

# MAKING YOURSELF READY

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Success in any venture including marriage is not a gift. There is no spiritual gift of success. Success is earned. It is worked out. Success is the result of a process. Success is the accomplishment of a set goal. Success in marriage is experiencing marital happiness. Success is achieving the purpose of marriage.

It is therefore very important that one make preparation for success to be attained. Making yourself ready for a successful marital life is a necessity. If you fail to prepare, it means you have no intention to succeed. Who to marry is not the first and most important thing for a single. Rushing into a relationship because your mates are in a relationship, or because of lust, will not help you. Rushing into a relationship when you are not prepared and mature in terms of age, no employment or income too low to maintain a wife, no household equipment, not emotionally mature to handle the pressure of marriage, is an invitation to crisis.

## AREAS TO CONSIDER AND WORK ON

### 1. YOUR CHARACTER AND HABITS

You need to know yourself to be able to know who can fit into your life. You must know the following:

- a. **Your areas of strength.**
- b. **Your areas of weakness.**
- c. **Your temperament:**
  - What upsets you?
  - What makes you happy?
  - How quick you get angry.
  - How long it takes before you forgive.
  - Do you bear grudge, keep malice and record of wrongs?
  - Do you need people to beg you first before you forgive?
  - Does the sun go down on your anger or do you get rid of anger as quickly as they come?
- d. **Your manner of speech.**

- Talkativeness – gossiping, slander
- Nagging

You need to look into the areas where you are falling short of the expectation of God and improve yourself. Failure to do that will lead to crisis, because those characters will manifest and create problems in future.

Deal with the weakness in your life or it will deal with you. Work on the bad habits you have in your life. Jesus came to change people. So do not say, “I am looking for the person who will accept me as I am”. You must allow Jesus to change you; otherwise, your weakness will change your expectation of your marriage.

Dealing with your weaknesses and temperament is better than shattered dreams and hopes. Getting into a relationship with the aim of happiness, only to end up with a crisis full relationship is not ideal. Take this issue serious and prepare for a successful tomorrow.

## **2. TASTE AND DESIRES**

Your desires determine who your friends will be. If your desires are contrary to the desire of God, your life will be lived outside his will. And when your life is lived outside the will of God, how will God bless you and your relationship when he is not pleased with you?

When your desires are contrary to the desires of your spouse, there will always be clashes in the relationship. You need to take a look at your desires to be sure they are such that will procure favors and blessings.

A high taste person will always live above his or her means. A high taste person likes going shopping, and competes with others, as a result, is extravagant in spending. If such a person doesn't deal with this, he or she will definitely have problems in marriage.

Eliminate wrong desires. Kill all worldly lusts. Let your desires be within the limits of God's word.

## **3. DRESSING**

The way you dress is the way you will be addressed. People read you by the things you wear. Before they hear you, they read you. Before they know what is on the inside of you, they see and interpret what they see on the outside. Dress the way you want to be addressed.

Your type of dressing determines the type of people that are attracted to you. And those that are attracted to you make input into your life – they influence you one way or the other. Those attracted to you strengthen a weakness in you or strength.

If your dressing is always attracting the opposite sex to you, you will have problem with your spouse and marriage. If your dressing is below expectation, your partner will keep complaining until he or she loses interest in you. If you are the over-dressing, expensive type, your spouse will definitely put up a fight, especially when it is weighing heavily on the finance of the family. Settle down therefore and work on yourself in this area.

#### **4. MANAGEMENT OF CRISIS**

Ability to manage crisis is a sign that one is ready for marriage. It is rather unfortunate that many are married without the ability to manage crisis. So, when crisis come, they go under and behave in unbelievable ways.

Life is full of crisis. Maturity demands that you prepare yourself to handle the crisis of life. Train yourself to manage crisis and resolve conflicts without fighting, malice and destruction of property.

#### **5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

Money matters cause a lot of conflict and fights in the home. Many marriages ended up in divorce because of money matters. You need to prepare yourself by studying and understanding what money is all about, how to manage it in such a way that money will not divide the family.

Avoid extravagant expenditure. Learn to live within your means don't live on deficit. Stop spending your income in advance. Learn to live within a budget. A mastery of this will aid co-operation with your spouse in money matters.

#### **6. ASSOCIATION**

The people you associate with matter a lot. Your associates reveal your kind of person. Bad company corrupts good morals. There are some people who are a negative influence on others, and there are some who are a positive influence. You need those who will influence you positively. Friends are influence. Your associates to a large extent determine the flow of your life.

Be careful of whom you make your friends. Take into account your relationship and marriage as you associate. Don't be self-centered when choosing friends. So many lost their marriages because of the negative advice they got from their so-called friends. Friends made many adulterous and callous.

#### **7. OPENNESS TO COUNSEL**

The Bible teaches that in the multitudes counsel, there is safety. A man or woman who has not learnt to listen and take counsel will not listen to the spouse also. It is very important, that all men maintain a lowly and teachable spirit, knowing that someone knows what you don't know; someone sees what you don't see. Hear others out, and do your best to see what they are seeing that you have not seen. If you learn it now, it will benefit you tomorrow.

#### **8. ATTACHMENT TO THE WORLD**

A Christian man or woman that is so attached to the world and its system will find it difficult to apply biblical principles in his or her marriage and in other areas. If you cannot separate yourself from the world now that you are not married, it means your marriage will be built on worldly principles, and definitely, your marriage will be greatly challenged by crisis.

#### **9. A LACK OF SELF-CONTROL, ESPECIALLY WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX.**

A person without self-control will definitely be ruled by uncontrolled thoughts and emotion, whether positive or negative. The person's temper will be terrible. Lust in the person's life will always result in fornication or adultery.

A person who cannot control him or herself as far as lust and sexual desire is concerned now that he or she is single, will definitely be unfaithful in marriage. This will put a big strain on the relationship and probably end it.

Work on your ability to control and restrain yourself even when under pressure.

#### **10. STUBBORNNESS AND REBELLION**

A wife is expected to submit to the husband according to the Bible. The man is also expected not only to love the wife but to treat her as himself, which includes listening to her heart cry. Stubbornness from both couple will destroy the relationship. Do not be stubborn and rebellious. Work with the counsel of God and not just any counsel.

Learn to submit to God's principle for successful marriage. Start programming yourself now that you are single to love and practice these principles. Don't see submission as slavery as young ladies do. Just like in every institution, there has to be leadership and the led. Once there is authority, someone has to be under authority. In this case, the wife and the children of the marriage are under the authority of the husband. This must be clearly understood and accepted. To deviate from this divine order will be an invitation to crisis.

Learn submission. Start now to submit to your parents, elders in your family and the church. Submit to your boss and superiors at work. Master it now so it will not be difficult for you tomorrow in marriage. Learn to respect authority.

### **CONCLUSION**

From all that have been discussed in this article, it is clear that preparation is necessary for success to be attained in marriage. Therefore, I urge you to settle down and start working on, and improving yourself now. Tomorrow will never be an accident, but a continuation of today. It will never be a surprise to you. What you sow is what you will reap. The principles and values you have trained yourself to live by is what you will continue working with except God supernaturally intervenes. Perfect yourself in the Lord now. Work towards a successful tomorrow. Start now!