

FACING THE CHALLENGES IN COURTSHIP (Part 2)

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In the last edition we started taking a look at some of the challenges that people face during courtship and learn how to overcome them and end up victors and not victims. This is the concluding part of this teaching. Enjoy it.

10. Overbearing personality

Nobody wants an overbearing: domineering, bossy, haughty, arrogant and pompous person as a spouse. If your friend is overbearing, then you need to have a chat and express your feelings in the spirit of love. Do not expect that someone with such a character will turn a new leaf overnight. You need to give time for change to be effected. If change does not occur, then you need to ask yourself if you can cope with him or her or not. If you can, then go ahead and get married and never complain, but if you cannot, excuse yourself from the relationship.

11. Not interested in spending much time with you: married to his job, consumed with church activities such that there is practically no time for you.

A young lady that I knew broke a relationship with a guy because, according to her, “he is married to his job, he has no time for me and I can’t cope with that.” Career is good, but relationship is your life. As much as you are interested in attaining the highest height in your career, you must also understand that your love life with your spouse can help you attain it or stop you. If your home is peaceful you will be at your best. If it is not, you will be distracted and miserable. Your relationship is your life and you must not joke with it. If your partner show strong signs that he or she cannot give attention to you because of his or her job or business, you have to make a choice and live with the decision you make. The purpose of the decision is to make sure that this subject does not bring problems in your marriage in future.

If your spouse is too busy with church work such that you fear that your marriage will suffer if you get married to each other, then talk about it and see a counselor if necessary. In as much as your relationship with God is important, it is also important that you bear in mind that your commitment to the success of your marriage is important to God. If your marriage fails because you did not give it enough time, it is your fault and you cannot blame it on God or the devil. Be wise. Give time to God and give time to your relationship and family life. Have a balance.

12. Wanting too much time and attention from you

We all know that relationships need time to grow, have a blend of personality and create the bond that is necessary for the relationship to stand the test of time. Be that as it may, we need to understand also that spending too much time can create opportunities for sexual sins to occur. Many have fallen into this sin many times. And the reason is that they are spending too much time more than is required with each other. You must bear in mind that the people of the world that you are watching and trying to copy have regular sexual intercourse in their relationships before marriage. To them, it is not a sin. It is therefore important that you as a believer understand that spending too much time together can become a temptation to sexual sin. You don’t have to set the stage for the devil to make you sin. Be moderate in your seeing each other. Seeing each other every day or every other day is foolishness. Take a stand and make your stand known to your partner. And prayerfully explain why you have taken such a stand.

13. Tempting me with too much holding, hogging, caressing, undressing and changing clothes in my presence

If the devil didn't see that Eve was always going to the tree of knowledge of good and evil and admiring and wondering how it will taste in the mouth and why God doesn't want man to eat out of it and yet created it, the devil will not have succeeded in making her and her husband Adam eat of that tree. The devil takes advantage of the desires that are formed in the mind of people.

James 1:13-15

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

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Don't become a source of temptation to your partner with too much holding, hogging, caressing, undressing and changing clothes in his or her presence. Do not give the devil a chance. Do not stir evil emotion in your partner. Help your partner to stay clean and not ask for what you are not permitted to give him or her now that you are not married. Help your partner to think clean thoughts about you.

14. Too untidy

God loves a clean environment and gave laws to the people of Israel about cleanliness. It is important that you practice hygiene and cleanliness if you intend to live a healthy life. You must also bear in mind the fact that not everybody is untidy and loves an unclean environment.

If your partner is an untidy person, sit the person down and talk now so you won't shout tomorrow. Make books available to your partner to educate him or her on the dangers of unhealthy living. If your love is so strong that you are willing to manage and bear with your partner, I advise you to make up your mind to employ the services of a maid when you do get married, because you will definitely cry out someday in future.

15. He is a perfectionist

Some people demand too much from their partners and this sometimes create problems that if not properly handled, could lead to the end of a good relationship. It is good to expect a certain standard of behavior, character and lifestyle from your partner, but it is also important that you understand that people may not be able to meet up with all your expectations especially when you want them. So you have to be patient and understand that people make mistakes and there is what we call weakness. One may want to do something or change from something, but because he or she is so used to doing it another way or making a change becomes very difficult.

Learn to be patient with your partner. Learn that everybody requires time to make a change. Don't expect too much, give room for failure and mistakes, and when it does happen you will not lose control of yourself.

16. Financial crisis

Money has brought a lot of troubles to many relationships. As people in courtship begin to look ahead towards a fruitful marital life, one of the things they consider is financial security. No matter how strong love may be, money is always an issue. Therefore you need to look at it,

but, with the understanding that God is the source of all money and things can always change and become better or worse depending on how a man lives his life. Never let money kill your love and do not allow love to stop you from considering the financial capability of the man you want to marry in taking care of your house. Count the cost before you make your final decision. If there is deep rooted fear in you about the financial security of your home, I advice you to see your pastor for counseling on what to do.

17. Strong urge to start living together when not married

One of the errors I have seen today among people who are in love and hope to get married is to move in together and start living together as if they are already married. It is evil to start living with a man or woman you are not married to. In most cases, the ladies are thrown out after a long while without getting the marriage they were promised. In some cases, their men keep postponing the marriage promised. This is so because the lady is already living with him in the house and there is no need or zeal to do the marriage.

Don't be a loser in this matter. Keep yourself clean. Let your intended husband keep chasing after and longing for you until the marriage is done. Don't make yourself cheap by moving in with him no matter your personal problems, including accommodation problems. Keep your honor. Remain sought after. Be precious in his sight and not worthless.

18. Hostility from intended spouse's family members

This is a major challenge especially if the hostility is from one or both parents of your partner. It is the joy of every person to gain acceptance from the family of the one you are in love with. When that is not forth coming, a sense of rejection and darkness seems to rent the air. It brings a lot of pain, discouragement, confusion and uncertainty. Anyone who finds him or herself should not be quick to quit the relationship. You need to pray trusting God to intervene and reveal His will about the relationship. Invite family members who believe in your relationship to intervene. If that doesn't work, get the Church leadership to come in and reason with your family or your spouse' family as the case may be. Have faith in God and believe for a miracle.

CONCLUSION

I encourage you to work with these principles that I have outlined in this write up and I am sure you will be happy you did. If happiness is your goal in marriage, then you cannot afford to play the fool in the matters that I have discussed above. Look at your life and relationship critically and make the necessary amendments. Don't let anyone push you or seduce you into evil. Determine to please God all the way to the end of your life. I wish you all the best as I commend you into the hand of God.