

# GETTING READY FOR MARRIAGE

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Life is a serious business; so also marriage. Everything you are today determines your future. Tomorrow starts today. Today began yesterday, and tomorrow starts today. Tomorrow will never be an accident. We only progress into tomorrow. Therefore, tomorrow is only a continuation of yesterday and today.

How you live today will determine tomorrow's experiences. The foundation for tomorrow is laid today. The principles you decide to live by today, and the values formed in your single years determines how your married life will look like.

Tomorrow does not just occur; it is not an accident, but progressive. You progressively walk into tomorrow. The type of foundation you lay today will determine the kind of building you will have tomorrow – the structure itself, durability, comfort and security of your home.

*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."*

*NIV*

You need wisdom. Single life is a time to gather wisdom. Foundation for marriage is laid during single life. Marriage is serious business. Marriage is life – your life.

*Prov 14:1*

*The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.*

*NIV*

*Prov 24:3-7*

*3 By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; 4 through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. 5 A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; 6 for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers. 7 Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the assembly at the gate he has nothing to say.*

*NIV*

*Prov 24:14*

*14 Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.*

*NIV*

## **YOU NEED TO MATURE FOR MARRIAGE**

Marriage is not for boys and girls. Marriage is not for the immature. To mature is to be fully grown, made perfect, ready for use.

You need to mature in the following areas of life before you can say you are ready for marriage.

*1 Tim 4:12-13*

*12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.*

*NIV*

*1 Tim 4:15-16*

*15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

*NIV*

*Col 3:17*

*17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*NIV*

### **1. AGE**

You should not marry as a teenager. Marriage is for those who are mature age wise. Who have seen and learnt a lot from life.

Don't allow the pursuit of career to make you get "over aged" before you make up your mind you want to marry, otherwise you will meet with frustration in finding a partner.

### **2. EMOTIONS**

You must be mature enough to handle and control your emotions. Marriage is for those who can handle emotional challenges in marriage. Develop yourself to become temperate. You must come to the place where you are able to rule your temper and not your temper ruling you.

You must come to the point where you are able to distinguish between love and lust. Some don't know the difference. If you are in this category, you are not mature at all.

You must be emotionally mature to separate emotions from facts to be able to deal with situations.

### **3. 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.

#### **4. BEHAVIOUR**

Your behaviour reveals who you are. You may pretend for a while, but someday, the true you will manifest. Know and understand yourself. Know your habits and character. Eliminate that which needs to be eliminated. Perfect that which needs to be perfected. Adjust that which needs to be adjusted. Clean up yourself. Cultivate godly character and behaviour. It will help you in your future marriage.

#### **5. 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.

#### **6. SPIRITUALITY**

An unspiritual man or woman is a dead person. He or she is insensitive to the things of the Spirit of God. When you marry someone who is not spiritually inclined, you will have your hands full of crisis, because the fear of the Lord will be absent.

How is your relationship with God like? Do you have respect for the word of God? A man will always attract his own kind. You have to be spiritual to attract and appreciate someone who is spiritual.

Romancing, caressing and sex before marriage, sleeping in your boyfriend's or girlfriend's (fiancé's or fiancée's) house, is not a sign of spirituality. If you have no respect for the word of God, there is no guarantee that you will have respect for it in your marriage.

#### **7. MANNER OF SPEECH**

*Col 4:5-6*

*5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

*NIV*

*Eph 4:29*

*29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

*NIV*

Have you learnt to speak wisely at all times? Have you learnt to use the right words that communicate your desire respectfully and firmly?

## **8. FINANCIAL MATURITY**

You must be financially mature to handle a home. Be gainfully employed. Have a job that can take care of your family. A man should not be thinking of marriage when he does not have the means of taking care of the wife he is to marry. It is also important that you perfect financial management. You must not be a miser or stingy with money or you will have many troubles with your spouse. You must also not be a waster or extravagant in spending money. It is essential you learn how to live within your income now you are single so you will be able to do so when married and not go into financial burdens and debts.

## **9. MANAGEMENT**

Independence from your own parents to start your own family is responsibility. You must be prepared to manage your home, resources, spouse, children, time etc. successfully. You cannot just be running back to your mum or dad every time there is a problem.

How are you handling responsibility that is being given to you presently at home, at school, at church and at work? Do you give feed back to your boss and parents? Have you learnt how to report back? Do you remember your assignments, or you are always reminded? Do you understand the meaning of accountability? Do you work with your whole heart? Do you manage your finances well? Do you over spend your income monthly. Train yourself in the act of management.

## **SUMMARY**

Maturing has to do with use, training, exercise, practice and perfecting of known and proven godly laws and principles.

*Heb 5:14*

*14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

*NIV*

Use the word of God to make yourself mature so you can have a mature marriage

The process of maturing is the knowing, understanding, believing and application of the word of God leading to renewed mentality and transformation of character.

*Rom 2:2*

*2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.*

*NIV*

Maturing involves self-analysis from time to time. This is necessary for change and improvement. Maturing is progressive improvement in self-analysis, adjustments, change, and application of godly principles to measure up to the fullness of Christ who is our role model. Settle down therefore to build yourself and make yourself ready for marriage. Prepare yourself now.