

RESPECT THE MARRIAGE INSTITUTION

Marriage according to the Bible is an honourable institution and must be respected by those in it, those hoping and working towards going into it, those not in it because they are not mature for it, and those not interested in it. Whatever your position, you are expected to respect the marriage institution. The Lord Jesus taught that, no one should put a marriage God joined together asunder.

Many do not respect the marriage institution at all. And this is very bad. When a man does not respect marriage, he will approach it with a wrong mindset and will make the wrong choice of a partner and relate in a very bad way that will make the marriage to be boring and fail.

Heb 13:4

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

NIV

Heb 13:4

4 Marriage [is to be] honorable [or, respected] among all and the marriage bed undefiled, but sexual sinners and adulterers God will judge.

ALT

Heb 13:4

4 Marriage is to be honored by all, and husbands and wives must be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

GNB

Heb 13:4

4 Let marriage be held in honor (esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear) in all things. And thus let the marriage bed be undefiled (kept undishonored); for God will judge {and} punish the unchaste [all guilty of sexual vice] and adulterous.

AMP

- 1.** Marriage is not for documents – resident permits and business purposes.
- 2.** Marrying someone because you will have access to a free house and necessities of life is marrying for the wrong purpose.
 - This is insincerity, fake love, selfishness, deception and manipulation in operation.
- 3.** Marrying someone to possess his or her property after death is invitation to the spirit of darkness to fill your mind with all manner of evil plots and schemes that will lead to his or her death.
 - Such marriage reveals selfishness, greed and wickedness.
- 4.** Marriage is not to be entered into without careful consideration of the compatibility of the two persons concerned.

- You must take out time to pray and search your heart to be sure you are making the right decision.
 - You must not marry someone that is not of the same faith and belief – don't marry a non-Christian.
 - Don't marry one whose vision does not agree with yours.
 - Be sure that the character of the person you want to marry is what you can cope with without much complaint.
 - Marry someone whose temperament is under control.
 - Marry someone whose tongue has been tamed and speaks words that are full of grace and seasoned with salt – Who knows how to answer wisely and speaks words that edify only.
5. Marriage is not for the immature – It is not for boys and girls, but for men and women.
 - Maturity is not only by age.
 - Be mentally, emotionally and financially mature to handle the pressures of marriage.
 6. Marriage should not be entered into with the mindset of “I will quit after I get what I want through him or her”.

Mal 2:16

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.
NIV

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.
NIV

- Don't use him or her as a ladder and later dump the person.
7. Marriage should not be entered into with the mindset of “If he (she) gives me problem I get a divorce.
 - Divorce is not to be considered when planning to get married.
 - You must choose rightly with a resolve to stay together till death separates both of you.
 8. Respect your marriage, spouse, yourself and God, by not beating up your spouse no matter what happens in your relationship.
 - Make a foundational decision never to lift your hand against your spouse whether you are a man or a woman.
 - Don't let your tongue become a whip against your spouse.
 9. It is not right to be having an affair outside your marriage. It is called adultery.

Ex 20:14

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

NIV

Prov 6:32

32 But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.

NIV

Matt 5:27-28

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

NIV

Matt 5:32

32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

NIV

- 10.** Marrying someone who doesn't turn you on is preparing a time bomb that will blow your mind and life to pieces in future.
 - Marrying an over age woman that will not submit to you, or make you feel intimidated is not right.
 - She is eager to get married just to anybody, and you need her to get papers, or crossover is not marriage but a time bomb.
 - Marry someone you will be proud to introduce to anybody, anywhere and anytime.
 - Marry someone who gets you excited and makes you thank God everyday and not the opposite.
 - Marry someone who is so satisfying that you will have no need to look outside for another no matter how beautiful or handsome they may be.
- 11.** Marrying someone who doesn't qualify to be your spouse because you want to travel to another country of your choice without considering the sanctity of marriage and its implications is foolishness of the highest order.
 - You may bank on divorce provision in the laws of many countries, but what about God's law and what He thinks about it?
 - Was He not there when you were planning the whole game in your mind?
- 12.** Marrying two wives or more is not ideal or approved for a Christian.
 - Don't have a real wife back home and another "document" or "financing" wife where you live. It is evil.

CONCLUSION

Respect the marriage institution and abide by the counsel discussed in this teaching and it will be well with you and subsequently, your marriage. Don't play stubborn and end up in the "belly of a fish". Be wise by changing your mindset about marriage and work in knowledge gained.