

# BECOMING A MAN

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Life has taught us that there is a difference between a boy and a man. The scriptures also reveal that one needs to be a man to marry. Who then is a man? When does a boy become a man? How does a boy become a man? Is becoming a man only by age, developed muscles and size? What does it involve to become a man? These are the questions we will be considering in this study.

Becoming a man is a process that takes time to accomplish. It is not a child's play. Becoming a man is growing up to be a mature man able to handle family and life's responsibilities. Becoming a man should be the concern of every male who intends to be successful in marriage and in life. The bible teaches us that marriage is for men – mature men. It is good for every one seeking to marry to make sure that he grows up to become a mature man before going into marriage. Maturity is not only in age but in intelligence, emotions, finance and in character.

## AREAS TO CONSIDER AND WORK ON

### 1. YOUR CHARACTER AND HABITS

You need to know yourself to be able to know areas you can work on and develop to maturity. You must know the following:

a. **Your areas of strength.**

b. **Your areas of weakness.**

c. **Your temperament:**

- What upsets you?
- What makes you happy?
- How quick you get angry.
- How long it takes before you forgive.
- Do you bear grudge, keep malice and record of wrongs?
- Do you need people to beg you first before you forgive?
- Does the sun go down on your anger or do you get rid of anger as quickly as they come?

Work with the information you get from your study of yourself, and improve your personality to become a cool-headed, forbearing and forgiving person, for that is what it takes to have a successful marriage.

d. **Your manner of speech.**

- Talkativeness – gossiping, slander
- Nagging

You need to look into the areas where you are falling short of the expectation of God and improve yourself. Failure to do that will lead to crisis, because those characters will manifest and create problems in future. Becoming a man is all about building a good character. Building a

good character is all about purging and cleansing of oneself from evil habits and developing good and pleasant attitudes and character.

Deal with the weakness in your life or it will deal with you. Work on the bad habits you have in your life. Jesus came to change people. So do not say, "I am looking for the person who will accept me as I am". You must allow Jesus to change you; otherwise, your weakness will change your expectation of your marriage.

Dealing with your weaknesses and temperament is better than shattered dreams and hopes. Getting into a relationship with the aim of happiness, only to end up with a crisis full relationship is not ideal. Take this issue serious and prepare for a successful tomorrow by growing up to become a man.

## **2. TASTE AND DESIRES**

Your desires determine who your friends will be. If your desires are contrary to the desire of God, your life will be lived outside his will. And when your life is lived outside the will of God, how will God bless you and your relationship when he is not pleased with you? You need to take a look at your desires to be sure they are such that will procure favors and blessings.

A high taste person will always live above his or her means. A high taste person likes going shopping, and competes with others, as a result, is extravagant in spending. If such a person doesn't deal with this, he or she will definitely have problems in marriage. You need to get rid of wrong desires and control your appetites. Deal with every evil appetite and develop pure desires.

Eliminate wrong desires. Kill all worldly lusts. Let your desires be within the limits of God's word.

## **3. DRESSING**

The way you dress is the way you will be addressed. People read you by the things you wear. Before they hear you, they read you. Before they know what is on the inside of you, they see and interpret what they see on the outside. Dress the way you want to be addressed.

Your type of dressing determines the type of people that are attracted to you. And those that are attracted to you make input into your life – they influence you one way or the other. Those attracted to you strengthen a weakness in you or strength.

If your dressing is always attracting the opposite sex to you, you will have problem with your spouse and marriage. If your dressing is below expectation, your partner will keep complaining until she loses interest in you. If you are the over-dressing, expensive type, your spouse will definitely put up a fight, especially when it is weighing heavily on the finance of the family. Settle down therefore and work on yourself in this area.

## **4. MANAGEMENT OF CRISIS**

Ability to manage crisis is a sign that one has become a man. It is rather unfortunate that many are married without the ability to manage crisis. So, when crisis come, they go under and behave in unbelievable ways.

Life is full of crisis. Maturity demands that you prepare yourself to handle the crisis of life. Train yourself to manage crisis and resolve conflicts without fighting, malice and destruction of property. Until you have trained yourself to manage crisis you cannot think of yourself as a mature man.

## **5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Money matters cause a lot of conflict and fights in the home. Many marriages ended up in divorce because of money matters. You need to prepare yourself by studying and understanding what money is all about, how to manage it in such a way that money will not divide your future family.

Avoid extravagant expenditure. Learn to live within your means don't live on deficit. Stop spending your income in advance. Learn to live within a budget. A mastery of this will aid co-operation with your spouse in money matters. Learn to be accountable in money matters. Practice book keeping. At the end of every month, you should be able to tell what your income was and how you spent it with dates.

## **6. ASSOCIATION**

The people you associate with matter a lot. Your associates reveal your kind of person. Bad company corrupts good morals. There are some people who are a negative influence on others, and there are some who are a positive influence. You need those who will influence you positively. Friends are influence. Your associates to a large extent determine the flow of your life.

Be careful of whom you make your friends. Don't be self-centered when choosing friends. So many lost their marriages because of the negative advice they got from their so-called friends. Friends made many adulterous and callous. Becoming a man involves the ability to make and keep good friends that will not influence you negatively.

## **7. OPENNESS TO COUNSEL**

The Bible teaches that in the multitude of counsel, there is safety. A man who has not learnt to listen and take counsel will not listen to the spouse also. It is very important, that all men maintain a lowly and teachable spirit, knowing that someone knows what you don't know; someone sees what you don't see. Hear others out, and do your best to see what they are seeing that you have not seen. If you learn it now, it will benefit you tomorrow.

## **8. ATTACHMENT TO THE WORLD**

A Christian man or woman that is so attached to the world and its system will find it difficult to apply biblical principles in his or her marriage and in other areas. If you cannot separate yourself from the world now that you are not married, it means your marriage will be built on worldly principles, and definitely, your marriage will be greatly challenged by crisis.

## **9. A LACK OF SELF-CONTROL, ESPECIALLY WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX.**

A person without self-control will definitely be ruled by uncontrolled thoughts and emotions, whether positive or negative. The person's temper will be terrible. Lust in the person's life will always result in fornication or adultery.

A person who cannot control himself as far as lust and sexual desire is concerned now that he is single, will definitely be unfaithful in marriage. This will put a big strain on the relationship and probably end it. Work on your ability to control and restrain yourself even when under pressure. When you have mastered this, then you have become a man.

## **10. PSYCHOLOGY**

Your thoughts determine your words, emotions (feelings) and actions. As we think so we talk. As we think so we feel. As we think so we act. Mind management is the first priority in the school of success. You will always relate to your spouse as you think. If you don't know how to control your thoughts in the midst of frustrations and disappointments, your hands will be full of trouble.

Psychological maturity is very essential for the success of your marriage. If you do intend to succeed, it is now that you have to start learning to control what enters into your mind and what you meditate on.

## **11. RELATIONSHIP**

Your family is your first school of relationship. In your family, you have those who believe in you and those who don't. In your family, you learn how to love and be loved, how to bear and forgive, and how to settle quarrels. You also learn how to hate and keep malice. Good and evil that you will see in later life, you have already experienced in your family. All these are to prepare you for the world and the future.

How has your relationship with your parents, brothers and sisters been like? How has your relationship with your fellow students and colleagues been like? Can you keep relationships? Do you know how to communicate? Do you know how to communicate love and sweetness in the midst of anger and great provocation? Do you know how to communicate effectively to nourish and sustain a relationship? Have you perfected forbearance, tolerance and forgiveness? If the answer is no, then you are not ready for marriage.

Relationship is not only about "I love you" and giving and receiving of gifts and flowers. It is all about all that you are and manifest daily. Work on yourself to make yourself mature.

## **CONCLUSION**

Becoming a man is very essential to every young man who desires to have a successful life. The success of your marriage depends on your level of maturity in Christ, emotions, character and finance. Take maturing to manhood serious and work on your person with diligence.