

# KEEPING THE PEACE IN THE HOME

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It is important that we understand the purpose and plan of God for establishing the marriage institution to be able to appreciate why we need to keep the peace in the home.

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. God did not plan marriage to end in divorce

*Mal 2:13-16*

*13 Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. 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. 16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.*

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*1 Cor 7:10-11*

*10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.*

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3. 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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4. 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.

*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'.
- How parents conduct themselves in the marriage affects the children a lot and leaves wrong impressions and memories on their minds.

It is therefore very necessary that couples do their best to maintain peace in the home so that the purpose of marriage will be fulfilled.

Marriage is all about love. Love is the binding force in every relationship. Every effort should be made by all concerned to nurture, nourish and protect that love. When love goes sour, the relationship loses its sweetness and becomes boring. Everything that happens to the people in the relationship strengthens or weakens the relationship. The character, attitude and behavioral pattern of all in the relationship strengthen or weaken the relationship. It is therefore necessary that couples be mindful of the fact that a peaceful environment is required for love to survive and grow.

When all is well, peace reigns. But when there is conflict or unresolved issues, peace is absent. It is important that husband and wife dwell in peace to keep their love alive. There is nothing that destroys love like quarrelling. Quarrelling leads to unforgiveness, bitterness, hate and divorce. During quarrelling sessions, evil and temper building words are spoken, bitter seeds are planted, anger is stirred, and self-control lost, injury and damage suffered. As this goes on, love is strained, separation or divorce is contemplated.

### **WHAT PEACE IS**

Peace is the absence of conflict. Peace is freedom from war. Peace is rest. Peace is a state of quietness, calmness and tranquility. A peaceful home is the ideal place for raising children in the fear of God who will later become great men and women in the society. **Peace is very costly**, but cannot be bought with money, it is costly in the sense that a lot of sacrifice has to be made by those concerned to create and keep peace.

### **WHAT DESTROYS PEACE IN HOMES**

1. Selfishness – Self consciousness and self centeredness.
2. Bad habits, manners, behaviours and character.
3. Refusal to live by the word of God.
4. Lack of respect and submission to husband.
5. Weak love for wife.
6. Adulterous relationship by one of the couple.
7. Nagging and fault finding habit.
8. Laziness and dirtiness by wife and littering of the house by the husband.
9. Lack of provision for the family by the husband.
10. Mismanagement of funds by either the wife or the husband.
11. Unwholesome counsel from friends, neighbours and family (some have good counsel based on the word of God, and some don't. The later is dangerous).
12. Wrong use of words and language and lack of communication skills.
13. Extending anger to in-laws by way of insults and curses, neglects, maltreatment, disrespect and enmity.
14. Wife not preparing food on time for husband, children, and in-laws.
15. Husband insulting and abusing the wife in the presence of his family, visitors and in public.
16. Lack of care by the husband for wife.

17. Allowing job, business and money-making to eat up time that would have been spent with each other.
18. Inability to control temper and restrain oneself in the face of provocation.
19. Betting and bargaining with sex.
20. Absence of romance in the relationship as a result of one party's lack of interest.
21. Refusal to admit wrong and apologize for the wrong done.
22. Refusal to forbear and forgive when offended.
23. Not forgetting old offensive matters – keeping record of wrongs.
24. Giving ears to gossips about your spouse and family members.
25. Letting family members think for you and dictate what happens in your home.
26. 'I too know' attitude and actions.

### **STEPS TO KEEPING PEACE**

**1. You must decide you want peace and harmony in your home.**  
Your mind must be made up about it.

**2. Determine to keep the peace.**

So much will happen to discourage you and make you think it will not be possible. Your spouse may appear incorrigible (unchangeable), don't let that disturb you. Keep believing and working towards it.

**3. Give yourself to God to help you.**

It is important that you surrender and rely on Jesus Christ to change you and your spouse and help you work on and perfect your character in order to keep the peace in your home. Only Jesus Christ can change people from inside. Without Him, your efforts will end in futility.

**4. Give room for offence.**

An understanding of human behaviour reveals that offences will always come. One of the problems we have in relationship is that we expect too much and we tend to forget that only perfect people don't make mistakes or sin. Since we are still learning to yield to the nature of Christ in us to manifest perfection, it is very important that we give room for offence. It is therefore necessary that everyone prepare to absorb all offences, so it does not come as a surprise.

Forbearance is a virtue of love. For peace to reign in your home, you must be willing to forbear.

*Col 3:12-14*

*12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.*

*Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

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*Prov 19:11*

*11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*

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*Prov 20:3*

*3 It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.*

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Forbearance is very important in every relationship, especially in a marriage. If you are weak in manifesting this grace, pray about it. You need it to keep the peace.

Forbearance enables you to keep the peace. It energizes you to forgive and not to keep malice or grudge.

#### **5. Determine to forgive when offended.**

True love does not keep record of wrongs. Where record of wrong exists, forgiveness is absent. And where forgiveness is absent, peace cannot exist. A home where there is no peace, the marriage will collapse. When the marriage collapses, the children suffer.

*1 Cor 13:5*

*5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

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*Eph 4:32*

*32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

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Learn to forgive each other as offences occur. Whether your spouse asks for forgiveness or not, forgive.

#### **6. Work on your character, and areas of weakness.**

Failure to correct and improve your life to eliminate conflicts will result in more trouble. Whatever your spouse is complaining about or is making him or her to be sad and quarrelsome should be addressed. Have feelings for your partner. Prove your love by saying and doing those things that lead to peace, happiness and fun. If you are not creating happiness, but sorrow, you can never know peace in that home. True love seeks to please the one you love. ***If pleasing yourself is your main focus, then you are not prepared for marriage.***

Take a look at yourself, especially in your partner's areas of complain. Prayerfully with determination, eliminate the weaknesses and the evil character in your life. Deal with anger, unforgiveness, wrong use of words and other evils in your life. Listen to the cry of your partner. Instead of complaining that your spouse is talking and complaining too much, look at the things he or she is complaining about.

#### **7. Be careful who speaks into your marriage.**

Not everybody is qualified to advice you on marriage matters. Anyone speaking into your life is molding your character, taste and desires, and is also directing the focus of your life. Counsel can increase your love, tolerance and patience for your spouse. Counsel can reduce your love and patience for your spouse to the barest minimum. Counsel can make you fight your spouse and destroy property worth millions of naira. A counsel can plant hatred in your heart for your spouse, and set you up against him or her.

It is not every counsel you follow, but a wise counsel that is rooted in the word of God. Choose carefully those who speak into your family life and personal life. Do not give your ears to gossips about your spouse or in-laws. Gossip is deadly and wicked. Gossip can turn your marriage into a battlefield, break your trust for your spouse and make you wild. Gossips are liars and have evil motive. They may appear to be helping you but they have evil motive. They are setting you up against your spouse.

*Prov 26:22-26*

*22 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts. 23 Like a coating of glaze over earthenware are fervent lips with an evil heart. 24 A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit. 25 Though his speech is charming, do not believe him, for seven abominations fill his heart. 26 His malice may be concealed by deception, but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.*

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The seven abominations in his or her heart are:

*Prov 6:16-19*

*16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*

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Shun gossips, and don't work with what they tell you.

#### **8. Let there be no partiality in welcoming, entertaining and assisting family members.**

Partialities in the way family members are treated create a lot of problems and subsequently bring a lot of strain on the marriage.

**Remember this:**

- Maintaining peace in the home requires understanding and diligent application of principles that will enable peace reign in the home.
- You must decide you want peace and harmony in your home.
- Determine to keep the peace.
- Give yourself to God to help you.
- Give room for offence.
- Forbearance enables you to keep the peace. It energizes you to forgive and not to keep malice or grudge.
- Determine to forgive when offended.
- Work on your character, and areas of weakness.
- Be careful who speaks into your marriage.
- Let there be no partiality in welcoming, entertaining and assisting family members.
- Having gone through what destroys marriage, it becomes very necessary that couple's avoid them and do that which will help keep the peace in the home so that the marriage will be an enjoyable one.
- May God make your home peaceful in Jesus Christ name. Amen!