

# **BUILDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP ON A FALSE FOUNDATION**

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Every relationship if it is to be successful must be built on a strong and solid foundation. The foundation of every building determines the strength, height, weight and durability of the building. A weak foundation will produce a weak building. A strong foundation will carry a strong building. Any relationship built on a weak foundation will not stand the test of time.

Foundation for relationship is the principle upon which a man builds his life on. This principle is primarily determined by a man's attitude and disposition to the Almighty God and his knowledge about life. When a man has respect for God, he will build on the principles of God. When a man has no respect or regard for God, he will build on the philosophies of men and the devil. And the foundational principles of a man direct his lifestyle. A wrong foundation will produce a wrong life. A pure and righteous foundation will produce a holy lifestyle in a relationship.

Many build their relationship on false foundation and they think their relationship will last long and stand all the pressures of married life, only for them to be disappointed in the end. Many go into relationships for wrong reasons. These wrong reasons are false foundations.

## **1. I want to marry someone who is rich or has a fat income.**

To marry someone who is rich is not bad. The problem here is that the person's love is tied up to the riches of the man or the woman. As long as the money is there and the spouse is bringing out the money, all will be well. As soon as there is a little financial setback, or the spouse loses his or her job, you will see a different person in operation. The character of the person changes immediately. Over-sensitivity, impatience, insolence, disrespect, unfaithfulness and quarrelling become the other of the day. People in this type of life usually keep lovers outside because their heart is not really in the relationship, but the money.

It is sad to say that some marry with the intent to plan the death of their spouse so that they can inherit his or her wealth. Some will give the man or woman hell in order to kill the person with heartache. Love that is at the receiving end is not genuine love. Love should be giving. Each person in a relationship should strive to out-give each other rather than waiting to receive. When a relationship is run this way, it always remains fresh and active.

## **2. I want somebody who will take care of me and my family.**

Does this sound like you? Marriage is not meant to be a burden. When someone enters into marriage with the aim of your husband carrying your family's responsibility, soon the marriage will crash when the burden becomes unbearable. God's plan is that when a man marries a woman, they separate themselves from their families to start their own family. Taking care of each other is enough responsibility for a young couple. That does

not mean they should not help their families if the money is there; but they should not become their total responsibility.

When the man is not able to measure up, crisis begins. The woman will always nag because the man is not doing what she thinks is the man's responsibility. When the man helps any member of his family who is in immediate need of help, problems start.

Many marriages hit the rocks over this matter. It is therefore important that you understand that one should not marry in order to become a responsibility to another. Marriage is for love and companionship – to share your lives together in love; and that should be the main reason for marriage. If a man's reason is outside of that, the marriage will definitely fail.

### **3. I want to marry someone who is pretty / handsome.**

Marrying someone who is beautiful or handsome is not evil, but if that becomes the only thing you are looking for in a man or woman, you are set for crisis in that marriage. Beauty and handsomeness can never take the place of character. It is important that you look out for the one that has a good character, and whose lifestyle is compatible with yours. Some good looking people are very nice and submissive, but some are not. Some are faithful and disciplined, but some are not.

Some people are very difficult to deal with, and some are very soft hearted respectful. Beauty is not everything.

*Prov 31:30*

*30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

*NIV*

If you marry the one with an evil and incompatible character, your hands will be full of crisis and troubles. Look beyond the face and the figure. Look into the heart and the general lifestyle of the person you want to marry or are in relationship with.

### **4. I just want to marry so I can have children.**

One of the purposes of marriage is for procreation. This is not the main reason for marriage.

*Gen 2:18*

*18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

*NIV*

The main reason is to complete the man. Man needs a helper by his side - someone that fits his life perfectly. If you marry for children, definitely, you will have no respect for your husband or your wife. All that will matter to you as far as that relationship is concerned is your children. This has made some people to hurt in their marriage because

it appears the way their spouse is treating them that they are not important – they are just there to make babies.

A woman said to me, “If not for the desire to have children, I will not marry.” She never could get along well with her husband sexually, because to her sex is only for making babies; and this brought a lot of quarrels because she resisted her husband’s sexual advances. It took a Holy Spirit inspired counseling to keep the marriage together.

Your love for your spouse should be so strong that whether you have babies or not, your marriage will remain intact and as sweet as ever. Many who married just for children cannot stand the absence of a child in the marriage. To them, divorce and re-marriage is the answer. Some cannot even wait for three years before running out of the marriage. Your marriage will be difficult if you marry just for children. Your selfish interest will definitely wound your spouse and make life difficult for him or her.

#### **5. Marrying to satisfy sexual desire.**

It is true that sex is only permitted within marriage. Sex outside of marriage (including courtship time) is sin before God. Be that as it may, marrying just to satisfy sexual desire is not right. That is a selfish reason for marriage. With such an attitude, one will not respect the spouse’s feelings when not in the mood for sex. And this will always bring crisis in the relationship. One, for health reasons and tiredness may not want to have sex. And this must be respected in the relationship if peace and love must be maintained.

When sex becomes the driving force in a relationship, that relationship will definitely bleed and end abruptly. Sex is meant to be enjoyed by both parties involved in the relationship, but should not be the driving force of the relationship. If you do, it will encourage betting with sex; and make your sex life to be unsatisfactory and unfulfilling. This will always bring problems in the marriage.

If you marry for sex, you will not be prepared for the responsibilities of marriage.

#### **6. I need someone to cook my meals and take care of my house.**

If you marry for this reason, it proves you don’t understand what marriage is all about. If all you want in a spouse is someone to cook your meals, make your bed and tidy up your house, I suggest you get a maid and not a wife. If you marry for this reason like some ancient men did, your wife will worth nothing before you. You will not value her more than you value a maid. No woman for sure will take that from you, not in this modern age.

Never marry for this reason. Marry for love and you will be happy you did. Your fathers may have done this, you cannot do it. You are supposed to be an improvement of your father. And moreover you are a child of God who knows the word especially on the purpose of marriage.

#### **7. I want to marry because all my mates have married.**

It is true that your mates are all getting married, that is not enough reason why you should marry. If you marry when you are not prepared for it, your marriage will crash.

Preparation for marriage must be made by all going into it to make it worth a while. It takes the mature to make marriage work. If you rush into it before you mature for it, you will fail. Maturity for marriage is not by age. There are so many areas where maturity is required for one to be ready for marriage. I do not have space to treat that now. We have already covered this in our previous teachings.

Marry because you are ready not because your mates are all married or because someone is pushing you, especially your family members.

**8. I want to marry to get permit to stay in this country.**

Many do not have regard for the institution called marriage. Marriage has now become a means to an end for some. It is entered into by many for residential permit and not for love. Some call it contract marriage. Marriage is supposed to be for love and for life. Many have entered into it with people they do not love, those almost as old as their mothers and those they never imagined they will ever sleep with not to talk of living in the same house with them as husband and wife.

Many enter into such marriage to use these people to get what they want and get out of the relationship and settle down with another. Some get outsmarted in the process, and they find themselves stuck to the relationship. You can imagine such misery – living with someone you don't love as husband and wife.

### **THE RIGHT FOUNDATION**

**1. Love for God is the strong foundation for successful relationship, courtship and marriage.**

When a man or woman has love abiding in his or her heart for God, it will motivate that person to search out the principles, laws, and will of God, and walk in it in order to please God. Jesus taught us in the gospel of John, that you can't love without obeying the one you love.

*John 14:15*

*15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.*

*NIV*

*John 14:21*

*21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

*NIV*

*John 14:23-24*

*23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

*NIV*

Love motivates obedience. Obedience is the proof of love. The love for God will cause the lover to apply the principles of God in his or her relationship. Hence, love as the foundation for a strong, durable and successful relationship.

*Matt 7:24-27*

*24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

*NIV*

To build on a philosophy and principle that is not of God is to build your relationship and life on sinking sand. And as Jesus taught, it will not stand the test of time. Only a life and relationship built on the word of God stands the storms (challenges) of life.

**2. Genuine love that is unconditional for the person you want to have as your life partner is a strong foundation for successful marriage.**

Marriage that is not based on pure and sincere love is bound to crash. The Bible teaches that love must be sincere for relationship to succeed.

*Rom 12:9*

*9 Love must be sincere.*

*NIV*

So many people as we have seen so far have hidden agendas in their hearts in entering a relationship and yet claim to love the person with the whole of their hearts. Sincerity is a key factor in all relationships including the human relationship with Almighty God. Find someone that you love with all your heart without conditions or another agenda.

**3. Self development and improvement that will make you a marriageable candidate and enable you get along well with your future partner.**

Compatibility is a major factor in selecting a mate and having a successful marriage. It is essential that all who seek happiness in their future marriage get themselves ready early before marriage rather than quarrel all through marriage until it packs up. Your character is very important. So you need to take a good look at it and work on improving in areas of weakness and deficiency. You have to make yourself to be suitable for your partner.

*Gen 2:18*

*18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

*NIV*

Clean up and perfect your communication skills, habits, manners, character, attitudes and general lifestyle. This is a good foundation for successful marriage.