MARRYING FOR THE RIGHT PURPOSE

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Marriage was designed by God to be enjoyed by the couple involved in it. Unfortunately, many marriages today are not what they were meant to be. There are many marriages that are being managed rather than being enjoyed. Divorce is on the increase even in the church. One of the reasons is that people marry for wrong reasons. People are not sincere in their hearts when relating. The pretence of many led to many people marrying the wrong persons. To worsen it all, many do not take time to prayerfully check out those they intend marrying to be sure that they are the right persons for them and that all the information given are correct.

It may surprise you to know that many marry for wrong reasons. Your motive may be right, but your spouse's motive may be wrong. The truth is that, at the end of the day, each person's intent will be revealed. Thoughts don't hide for too long. No matter how long a man pretends the true intent of his heart will be made manifest with time, especially after the marriage is consummated. This is one of the main reasons why many marriages are filled with conflicts and eventually breaks up.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words." (Proverbs 23:7,8 KJV)

God teaches us in this passage that a man may pretend before his friend and make him think that he is a good and kind man, but after a short while, the true intent of the man's heart will be revealed. At that time the man will discover that he has wasted his pleasant words. When the original intent of a man or woman is revealed in the marriage, definitely, conflicts will arise.

The purpose of this article is not to create fear in you and make you relate with suspicion, but challenge you to take your time to pray and investigate properly with your spiritual eyes open your intended spouse to know who he or she really is and want from you.

I will like us to look at some of the reasons some people get married:

1. I want to marry someone who is rich or has a fat income.

To marry someone who is rich is not bad. The problem here is that the person's love is tied up to the riches of the man or the woman. As long as the money is there and the spouse is bringing out the money, all will be well. As soon as there is a little financial setback, or the spouse loses his or her job, you will see a different person in operation. The character of the person changes immediately. Over-sensitivity, impatience, insolence, disrespect, unfaithfulness and quarrelling become the other of the day. People in this type of life usually keep lovers outside because their heart is not really in the relationship, but the money.

It is sad to say that some marry with the intent to plan the death of their spouse so that they can inherit his or her wealth. Some will give the man or

woman hell in other to kill the person with heart ache. Love that is at the receiving end is not genuine love. Love should be giving. Each person in a relationship should strive to out-give each other rather than waiting to receive. When a relationship is run this way, it always remains fresh and active.

2. I want somebody who will take care of me and my family.

Does this sound like you? Marriage is not meant to be a burden. When someone enters into marriage with the aim of your husband carrying your family's responsibility, soon the marriage will crash when the burden becomes unbearable. God's plan is that when a man marries a woman, they separate themselves from their families to start their own family. Taking care of each other is enough responsibility for a young couple. That does not mean they should not help their families if the money is there; but they should not become their total responsibility.

When the man is not able to measure up, crisis begins. The woman will always nag because the man is not doing what she thinks is the man's responsibility. When the man helps any member of his family who is in immediate need of help, problems start.

Many marriages hit the rocks over this matter. It is therefore important that you understand that one should not marry in order to become a responsibility to another. Marriage is for love and companionship – to share your lives together in love; and that should be the main reason for marriage. If a man's reason is outside of that, the marriage will definitely fail.

3. I want to marry someone who is pretty / handsome.

Marrying someone who is beautiful or handsome is not evil, but if that becomes the only thing you are looking for in a man or woman, you are set for crisis in that marriage. Beauty and handsomeness can never take the place of character. It is important that you look out for the one that has a good character, and whose lifestyle is compatible with yours. Some good looking people are very nice and submissive, but some are not. Some are faithful and disciplined, but some are not.

Some people are very difficult to deal with, and some are very soft hearted respectful. Beauty is not everything.

"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." (Proverbs 31:30)

If you marry the one with an evil and incompatible character, your hands will be full of crisis and troubles. Look beyond the face and the figure. Look into the heart and the general lifestyle of the person you want to marry or are in relationship with.

4. I just want to marry so I can have children.

One of the purposes of marriage is for procreation. This is not the main reason for marriage.

"The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18)

The main reason is to complete the man. Man needs a helper by his side - someone that fits his life perfectly. If you marry for children, definitely, you will have no respect for your husband or your wife. All that will matter to you as far as that relationship is concerned is your children. This has made some people to hurt in their marriage because it appears the way their spouse is treating them that they are not important – they are just there to make babies.

A woman said to me, "If not for the desire to have children, I will not marry." She never could get along well with her husband sexually, because to her sex is only for making babies; and this brought a lot of quarrels because she resisted her husband's sexual advances. It took a Holy Spirit inspired counseling to keep the marriage together.

Your love for your spouse should be so strong that whether you have babies or not, your marriage will remain intact and as sweet as ever. Many who married just for children cannot stand the absence of a child in the marriage. Divorce and re-marriage is the answer. Some cannot even wait for three years before running out of the marriage. Your marriage will be difficult if you marry just for children. Your selfish interest will definitely wound your spouse and make life difficult for him or her.

5. Marrying to satisfy sexual desire.

It is true that sex is only permitted within marriage. Sex outside of marriage (including courtship time) is sin before God. Be that as it may, marrying just to satisfy sexual desire is not right. That is a selfish reason for marriage. With such an attitude, one will not respect the spouse's feelings when not in the mood for sex. And this will always bring crisis in the relationship. One, for health reasons and tiredness may not want to have sex. And this must be respected in the relationship if peace and love must be maintained.

When sex becomes the driving force in a relationship, that relationship will definitely bleed and end abruptly. Sex is meant to be enjoyed by both parties involved in the relationship, but should not be the driving force of the relationship. If you do, it will encourage betting with sex; and make your sex life to be unsatisfactory and unfulfilling. This will always bring problems in the marriage.

If you marry for sex, you will not be prepared for the responsibilities of marriage.

6. I need someone to cook my meals and take care of my house.

If you marry for this reason, it proves you don't understand what marriage is all about. If all you want in a spouse is someone to cook your meals, make your bed and tidy up your house, I suggest you get a maid and not a wife. If you marry for this reason like some ancient men did, your wife will worth nothing before you. You will not value her more than you value a maid. No woman for sure will take that from you, not in this modern age.

Never marry for this reason. Marry for love and you will be happy you did. Your fathers may have done this, you cannot do it. You are supposed to be an

improvement of your father. And more over you are a child of God who knows the word especially on the purpose of marriage.

7. I want to marry because all my mates have married.

It is true that your mates are all getting married, that is not enough reason why you should marry. If you marry when you are not prepared for it, your marriage will crash. Preparation for marriage must be made by all going into it to make it worth a while. It takes the mature to make marriage work. If you rush into it before you mature for it, you will fail. Maturity for marriage is not by age. There are so many areas where maturity is required for one to be ready for marriage. I do not have space to treat that now. We have already covered this in our previous editions.

Marry because you are ready not because your mates are all married or because someone is pushing you, especially your family members.

8. I want to marry to get permit to stay in this country.

Many do not have regard for the institution called marriage. Marriage has now become a means to an end for some. It is entered into by many for residential permit and not for love. Some call it contract marriage. Marriage is supposed to be for love and for life. Many have entered into it with people they do not love, those almost as old as their mothers and those they never imagined they will ever sleep with not to talk of living in the same house with them as husband and wife.

Many enter into such marriage to use these people to get what they want and get out of the relationship and settle down with another. Some get outsmarted in the process, and they find themselves stuck to the relationship. You can imagine such misery – living with someone you don't love as husband and wife.

CONCLUSION

These are by no means all the reasons for wrong marriage, but I have chosen these to prove that many marry for wrong reasons, and this explains why we have many conflicts in the home, and many broken homes. The purpose of this article is not to make you suspicious and afraid as I explained earlier, but to wake you up and make you investigate whoever you intend to marry properly and prayerfully to be sure of the person's intentions before you say "yes I do".

It will be risky to marry someone who has a wrong reason for going into marriage. Don't overlook the things you need to give attention to all in the name of love and time is running out. Don't tell me men are too hard to find, and therefore, you should just marry anyone that comes your way. Marriage is so sacred that divorce should not be considered. Many divorced because they made the mistakes we are trying to correct in this article. Don't make the same mistake. Be wise!