse cannot control himself/herself when angry, then he/she is simply mad. If you still want to marry him/her, then let the madness in him/her be cured first before going ahead; if not, you will pay the penalty.

Q103. Does he/she tease or mock you?

Proverbs 22:10 "Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease."

If your spouse mocks you, it is doubtful if he/she truly loves you. Your spouse is someone who you are going to spend the rest of your life with, and as such, should be able to console you if anything goes wrong. But if he/she begins to laugh at you, mock you or scorn or shows no good attention to you whenever you are in pain, whatsoever, it is an indication that you may be about to marry your worst enemy.

Q104. Is he/she irritable, unforgiving, stubborn, or looking for an opportunity to take revenge?

Romani 12:17-21 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide all things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written' Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 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. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

If a person always feels slighted and wants to revenge for every little thing, it is a negative sign. A good friend and also a true child of God should not be vindictive. So also, a true Christian should be tolerant and not get easily irritated by things or people. If your partner shows these qualities, you need to be careful. In marriage, especially in the early years when both of you are still getting to know each other, it is possible that you may offend each other. However, having a spouse who does not forgive will help to make your life miserable. Love is the nature of God. Anyone who has an unforgiving spirit cannot make a good spouse and cannot be regarded as a true child of God.

Q105. Have your parents or any of your friends tried to warn you about him/her?

Proverbs 23:22 "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old".

If your parents are complaining about your spouse, the proper thing to do is to listen. Do not dismiss them with a wave of the hand. Do not take their counsel lightly.

Proverbs 11:14 *"Mere no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety".*

The same thing goes for your friends. Because you may be smitten in love, you may not take note of certain rather obvious facts. So, it is important that you listen so that you make good use of the eyes and ears of your family and friends. Another thing you should note is that they will never tell you the worst thing first. Accept the first piece of information calmly. Then ask if there's anything else you should know. There is more to every story.

Proverbs 15:22 *"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but it, the multitude of counselors they are established".*

Q106. Does he/she seem to resent his/her teachers, bosses, parents or co-workers? Why?

Exodus 20:12 *"Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee".*

If a person resents his/her parents, teachers, bosses, pastors etc., it is a signal that such a person cannot and does not want to submit to anyone in authority. All these people mentioned are people in positions of authority over him/her. So, if he/she resents all of them, then there is a problem. Even if he/she claims to have been victimized, all of them cannot have victimized him/her. If you are a man and your partner is like that, then it shows you that she will not be able to submit to you when you get married. So also his/her relationship with his/her co-workers also matters. If he/she does not

like any of them and is always complaining or speaking evil about them, then you need to examine such a person carefully. This shows that he/she does not have love in him/her. And if he/she does not love other people, it is doubtful if he/she truly loves you.

Q107. Does everything always seem to be someone else's fault, or does he/she take responsibility for mistakes and errors?

Some people just find it hard to accept fault for anything. They believe they are perfect and will always find someone to blame. This is a sign of irresponsibility. Such a person is not yet ready for marriage.

Q108. Does he/she seem to think about sex constantly? Or is he/she repulsed by the idea of sex?

Matthew 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart".

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

If your intending spouse is always talking about sex, or he/she is fascinated with sex and is always trying to lure you into it, you have to be careful. If he/she is always buying books on sex, looking at pornographic magazines, has a library of pornographic films and is fond of watching music videos with scantily dressed dancers, it shows that he/she is a prisoner of lust. It is an indication that he/she cannot control his/her sex drive. This will result in problems in marriage especially if you cannot match him/her.

Conversely, if your spouse is repulsed by the idea of sex; it will also result in problems. Sex is important in marriage and is necessary for procreation. So if you have a spouse who does not seem keen on sex and is repulsed by it, you need to go and pray again. My point here is that, during courtship,

one of the things to learn about is sex. Lack of adequate understanding of it could create a great fissure between you and your spouse. By thisÂ» the devil can take the advantage over such homes and strike it with disunity.

There was a woman many years ago in a church. She was looking up to God for the fruit of the womb. But she refused to have sex with her husband more than once a month. Her husband tried to get her to increase the frequency but she refused. He then went ahead to report her to the church. When she was asked to give her reason, she said that in the time of Abraham and the patriarchsÂ» they only had sex once in a month! Of course, the pastors burst into laughter because there is no such evidence in the Bible. Despite all their attempts to convince her, she bluntly refused. Eventually, she was separated from her husband and she is still childless till today.

Q109. Does he/she call you names that degrade you when he/she is talking to you or about you?

Matthew 5:22 "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire". (Emphasis mine)

The above Scripture shows the spiritual dimension of name calling. But physically, it shows a total lack of respect for you if your spouse calls you names when talking to you. In marriage, there should be mutual respect between both of you. If your partner has started calling you names when you are not married, he/she will not hesitate to assault you by the time you get married.

Q110. Is he/she jealous about your time with friends and family?

Proverbs 27:4 "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?"

If your intending spouse is jealous about your time with friends and family, it indicates that he/she is the type of person who will always want your attention. Some people crave attention like a drug. If your spouse is like this, then it means that you will not be able to have a life of your own outside him/her. He/she will want to be the centre of your world and it is indicative of insecurity lurking in his/her mind. He/she needs a prop to hold him/her. Such a person will need to learn how to be independent before he/she can go into marriage.

Q111. Does he/she make insensitive or embarrassing comments?

It is wrong for your partner to make comments that embarrass you, most especially in public. Some people simply do not know how to talk. For example, if you are a woman, you go out together and he begins to talk about the size of your buttocks or your breasts; such comments are improper. Or as a man, she talks about certain circumstances in your family anyhow. You should caution your spouse if he/she does such. If he/she does not change, you should consider a rethink.

Q112. Has he/she ever hit you, shoved you or 'accidentally' hurt you?

This is something you should not take lightly. If your spouse hits or hurts you, it shows that he/she cannot control his/her temper. If he/she cannot be careful and treat you delicately during courtship, then once the nuptial knot is tied; he/she will kick you around like a football.

Q113. Does he/she care about your wants and desires, or does he/she usually get his/her own way?

This is another important area that you must examine. Marriage involves two parties and as such, you cannot always want the same thing at all times. There are times when you will differ as to a particular choice. It is therefore

expected that in such circumstances, you 'negotiate' and reach a consensus. But if your spouse always wants to have his way claiming that as a man, he is the head of the house; or as a woman, that she is the weaker sex and should get to choose: it will lead to problems. It is either there will be constant conflict and arguments, or unhappiness if you choose to keep quiet and go along in the name of peace. It is important that your partner should be considerate of you and take into account your opinions, views and preferences when making decisions, for example; where to go on a date, what to eat, time etc. If he/she is doing the opposite, then you have a clear picture before you of what your marriage will be like.

Q114. Does he/she hide his/her phone from you?

Courtship is undertaken on the road to marriage. And in marriage, you are expected to carry out your affairs in the spirit of openness. People who are married to each other should be open with each other. If, while you are still courting he/she is hiding his/her mobile phone from you, it means there is something he/she does not want you to know or find out about. And that should arouse your suspicion that he/she may have another person that he/she is courting elsewhere. If it happens that he/she does not have, then it shows you how he/she will behave during marriage. Such a person will be unnecessarily secretive and will want to keep things that are not so confidential secret. This can be quite dangerous.

Q115. Is he/she restless?

Restlessness in a person can be an indicator of so many things. Generally, restlessness suggests that a person has a lot of things in his/her mind that are troubling him/her. It shows that the person worries a lot. But, it can be more than that. It can also be a sign of addiction. Chain smokers, for example, experience it when they need to smoke and cannot. Medically, it is referred to as "nicotine jumps". Also, restlessness can be as a result of fear of the consequences of wrongdoing. If your intending spouse is restless, you have to check the source and determine if it is something that can be addressed.

So far, I have been taking you through the truth you need to consider before you make the final oath for marriage. Originally, once the creed has been confessed in the presence of both God and man, they are irrevocable. Even if you go for a divorce, it can never be the same again. Divorce is not divinely approved; hence it is not strong enough to end a marital turbulence. The best thing is to patiently and carefully adhere to the biblical standard for marriage.

The questions above are addressed from the view point that courtship is in progress. In other words, you have prayerfully considered a proposal and have taken the bold step of journeying into your marital destiny.

Wherever any of these questions affect you, it is not too late to reconsider the relationship in order to avoid mayhem in your future home.



Prayer Section

This prayer section focuses on getting access into the secret places over your marital life, hence it should be approached as such. But you need to confess every known and unknown sin to God and ask for forgiveness in order to have assurance for answered prayers.

Biblical Confessions

Lev. 29:29 *"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the Words of this law"*

Psalms 25: 14 *"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him, and he will shew them his covenant."*

Psalms 5:8 *"Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies: make thy way straight before my face."*

Prayer Points

1. Thank God for the revelation power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus.
2. O Lord, baptise me to the overflow with the spirit of revelation and wisdom in the knowledge of Yourself, in the name of Jesus.
3. My God and my Father, make your way plain before my face over my marital life, in the name of Jesus.

4. O Lord, reveal to me every secret I need to know over my marital life, in the name of Jesus.
5. Father Lord, let every hidden agenda of the wicked over my marriage be exposed and be frustrated, in the name of Jesus.
6. I withdraw my name from the book of those who live, grope and stumble in darkness, in the name of Jesus.
7. O Lord, make a vessel capable of knowing Your secrets, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every ancestral secret retarding my progress, be revealed, in the name of Jesus.
9. Evil secret activities currently affecting my life, be exposed and be disgraced, in the name of Jesus.
10. Every secret I need to know about my partner, be revealed, in the name of Jesus.
11. My Father, empower me to succeed, maritally, in the name of Jesus.
12. Any power that says my wedding bells will not ring; die by fire, in the name of Jesus.
13. Ancestral wall of Jericho, blocking my marriage, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
14. Pattern of death assigned against my marital life, die, in the name of Jesus.
15. Serpentine sirens, chasing away my divine partner, die, in the name of Jesus.
16. Fear; fear me, in the name of Jesus.
17. Domestic wickedness, saying no to my marriage, die, in the name of Jesus.
18. Agenda of disgrace and mockery assigned against my marital life, backfire, in the name of Jesus.
19. Every family bondage, challenging my marital destiny, die, in the name of Jesus.
20. Power of get and loose, you are a liar, die, in the name of Jesus.
21. O God arise, and let the enemies of my marriage scatter, in the name of Jesus.

22. O God arise, let every enemy of my marital breakthrough scatter in the name of Jesus.

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72. Igniting Your Inner Fire
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174. The Power of Priority
175. The Tongue Trap
176. The Terrible Agenda
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178. The Hidden Viper
179. The Star In Your Sky
180. The star hunters
181. The Spirit Of The Crab
182. The Snake In The Power House
183. The Slow Learners

184. The University of Champions
185. The Skeleton In Your Grandfather's Cupboard
186. The Serpentine Enemies
187. The Secrets Of Greatness
188. The Seasons Of Life
189. The Pursuit Of Success
190. Tied Down In The Spirits
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34 LAWS OF COURTSHIP

The important principles you need to know... the hard facts about marriage...and most importantly, the laws you need to follow so as to have a successful courtship.

Couples in the Bible who did not undergo courtship eventually had marital problems. Take note that the fact that you have heard God clearly and you are sure that a particular person is your divinely ordained spouse does not take away the need for courtship. You will still need to take time to build understanding between yourselves. The purpose of courtship is to allow two intending partners to get to have a basic proper understanding of one another before going into marriage. It is a time that helps the couple-to-be to determine how compatible they are with each other. This period enables both partners to understand each other's nuances, foibles and scruples. It gives you insight into your partner's values and an understanding of his/her own perspective on life. Courtship is important because it lays the foundation for a good marriage.

THE AUTHOR &

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Gen218 Singles, (an acronym coined from the book of Genesis 2:18, which says "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him") is a vision from the Lord Jesus Christ given to the General Overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, Dr. D.K. Olukoya and his beloved wife, Pastor (Mrs.) Shade Olukoya to push singles into their marital breakthrough. With evidence of a successful marriage spanning over 20 years, they are adequately informed to guide singles on the vital issues that need to be addressed prior to marriage. Given the numerous problems affecting them and preventing many from entering into their marital joy, Gen218 Singles is created to ensure that such issues are specifically addressed through prayer and the Word of God until their mouth is filled with overcoming laughter with respect to their marriage and by extension, every area of your life. This is done through various programmes organized to deal with individual issues. For more information, log on to...

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MARRIAGE/FAMILY/RELATIONSHIP

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