

FOUNDATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL COURTSHIP

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Foundation is the strong base of a building usually below ground level on which it is built up. Foundation is an underlying principle upon which a relationship is built.

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT FOUNDATION

1. The foundation determines the building.
2. The depth of a foundation determines the height of the building.
3. The size of the foundation determines the size of the building.
4. The strength of the foundation determines the durability of the building.
5. The durability of the foundation determines the durability of the building.
6. Therefore, the foundation is more important than the building, emphasis must be laid on it. Time must be taken to make a good foundation in order to have a strong, durable and beautiful building.

Every relationship is like a building under construction. The beauty, strength and durability of that relationship will be determined by the foundation upon which the relationship is built.

10 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT COURTSHIP.

1. The principles upon which your courtship is built will be the principles upon which your marriage is built.
2. What you permit in your courtship will be permitted in your marriage.
3. The habits formed during courtship will be carried into marriage.
4. Courtship time is a time when the differences in the two personalities involved are harmonized.
 - It is during courtship that ideologies, visions and principles are harmonized in order to have a successful relationship.
5. Courtship is a time of comradeship – a time of special friendship with the aim of knowing one another better.
6. Courtship is a time of studying one another and finding a common ground upon which agreement and peace can be reached and maintained in the future marriage.
7. Courtship is a period that both parties settle spiritually a lot of things about their future home – it is a time of prayers.
8. Courtship time is a time of getting acquainted with God's principles of successful marriage.
 - Success requires preparation.
 - Preparation involves searching, reading, studying, learning and forming of new attitude based on wisdom acquired from the word of God.
 - You need books tapes and seminars for knowledge.
 - Refusal to prepare by gathering knowledge is preparation to fail.

Prov 4:4-9

Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live; 5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 "Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. 7 "The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding. 8 "Prize her, and she will exalt you; she will honour you if you embrace her. 9 "She will place on your head a garland of grace; she will present you with a crown of beauty."

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Prov 2:1-11

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, 3 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair--every good path. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. 11 Discretion will protect you

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Luke 6:46-49

46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

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9. Courtship time is a time of getting acquainted with your partner, family and friends. Your love, patience and ability to relate with people of diverse interests will be greatly tested.

- Decisions to continue or to quit will be made here based on what you will see, hear and experience.
- Sincerity will save you a life time of agony and pain.
- Check your heart and keep your eyes open.

10. Courtship will succeed if both persons involved will be sincere with themselves and each other.

- Don't hide your feelings about issues.
- Any unresolved or untreated matter could be dangerous to your future marriage.
- What you bottle-up today, may explode tomorrow. It could, be fatal.
- Pretence is dangerous. It is building on wrong foundation. The building will eventually collapse.
- A secret hidden today may come to the open tomorrow.
- Insincerity breaks trust when the cat is let out of the bag. A broken trust is hard to restore.
- Remove the mask. Be yourself. If he/her wants to drop you, it is better, than to get married and be divorced.
- Instead of pretending, deal with your weaknesses. Prayerfully with the scriptures work on yourself.

LOVE, THE CHIEF FOUNDATIONSTONE

Love is the nature of God. It is the life of God. Every child of God has this nature. God's kind of love is the highest form of love. It is called AGAPE in Greek. It is sacrificial love. It is love in spite of... It is more powerful than friendship love called "Phileo" and sexual love called Eros.

1. Sex is not permitted in courtship. It was made to be enjoyed only in marriage by a husband and wife.
2. Love for God is the first and greatest commandment.

Mark 12:30

30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

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- If you love God, you will not sin against God during your courtship.
- Immorality will be removed from you.
- Caressing and fondling of one another will be avoided.
- You will build your relationship on the laws and principles of God.
- If you love God, you will live for God's glory.
- If you love God, your fiancé/fiancée will never be number one in your life. God will always be your number one.
- If you love God, you will seek to please God rather than your fiancé/fiancée.
- If you love God, you will give God more time than you give your fiancé/fiancée.
- If you love God, your priorities will never be misplaced. Never forget that there is time for everything under the sun.

Eccl 3:1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a

time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

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3. Love your intended spouse as yourself.

Mark 12:31

31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

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- Love your fiancé/fiancée as yourself.
- Do unto him/her what you would have him/her do to you.
- Don't do to him/her what you would not like to be done to you.
- Consider the feelings of your partner.
- Let all your words, actions and reactions and responses be motivated by love.
- Agape love is not self-centered. It is sacrificial in nature. Practice it in your courtship, and surely, it will be your way of life in your marriage.

CONCLUSION

Lay a strong foundation for your marriage during your courtship. Allow this teaching to renew your mind and change your attitude towards knowledge. Build on the words of wisdom received in this teaching and you will have a fruitful and rewarding courtship. Build on the words of God. Build on the laws and principles of God. We will celebrate your successful courtship and marriage.