

IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT MARRIAGE

Sylvester Onyemalechi

1. God did not plan marriage to be between a man and many women, or a woman and many men. His plan is one man one wife (Monogamy and not polygamy).

Matt 19:4-6

4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female,' 5 and said, `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

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Gen 2:24

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

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2. Marriage was designed to produce godly offspring – children within a marriage and raised by both parents in the fear of God. Marriage was designed for responsibility for the children of their sexual relationship.

Mal 2:15

15 Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

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1 Cor 7:12-14

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

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3. Marriage was designed to create a family setting where children will be trained to know and love God, understand life and the basic principles of successful living, become faithful witness for Jesus Christ, understand purpose and trained to fulfill purpose and to the building and administering of their nation and the world in general. As a result,

Prov 22:6

6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

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- The family is the first school of relationship every human has.
- What happens in the family manifests in the larger society.
- The values formed in the family is what each person takes into the larger society and lives by.
- Any child spoilt by his family will definitely live a spoilt life, but, any child well trained will live like a well trained person.
- They say, 'Charity begins at home'.

PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

- 1. Companionship:** - For a man to have a companion, and a helper suited to his needs according to the purpose of God for his life.

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."

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Eccl 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

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- a. They share their lives together.
 - b. They are each other's prayer partners and the first among prayer partners.
 - c. They are open to one another. They keep no secrets.
 - d. They plan and execute their plans together.
 - e. They share their ministry together.
 - f. They understand one another so much as to trust one another, and to speak for one another. (They have one mind).
 - g. They love and fellowship with one another.
 - h. They share their sorrows, pains, Joy and successes together.
 - i. They encourage and uphold one another.
 - j. They sow and build together. They reap and enjoy together.
 - k. They raise and train their children together.
 - l. They fight their battles together.
 - m. They care for one another.
 - n. They are a team bonded together by love.
- 2. a.** To provide security: Both emotional and financial. Of the two types, emotional security is of greater importance to the integrity of the home. It is the natural craving for emotional security that impels young men and women toward marriage who would not have gone into marriage because of the obligations and responsibilities involved in marriage. Emotional security comes from being able to confide in a husband or a wife and expect his/her

partner to be impartial and unprejudiced, as he or she shares the problems and anxieties of the moment.

b. Marriage also provides emotional and financial security for the children who come into a home. When a child feels secure within his own home, his character and personality will develop symmetrically (emulating their parents) in spite of unfavorable external influences.

c. Another connection in which marriage should provide security is with relation to the uncertainties of old age. Marriage provides a family setting in which grown children properly assume the obligations, which the scriptures enjoin in the matter of caring for aged and feeble parents.

1 Tim 5:4

4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

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3. To provide the spiritual and cultural growth of all members of the family. The family is the structural unit of the community and of the nation. The spiritual and tenor of the community is an average of the families that make up the community.

4. One other purpose or function of marriage is the development and build up of good character in the children that make up the family - The generation of and distribution of those ideals of personal responsibility and participation, which provides the backbone of civilization of the society.

Prov 22:6

6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

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5. Pro-Creation: To be fruitful, increase and multiply through child bearing

Gen 1:28

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

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And through it subdue the earth

Gen 4:1

4:1 Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."

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Ps 127:3

3 Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.

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Ps 128:3

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table.

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Gen 9:1

9:1 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

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6. Chastity: To prevent fornication and also be free from the fire of lust.

1 Cor 7:2-9

2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7 I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. 8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

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1 Thess 4:3-8

3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

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Prov 5:15-20

15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

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Marriage is to satisfy biological desires in man. Man is born with certain desires that are good, holy and legitimate (e.g. sexual desires), but can only be satisfied in marriage.

- **The over-all function of marriage is to provide happiness and make life easier, sweeter and stress free.**

Make sure your marriage fulfils the original intent of God who created marriage.

WORD OF WISDOM

1. **Never keep company with anyone who does not fear God.**
2. **Never marry anyone who is comfortable with sin.**
3. **Never marry anyone you will not be proud of.**
4. **Never marry anyone that does not inspire you.**
5. **Outward beauty is deceptive, but inner beauty is far more precious than pearls.**
6. **Every relationship is like a building. The beauty, strength, size and durability of that relationship are determined by the foundation upon which the relationship is built.**
7. **Forgiveness strengthens and builds relationship.**
8. **Becoming like Christ takes away stress from marriage.**
9. **Submission is the key to greater love.**
10. **Freedom of sex expressions in marriage strengthens the bond of love and oneness.**