Christian
Marital life

By Fredrick G. Omondi.

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INTRODUCTION

Marriage is an important Institution of God just like salvation. It is a life-long occupation and must therefore be approached with a lot of soberness. Because marriage was instituted by God Himself it follows therefore that it is a holy thing (Genesis 2:18-25, Hebrews 13:4).

Many have entered into marriage blindly not knowing clearly who is the Author of marriage and how one need to get into a marriage (the processes involved) step by step, what is expected in a marriage by God from each couple (the responsibility of each), how one can maintain and remain in a marriage and how one may come out of marriage. Something that people need know is that there is something in marriage as a proper marriage and an improper marriage and that many people don't know how to properly bring up their children as a result of their union in a marriage. Something to take note is that many people don't know that there is a relationship or connection between Christ and the Church which is a body of believers (Ephesians 5:23-32).

Because many have entered into marriage in a wrong way, many marriages are on the rocks, divorce rate has

increased, separation cases have also increased and in churches the number of marriage sanctification being performed have increased and so on. Something to note is that in a marriage there is a possibility of a spouse passing away and so leaving the other behind and therefore what next should the bereaved do?

In a marriage both couples need the word of God in order to live a peaceful and useful life as God intended it to be. A happy marriage it should be and not a small hell. Christians are destined to heaven and need to begin to taste it here on earth. (Revelation 19:6-8)

This book is open to readership of both the unmarried and the married alike as both need the information therein before they pursue to enter into marriage and also is needed by those who are already in a marriage so as to be enlightened knowing how to live in their marriage. You will be a happy one if you read this book which you will find to be both interesting and inspiring as well.

I now take this opportunity to thank the Lord God who by his grace has enabled me to come up with this book. I give the Lord all the glory and honor which he deserves.

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CHAPTER 1

The Author of Marriage

Before we go deeply to who is the Author of marriage let us get to know in simple terms what is marriage?

Marriage is a covenant relationship made between a man and a woman for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family and it is binding (life time). God the Creator of all things is the Author of marriage in that after creating the first man (Adam) and put him in the Garden of Eden, he said it is not good that the man be alone. God decided to make for him a help meet (Eve), of whom he made out of the rib of the man and brought her to him thereby instituting it and ordaining it, officiating the first wedding in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:8, 15, 18, 21-24).

And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:26-27

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Genesis 2:8

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it.

Genesis 2:15

And the Lord God said, it is good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

Genesis 2:18

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:21-24

Marriage is holy - honorable, undefiled. It is holy to the Lord. Don't do it, or leave it carelessly. Marriage is holy so long as it is done properly (rightly). The Lord initiates, directs one to the other to be a help meet. Marriage is vital to God as he instituted it. It is intended to be a lifelong union that can only be dissolved by death or unfaithfulness. (Romans 7:1-3, Matthew 19:6, 1 Corinthians 7:9-11, 39-40)

Now ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called adulteress: but if her

husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Romans 7:1-3

Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

Matthew 19:6

But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord. Let not the wife depart from her husband:

But if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

1 Corinthians 7:9-11

The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 7:39-40

A marriage must revolve around the will of God and the purpose for God for their lives. When couples are married, they begin the adventure of "oneness." It can only be encountered as they both love God and one another. They must serve Him. They cannot follow two independent courses of action. The word of God must be central. God is a God of covenants and he respects and honors covenants. Covenants are the highest heights – levels of walking with God. Because God is the author of marriage, those who intend to get into marriage need to have a personal knowledge of God, be related with God (saved), to be able to live in harmony. Also, to note is that the descendants of (the sinful) - rebellious produce a cursed *lot* (Exodus 20:5-6), *as* they produce like off springs (John 8:44).

Marriage is for the good of man (Ecclesiastes4:9-10, Proverbs 18:22, Deuteronomy 32:30).

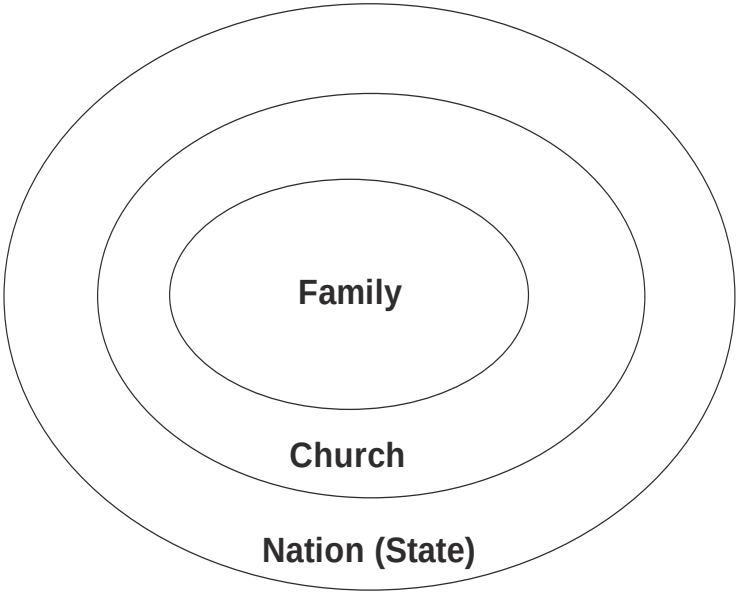
God is light (1 John 1:5) and therefore those who get into marriage without salvation can be likened to one stepping into the dark not knowing what one is going to tread on. Hence, they will just grope in the marriage not knowing

exactly what they need to do. In actual fact, such have started on the wrong foot.

Marriage is so important in God and it touches on three institutions:

a. The Family institution.
b. The Church institution
c. The Nation (State) institution.

If one has a problem in one's marriage, it will affect the other two institutions.



A good marriage (family) will affect the Church and affect the Nation positively. In correcting a Nation, you need to start with the family, then followed by the Church and lastly correct the Nation.

The family is the foundation (nucleus) of the Nation as illustrated in the figure above. It is thus, a sample of the Church and the Nation.

The family

The family is an institution and it has authority and bearers of authority. The authority of God in the family is in the parents – the bearer is the husband (who carries the authority of God). The children are the subjects of the marriage **(**Joshua 24:15, Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 6:1-3).

1. Father (man)
2. Mother (woman)
3. Children (boys/girls)
4. Servants (house: boys/girls)
5. Visitors (brother, sister, uncle, friend etc.)

God is a God of order and He cannot bless when there is no order. Return order in your family. The name of the husband (who is the bearer of authority) is the name that is

in all who are under him. Your wife and children should all have your name.

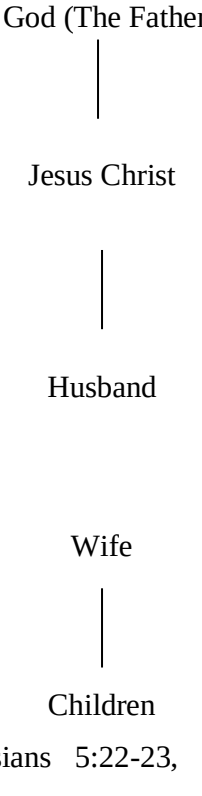
Family units in God, are independent- separated. Relatives, friends etc. should not be allowed to interfere in your house arrangement, dressing etc. else they want to overthrow your marriage.

The authority of the children is their father, hence carry their father's name. Girls carry the authority of their father unto marriage and when she is given over to the man who should marry her –when she gets married, her authority is changed from "Miss" to "Mrs". The authority of the father ceases and the authority of the husband begins. The name of the father ceases and the name of her husband takes over. She ceases to be a member of her father and becomes a member of the family of her husband. She has a say in the family and will be subject to her husband and carry the authority of her husband (Genesis 2:24).

Marriage is carried within a covenant; it revolves on a covenant between a man and a woman (husband and wife) m *(*Malachi 2:13-14).

The order of God in a marriage is as follows: First God the Father followed under by Jesus Christ then husband and

lastly wife in that order, children being subjects to their parents



(John 14:28, Ephesians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Genesis 3:16, Ephesians 6:1-3)

Ye have heard how I said unto you I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than 1.

John 14:28

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husband, as unto the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the savior of the body.

Ephesians 5:22-23

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

1 Corinthians 11:3

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Genesis 3:16

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Ephesians 6:1-3

Spirit of Marriage

The spirit of God:

- The spirit of love
- The spirit of peace
- The spirit of unity
- The spirit of faithfulness
- The spirit of service

The family is holy to the Lord. (Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 13:4)

In marriage you cannot do the following:

1. You cannot get a husband through witchcraft
2. You cannot get a wife through witchcraft
3. You cannot get children through witchcraft.
4. You cannot seek help (consult) a witchdoctor regarding your family. No witchdoctor should touch your family. If you get the above from witchcraft it is easy to be sacrificed for the devil. Evil spirits come and control husband, wife or children got from witchcraft. Children can become lame, dumb or blind because they were got through witchcraft.

Right Marriage

In marriage there should be order. God removed a rib from left of man and therefore, woman should be on the left of man in sitting or in walking and so on. Marriage is not shared.

1 rib = I woman

1 man=1 woman

1 husband=1 wife

If the above pattern is followed blessing is the end result.

Celibacy

Although marriage is good and it is God's general purpose for the human race, it is not necessarily God's perfect will for every man or woman. Therefore, one need to find out on this (Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7:7, Isaiah 56:3-5)

His disciples say unto him, if the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying save they to whom it is given.

For there are some eunuchs, which were born so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men; which have made themselves of men; and there are eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

Matthew 19:10-12

For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

1 Corinthians 7:7

Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree.

For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;
Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 56:3-5

Love Factor

Love is an essential ingredient in a marriage without which marriage cannot last long. The love of God "Agape" in Greek, which is divine love, unconditional and pure love, true love, is what draws two people together. God is the author of marriage and God is love and therefore a successful marriage can only come from God's Love. (1

John 4:10, 16) (Romans 5:8) Love does wonders (1 Corinthians 13:1-8; 14:1, 1 John 3:18, Colossians 3:14)

Enemies of marriage

The underlined are treated as enemies of marriage as they do threaten the fabric of marriage.

1. Unfaithfulness

Unfaithfulness in marriage is one big factor that can break up a marriage easily. Some couples in their marriage are unfaithful by involving themselves in fornication, adultery, lies and so forth and if their partner get to know it the heart of their partner gets broken and mending it might not be forthcoming leading to divorce or separation (1 Corinthians 7:10-11, Matthew 19:9).

And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:
But if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Matthew 19:9

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Colossians 3:9-10

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
Any ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:15, 22-25

2. Unforgiving

Unforgiving in marriage is another very important factor that can severe relationship in a marriage and create disharmony. It is a big stumbling block as a couple reminds the other of the wrong done by the other couple. Unforgiving brings with it bitterness and state of the unforgiving couple moves from a worse to a worse state (defilement) by many. Couples in a marriage must learn to forgive each other as none of them is perfect and moreover God commands us to forgive those who wrong us. In an environment where forgiveness is lacking people are not free spiritually but are bound by the spirit of unforgiving. (Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:13, Hebrews 12:15).

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so do ye.

Colossians3:13

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

Hebrews 12:15

3. Ingratitude

Ingratitude in marriage cools love like an ice cooler. A word of "thank you" from any of the couples to the other is like oil or medicine in that it brings motivation in the couple so thanked. We need to learn to appreciate each other's effort in whatever they have done that is good in the marriage. Otherwise, the couple who has done something for the other may think he or she is being taken for granted and is being not appreciated *(*2 Thessalonians 1:3, Luke 17:11-19).

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

2 Thessalonians 1:3

And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Sa-mar-i-a and Galilee.

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood a far off:

And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

And when he saw them, he said unto them, go show yourselves unto the priests.

And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God.

And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Sa-mar-i-tan.

And Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?

There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

And he said unto him, arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Luke 17:11-19

4. Nagging

Nagging in a marriage is a serious issue (a thorn in the flesh) and should be avoided at any cost, be avoided as a plague. It has made many marriages be sour instead of being sweet. Nagging removes peace in the heart of the affected partner replaced by sadness and sorrow. The peaceful environment in the home leaves and the affected partner is left in the cold (heart gets cold) like a person who is out in the rain and has no umbrella to protect from the rain, and there is no shelter around and hence must face the rain until it stops. If there is a problem in marriage it should be sorted our amicably. What is difficult? Nagging just aggravates matters by the way and makes nonsense. *(*Proverbs 13:3, 14:1 21:9, 19, 27:15, James 3:6, Psalm 141:3)

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Proverbs 13:3

As seen above opening wide lips has destroyed many homes.

It is better to dwell in a corner of the house top, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

Proverbs 21:9

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.

Proverbs 21:19

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Proverbs 27:15

Many women have kept their husbands away from the home by their nagging. Out there is not safe for them as there are vultures. Many husbands come home late, even when the children have already gone to sleep or even their wife, trying to avoid the nagging from their wives. The enemy can easily lead astray the husband to unbecoming conduct. Some wives behave like a locomotive steam engine blowing out now and then fire, smoke and steam and polluting the environment as it moves.

5. Sex abstinence

Sex abstinence in a marriage is another big problem that need be avoided as much as is practicable. Marriage involves a lot of sharing. This is on three fronts:

1. Speech: The need to talk with each other.
2. Food: The need to eat together
3. Rest: The need to rest (have sexual intercourse.)

If these three fronts are not followed a marriage may start to break. There should be a good reason for sex abstinence. In sexual intercourse the couples are sharing and exercising their social (marital) right and at the same time reconfirming the validity of their marriage (Exodus 19:10-11, 15, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5, Proverbs 5:15, 18-19 Leviticus 18-19)

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and thou be ravished always with her love.

Proverbs 5:15, 18-19

Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

The wife hath not of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

1 Corinthians 7:3-5

Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness.

Leviticus 18:19

These are the reasons for sex abstinence in 1 Corinthians 7:5 and in Leviticus 18:19, obviously illness by one partner also do apply. No wonder, some Institutions don't encourage the transfer of one couple who is married and both couples are their employees, from one station/branch to another station or branch. Rather they don't do a transfer or transfer both couples to the next station/branch and that to me is wisdom in the sight of God - the author of

the institution of marriage. Doing it differently is like opening a door of temptation to both couples. Also, when one is going to battle or in some competition e.g. in sports, one can abstain from sex (1 Samuel 22:1-6, Deuteronomy 24:5, 1 Corinthians 9:25). But if one abstains from having sex with his marriage partner without good reason as listed earlier one simply gives room to the enemy to tempt them to fall into sexual sin.

6. Communication breakdown

Lack of communication in a marriage is unproductive. It brings misunderstandings. It is only through communication one can know the feelings of the other, what need to be done and so forth. Even if not staying together for one reason or the other, effort should be made both to have say mobile phones to communicate with each other to know how each other are faring in life and so on.

7. Wrong Associations

Both couples in a marriage must be selective in befriending or joining of associations or clubs as the case may be and so on. Don't just join any association, welfare group or

club as it may be to the detriment of your marriage (1Corinthians 15:33 Proverbs 13:20*).*

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Corinthians 15:33

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 13:20

8. High expectations

Having high expectations from one's partner also may impact negatively in a marriage. Both are human beings and are not angels. Don't expect too much from your partner.

9. The "Neighbor syndrome"

The neighbor syndrome is a poison that affects homes negatively. Avoid it at all cost. This syndrome brings frictions in the homes so affected. It comes about at a time one couple decides to impose the living style of another home, into their home. That kind of action is foolhardy. It

just cannot work. Every home is different because they are independent. Couples must learn to live within their means (income). Don't try to live the way your neighbor lives because you don't know when they got married, all their sources of income, what their monthly budget amounts to, what their financial commitments are, what their current or future plans are among many other factors. Therefore, couples should stay away from the other home's affairs (lifestyle) and so forth but to stick to their home and plan and budget together as they see fit-it will be healthy that way. By the way if I may ask, is your neighbor your competitor? I believe the answer is NO. Everywhere you go you have inequality as people are not the same, be it in education, business, farming, name it. Then why should one try to enter into unhealthy competition by trying to live in the same lifestyle like in the neighborhood, one may just find one cannot cope with another home's lifestyle. Let us be ourselves in our homes and improve according to our ability which God has given us.

10. '' I heard syndrome"

This is yet another virus in a home which if not handled early, carefully and properly just as HIV, will one day blow

up – break the marriage (home). Facts are needed not just hearing. Outside your home not at all are happy with your marriage and if given an opportunity, they can create havoc. Some people talk out of jealousy and so forth, because they want to bring discord in other's homes. Not all that are said are true, some could turn out to be false. Ask the one speaking to you for any evidence proving what he/she is saying- get to the bottom of the matter before taking it to your partner at home. Couples must come out of gossip and backbiting of any kind - play it safe (Deuteronomy 19:15).

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established

Deuteronomy 19:15

11. Satan

It would have been unfair if in this book I could not talk of God's enemy number one and therefore man's enemy number one as well. Satan as we are all aware rebelled against God and from that time as continued to oppose anything to do with God. Satan began his crusade of

fighting marriage right from the garden of Eden (Genesis 3&4) also he attacked the family of Job and David (2 Samuel 13&15, Job 1&2) respectively and has continued to date and will do so up to the time of the rapture of the holy Church and probably beyond in the tribulation period. Marriage is an Institution of God ordained by Him and the enemy fights hard to see that is does not take place and if it does, to bring as much problem as possible to bring it down or for it not to be the way God wanted it to be. Satan will bring all sorts of things in a marriage in trying to remove God's love, peace, joy, unity and so forth. Satan does not want the will of God to be done here on earth but for his will to be done. He does attack families and bring hatred and disharmony and many other ills which is totally the opposite of God's will which is love, peace and unity (Psalms 133, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:9-10; 17-18; 13:8; 14:19, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Philippians 2:1-4, Hebrews 12:14, James 3:14-17). He knows that if he destroys the family, then he has destroyed even the Church and by extension the nation (the whole society) – Remember the earlier oval chart composed of the family, the Church and the nation! Therefore, for instance, sex which is holy to the Lord between a legal marriage between a husband and a

wife (a man and a woman), he has brought all sorts of immorality as follows:

i. Fornication
ii. Adultery
iii. Incest
iv. Rape
v. Lesbianism
vi. Sodomy
vii. Masturbation
viii. Bestiality

(1 Corinthians 6:9b, Deuteronomy 22:25, 27:20-23, Leviticus 22:19, Romans 1:26-27 1Thessalonians 4:3).

Satan has propagated his agenda on marriage by introducing polygamy to men and 'gay marriage' co-habitation. Satan has brought in marriages, misunderstandings, disagreements and disunity and caused many to separate and divorce which is not the will of God (Malachi 2:8-17, Matthew 19: 1-9).

When there is a problem in a marriage say couples like children, easily bring by a whisper a quick solution to the wife to consult a witchdoctor to get help or to the husband "your wife is the problem, can't bear a child, get a second wife who will bear children". Such suggestions by the devil

are not new. If a witch doctor is consulted (visited) the marriage is defiled thereby and more problems come in than one can handle (Deuteronomy 18:9-11, Leviticus 19:31).

The enemy targets most the youth as he knows he can use them longer to serve him than the adults and the elderly. The youths are an active lot and have a lot of energy and the enemy sees he can use them to divert their energy from serving God and to serve him instead. Therefore, parents should always be telling their children the word of God so that they don't sin against God by serving Satan but do the will of God and serving Him only. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 11:19 and Psalm 119:9)

And these words, which a command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shall teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psalm 119:9

From the above two scriptures we can see that by parents always striving to teach their children the word of God, they will have their children enlightened and equipped to act accordingly and be able not to be swayed/led astray by the enemy. The enemy (Satan) is busy fighting families all over the world in order to affect the Church and the Nations of the earth. In any case, he is the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:1-2)

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
Wherein time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:1-2

Satan at the garden of Eden he deceived the first woman Eve and the not the first man Adam (Genesis 3:1-6), we also see him convincing Job's wife that Job's case was too much and that Job should curse God and die, but Job was

steadfast in God and openly refused such a foolish suggestion (Job 2:1-10) also we see Satan using Delilah to have Samson her husband to be defeated by his enemy (the Philistines) and because she pressed him daily with a words, urging him, Samson's soul was vexed to death; and told her the source of his strength and she told the Philistines who had bribed her, the secret and they came and overpowered him and took him captive. (Judges 16:1-20). From the above Scriptures we can see clearly that the enemy has used women to lead their husband astray and will definitely continue to do so unto the end of the world – after all he has seen and knows the weakness of women and used to his advantage. So, I advise husbands to be on the know that their wives are not bad as such, but usually fall easy prey to the devil. May the Lord God help husbands and wives.

The foundation of marriage is the word of God with the key words being – 'submission' and 'love' (Ephesians 5:22-25, 28). The ball begins in the woman's (wife's) court (verses 22-24) to the man's (husband's) court (verses 25 and 28) in that order, otherwise things will not work well in a marriage; that is God's order and he is the author of marriage. Forget about women's rights and men's rights,

all which are but human philosophy (worldly) but stick to God's wisdom (heavenly) without any arguments or debates or else Satan will definitely take over the steering wheel of the marriage and have his will done. If you love God you will obey His commandments without any reservations (John 14:15, 1 John 2:22). Don't allow Satan to be your working mate or your walking mate in your marriage by disobeying God's truth and compromising and entering into agreement with Satan (Ephesians 4:27, Amos 3:3)

Wives, submit, yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the savior of the body.

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also love the church, and gave himself for it:

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ephesians 5:22-25, 28

If he love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15

God's commandments are supreme in marriage.

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning

If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

1 John 2:24

The word of God needs to abide in both husband and wife to sustain and preserve a marriage.

Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:27

Any of the couple that does not stick to God's word in obedience automatically gives a place to the devil to bring havoc in their marriage.

Can two walk together, Except they be agreed?

Amos 3:3

And the LORD God cause a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh:

She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Genesis 2:21-23

From the above Scripture we can see clearly that the woman was brought to the man – to submit to him, and the man – loved (accepted) the woman by giving her a name and identifying her with himself. Normally it is the man that proposes marriage to a woman out of love. We don't see any rejection of man to the woman but acceptance. So be wise couples and see the root of friction.

Marriage need to be worked at for its success just as in salvation (Philippians 2:12). Now on the unmarried apostle Paul had this to say when he wrote the first epistle to the Church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 7:25-35).

Now concerning virgins, I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, say, that is good for a man so to be.

Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

But and if thou marry, thou hath not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

But I would have you without carefulness.

He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

1 Corinthians 7:25-35

12. Divorce

God hates divorce in a marriage because it is an enemy just as backsliding is an enemy of salvation.

Both are meant to be in a lifetime (life-long) and are covenantal in nature. Marriage being a covenant between a man (a husband) and a woman (a wife) before God and Salvation being a covenant between God and the individual he has saved. Marriage is a spiritual illustration of the relationship between God and mankind and therefore one should not take any of the two casually and enter in and later try to come out again (Malachi 2:16, Mark 10:1-12).

For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously

Malachi 2:16

You can also read Ruth 3; 1-9 concerning issue of one's garment

And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.
And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.
And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you?
And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.
And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept
But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.
For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;

And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.

What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter.

And he saith unto them, whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.

And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Mark 10:1-12

The husband should not play the adulterer and the wife should not play the adulteress (Genesis 31:50, Proverbs 2: 16-17). The latter scripture is touching on a woman who has lacked submission to her own husband (guide) because of her self-rule and had broken God's commandment (Exodus 20:14), just as Judah also that had turned against God unashamedly by evil acts and was likened to a whore (Jeremiah 3:1-4)

The covenant God entered with Israel symbolizes a completed marriage (Ezekiel 16:8) hence should not be

broken. Such covenant applies to all true believers in Christ Jesus as they have become His bride.

If thou shalt afflict my daughters, or if thou shalt take other wives beside my daughters, no man is with us, see, God is witness betwixt me and thee.

Genesis 31:50

To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words,
Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

Proverbs 2:16-17

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14

THEY say, if a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? Shall not that land be greatly polluted? But thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD. Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lain with. In the ways

hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with their whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, my father, thou art the guide of my youth?

Jeremiah 3:1-4

Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine.

Ezekiel 16:8

Other issues:

Lack of time together

Setting time to be together as couples / family is very important and promotes unity (Psalm 133).

BEHOLD, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalm 133

The above scripture is a form of fellowship in a family or by couples and involves apart from eating and drinking together at the table; Bible reading, praise and worship and having prayers in addition to discussing various issues affecting the family/couples with a view of coming up with amicable solutions. Let not fatigue from the day's activities rob you of this important moment of the day in the home/house. If it is possible such things as overtime working and so forth should be avoided which can make a member of the family / a partner to miss that opportunity of being together.

Usually where this kind of fellowship / get together is completely non-existent people may be living together but are far apart from each other on relationships and love is

lukewarm in such environment as it is not nurtured in the right direction. Many issues too are left unresolved and pile up and can but just bring trouble in the family and nothing positive.

Where couples / family take time to be together for their good, opportunity should be given to each to talk if has something and also the other/s must also take time to listen and avoid unnecessary interruptions when one is talking.

Much care should be taken in criticism and arguments avoided as much as possible. Where there is a grievance / offence, forgiveness should be given its rightful place.

By taking time to be together as a family to indulge in such useful activities it becomes a blessing to the family and there is little or no friction between the members. Each member in the family need to know his or her role and to continually do and not overstep it but sticking to it. Something that has happened and which is unhealthy and unacceptable and continue to happen in some families is holding a grudge with another after accumulating many offences done to you (actually unaware generating a time bomb) within oneself instead of approaching one that has offended you each time offended and solving the issue at the earliest opportunity. You may have had such cases

where one member points to the other "Remember you wronged me this and that last month, last week you wronged me and today you have wronged me by saying this or doing this"- such remarks are not helpful at all in a marriage.

Issues need be solved one at a time as they come in life and not to be stocked! As Christians many of us seem to forget that first we are Christians and are now also married and may think we are just mere men and are married and easily allow the attitude of self-centeredness to crop up and lead us to misbehave against our faith as Christians.

We need not forget that Satan is keen on our relationships and can influence / trigger tension between us as couples so as to destroy our interpersonal relationship to his advantage.

In marriage, all of us Christians are still spiritually immature and make us to be more vulnerable to the enemy attacks, as we are still on the growing path and if are serious in our daily walk with the Lord are going to be more wiser and wiser and stronger in the Lord and many of the attacks of the enemy will miss their target-not be effective in our marriage, as we will be more sober in mind

and know the enemy attempts and act in the right way which is pleasing to the Lord.

Each one of us need to be keen and learn on a daily basis what our partner likes and dislikes and to build on and break off accordingly on these, to avoid/reduce any possible frictions between us.

You can now take your time and go through the following scriptures on the issues of our different roles / responsibilities in the home in our marriage / family: Ephesians 5:21-6:4, Colossians 3:12-21, 1 Peter 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 5:8, Proverbs 31:10-29.

Domestic conflict resolution

Because we are human beings and had taken the fallen nature of the first man Adam in the Garden of Eden, conflicts and offences can arise amongst us, but there are some mechanisms of dealing with them. Let us now look at some scriptures that touch on those mechanisms.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.

Matthew 18:15-17

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

Many have not followed the above principle but have gone to the way of back-biting and unforgiving and thereby causing more harm than good and not solving anything but worsening the situation instead.

We have clearly seen from the first scripture that one's first step is to solve an issue between yourselves and not to go to a third or fourth party. If there is no solution is when one can go further and call another party. As Christians, call fellow Christian couple and if there is no solution then invite your pastor and his spouse to come to your home /

house to discuss, counsel and resolve the issue. I believe by the first or this second attempt a solution will be forth coming. If not, then it simply means it will reach the church and the church council will arbitrate as the last resort.

Although trespasses are there and can happen, they nevertheless can be avoided. We are being warned to avoid them altogether, as the consequences are severe when they occur.

THEN said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Luke 17:1-5

Do you know why it is impossible for offences not to come? It is because Satan and demons are with us here on earth as their abode, as they were permanently cast out of heaven and are here to bring havoc on mankind. If I or you offend another, I or you have allowed the enemy to use us to bring that to happen. God is a jealous God and expects us to avail ourselves to be used by Him for our own good and not His arch enemy for our down fall and destruction. Offences need not only to be admitted by repentance but also need to be forgiven as well. Repentance is normally followed with forgiveness. It is quite evident that even the disciples found this to be a hard teaching from the Lord and found themselves asking for an increase in their faith.

Well, it is not a matter of an increase in faith but a matter of love. Love is of God because God is love. If you have God (the Holy Spirit), then you automatically have love in you as a fruit of the Holy Spirit and therefore need just to manifest it in life; except if you are not truly born again and have no Christ in you (1 John 4:7-8; 16, Galatians 5:22, Romans 8:9-10).

Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into

life half or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Matthew 18:8-9

That seems to be an antidote on offenses; however bitter it may seem. But please note that the above should not be taken literally as the language is in a parable form and also is hyperbolic in nature. Just take care of your thoughts, words and actions in a most sober way.

Avoid the making of vows

Vows are binding and therefore apart from the one couples make on their wedding; any other need not to be made as can result in big regret and misery as it happened to Jephthah (Judges 11:29-35) and Herod (Matthew 14:1-12) and that is why making of vows is a most serious undertaking and even the Scripture caution us about it (Ecclesiastes 5:1-6).

13. Polygamy

Polygamy is yet another enemy of marriage and whenever it pops in a family, that marriage can never remain the same. The marriage will be sore as it will have such bad habits as hatred, jealousy, contempt, competition, sexual immorality, idolatry, witchcraft and even death. The family can hardly live in harmony (Genesis 16:1-5; 30:1-16; 35:1-4, 1 Samuel 1:1-7, 1 Kings 11:1-8).

God's plan for marriage is one man, one woman, that is, one husband and one wife (Genesis 2:18-25). That is why a polygamous home can never live a life which is well pleasing to the Lord as they are living in sin by disobeying the commandment of God on marriage and that is why it is full of ungodly works (works of the Devil).

Therefore, as a Christian avoid any temptation of going the polygamous way whether you are a brother or a sister and it doesn't matter what challenges you may be going through continue to live in a monogamous set up.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on earth.

Ephesians 5:22 25; 6:1-3

It is all harmonious. Man created and woman made out of man and children are born out of man and woman and each instructed by God to maintain that harmony / unity as they are to a great extent one. That harmony and relationship changes much only when the children marry or are married breaking away from their parents and start a new family unit in a new home.

Jesus Christ being one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit also endorsed marriage by accepting a wedding feast invitation that was to take place at Cana Galilee, as it was the will of his Father who first instituted marriage at the Garden of Eden. He therefore, was just following his Father's footsteps by perpetuating marriage allowing it to continue to take place. He even went further to facilitate the same where something was lacking.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:26-27

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:21-24

AND the third day there was a marriage in Cana Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, they have no wine.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.

His mother saith unto the servants, whatsoever he saith unto you do it.

And there were set there six water pots of stone, after the manner of purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins a piece.

Jesus saith unto them, Fill the water pots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

And saith unto him, every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when man have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

John 2:1-11

Although his time had not come yet, nevertheless Jesus Christ had to do the needful not to disappoint the host of the marriage feast, why? Because they were doing his Father's will and need not be frustrated in their efforts towards that. Coincidentally it had to be his first miracle on earth because after all creations he was left with only one-man whom he created on the sixth day and saw that he was alone (that is Adam) and he made a woman out of the man (that is Eve) to be his help meet, fit for him thus marriage was officially instituted and institutions last, that is why people must continue marrying and giving in to marriage to fulfil God's purpose on the earth.

CHAPTER 2

Unequal Yoking

To yoke is to fasten together two things so as to appear as one. In marriage, the uniting of a man and a woman in their wedding when they take their vows unless they are all of one opinion on faith (all are saved), leads to unequal yoking. There is incompatibility if the two have different beliefs on the matter of faith and it will not work well for them. There are several scriptures that are against such marriages Deuteronomy 7:1-4, 6 being one of them.

WHEN the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hit'-tites, and the Gir-'gashites, and the Am'-o-rites, and the Ca'-na-an-ites, and the per'-iz-zites, and the Hi'-vites, and the Jeb'-u-sites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughters thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughters shalt thou take unto thy son.

For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: So will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:1-4, 6

From the above scripture we can see clearly that God does not want mixed marriages-marriage between His holy people (the believers) and the unholy people (the unbelievers) which usually brings unequal yoking. The Israelites were not to marry among the heathen. Let us go further and read Genesis 24:1-4.

And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD God had blessed Abraham in all things.

And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over that all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a

wife unto my son of the daughters of the Ca'-na-an-ites, among whom I dwell:
But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

Genesis 24:1-4

From the above scripture we can see that it would have been easier for Isaac to get a wife in Canaan where they were staying, but it was not to be, his father directed his eldest servant to go far away to his country and to his relatives/family to get for Isaac a wife (verse 4) Abraham was being obedient to the word of God forbidding such marriages. We will now go to Joshua 23:11-13.

Take good heed therefore into yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.
Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave into the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:
Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out of any of these nations before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides,

and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

Joshua 23:11-13

Even Joshua advised the Israelites not to intermarry with those nations as God had forbidden that. Unequal yoking has unprecedented potential problems (verse13). Obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22b) It is better to obey the Lord than to disobey and not only be disappointed but to backslide and die (perish). We will now take a look at Ezra 9:12; 10:10-12, Nehemiah 13:23-27.

Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth forever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.

Ezra 9:12

Ezra the priest of God advised the people of Israel not to intermarry with the Gentiles for that was the command of God. But because they were stiff-necked, they went ahead and intermarried and this is what the priest said:

And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel.

Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.

Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.

Ezra 10:10-12

In those days also saw 1 Jews that had married wives of Ash-dod, of Am'-mon, and of Moab:

And their children spake half in the speech of Ash'-dod, and could not speak in Jews language, but according to the language of each people.

And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.

Did not Solomon King of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations was there no King like him, who was

beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.
Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?

Nehemiah 13:23-27

We can see that Nehemiah was so upset and did what he did in verse 25. Yes, Christians need not condone sin and must rebuke it totally. There is no time to play safe or to save any body's face. Shame the devil. When our Lord Jesus Christ went into the temple and found unusual things going on he did not hesitate but acted immediately (John 2:13-17).

And the Jews' pass over was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money and overthrew the tables;
And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house a house of merchandise.

And his disciples remembered that it was written, **the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.**

John 2:13-17

When it comes to sin the zeal of God in a Christian should override gentleness and humility. Even apostle Paul advised Timothy, his son in the faith to rebuke sin publicly (1 Timothy 5:20). Many sins continue to be committed publicly unabated because Christians don't want to raise their voice to condemn and rebuke and advise accordingly the right behavior and to remind that God is going to judge all unrighteousness unless they repent and turn away from such and to surrender to the Lordship of Christ Jesus. What we read in John 2:13-17 sad to say, continue to be practiced in many churches today. It is business as usual, although the Lord is just about to come and take the Church in the rapture. Horizontal gospel of prosperity and earthly things dominate in many churches and not vertical (heavenly) gospel – hence sins are committed left and right but well; the advice is there in black and white for Christians. Let no Christian fall into the trap of getting married to unbeliever hoping that God will change his/her spouse. That is the trick of the devil. Even Christ told the devil that one should not tempt God *(*Matthew 4:5-7*)* Let us

all strive in studying the scriptures so that God may help us to know more of his written word to be able to counter many of the devil's 'it is written', twisting the word of God misapplying it and so forth trying to confuse us and lead us astray.

CHAPTER 3

Engagement and Marriage

Engagement (courtship) which later do culminate into a marriage is a crucial period which need to be handled so well and with a sober mind. Normally it starts with a man by going to a woman and giving a proposal "I think the Lord is leading me to you, to be my help meet (partner in marriage). Please think about it and pray over it and give me your decision". God should be the one to guide a man on this issue to be on the safe side (Ephesians 5:17 Psalm 32:8 Proverbs 32:10, 30)

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:17

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 32:8

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feared the LORD she shall be praised.

Proverbs 31:10-30

Purity

It is important that courtship be conducted in all purity (Matthew 5:28).

But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:28

Normally, kissing or long embraces or touching some parts of the body will lead to impure thoughts. One need not think that because one is a believer the body will automatically respond responsibly on such acts, both partners therefore need to talk about all these issues and agree together not to entertain any of such acts until they are officially wedded (declared husband and wife) in a wedding.

There must be a time lapse from the time partners make a total commitment to each other and when they finally are solemnized. This should not be long. A few months is in order. If takes long one partner or both may fall into any sort of temptation or their interest go down or the compatibility of any of the partner may change with time and also courtship is time – consuming and financially costly and prolonging worsens the marriage to be and limit social development. Marriage is a very important institution ordained by God and should be handled in a way that pleases Him.

1. Each brother and sister should seek the will of God pertaining to a life partner. Each should confirm without any uncertainty that he or she is the right one for him or her (Genesis 2:18).
2. The relationship after confirming on 1 above should be shared with the pastor for further confirmation and guidance.
3. Get the opinion of the leaders of the local church who are walking in the power of God, as well as the opinion of the parents of both partners.

4. The couple should wait for God's timing. Meanwhile the couple should be preparing for their marriage spiritually, emotionally, domestically, socially and materially.
5. The relationship should be extended to the church for a Christian engagement which is a public commitment to each other (Genesis 24).
6. During courtship the two should handle each other with respect because of their testimony (faith). They must avoid meeting in lonely places and at night. Their courtship should be handled as children of light (2 Timothy 2:22, Philippians 3:3).
7. In preparing the wedding, the church, family and friends should not rush them.
8. The bride and the groom should decide how the wedding ceremony will be and how much they are willing to spend. The cost should be within their level of faith and what is practical.
9. The wedding vows are the most important part of the wedding. They are lifelong covenant made before God and witnesses. The two should be aware of this lifelong truth.

10. The bride and the groom should be properly counseled and share all the details to avoid disappointment of the first night and thereafter.
11. The reception should be kept on the level they can afford.
12. Keep time as per the wedding program to avoid frustrating other people attending the wedding?

The Stages in Marriage

1. The drawing together by the Lord attraction.

(Boy) (**Girl)**

2. Leadership – Pastor and parents should know this.
3. Teaching and counseling – on family life is necessary.
4. Engagement – Ring before local church
5. Publicity – 21 days of notification
6. Wedding – The ceremony and vows taking
7. Covenant – Sex- break virginity - sexual life.

Item numbers 4 and 6 can be traced in the book of Genesis (Genesis 24).

Marriage is a house. God in His wisdom told Moses to build a house for Him *(*Exodus 26). He also told Solomon to build a house for Him (1 Kings 6) and lastly told Jesus to build the church (Matthew 16:18) God is a God of foundation and He has laid a foundation in marriage a good one so that marriage is not shaky, as listed above.

God is supposed to be the God of our marriage. Marriage is not hurried; is gradual, one enters gradually, step by step. Marriages that are hurried blow up. The marrying couples need be mature, saved and baptized and able.

Foundation

Marriage should be taken in the context of a house. When one is going to get married one should get the consent of authority (the parents) if deceased, inform uncle etc. On the wedding day parents must be present or their representative. Before the wedding there should have been negotiations on both sides, dowry case known, paid etc. Steps in moving to wedding day when couples become husband and wife are the foundation (Genesis 24).

Walls

Every house has walls. The purpose of the walls is to hold the roof, to give shape and to protect the house on the sides from movements (in and out). The purpose here is for protection. The husband protects the wife vice versa and the parents protect the children so that there is security in marriage and people do not play with marriage because there are walls, so that the family is an independent unit and it has authority. If one wants to handle that family, there is a way, authority chain – The husband becomes the door. It is when a man is married to a woman they must seek or forge to have walls to protect them. Submission one to another (united) to serve one another.

The actual thing God is the owner of marriage and protects marriage so that marriage will be carried on according to the word of the Lord. (Ephesians 5:21-25, Psalms 127:1) When marriage is problematic – foundation is rotten or walls have fallen (Exodus 15: 26). When the walls of a house have fallen there is no glory it has departed and shame comes in. The entry to a marriage is the parents (doors) the children as (windows). All the doors in the marriage must be closed. If one of them say, commits say adultery, one door is opened. Check people who come to

your house as they may bring witchcraft articles (sorcery) or alcohol and demons can come this way.

Roof

Every house is completed by a roof. The roof completes the house for shelter and cover so that those who are inside enjoy the coolness. Things that affect marriage - which exposes the family because the roof is not there so that when it is hot one feels so hot, or when it is cold one feels so cold in the house is man. Man is the roof and should provide shelter so that those in the house don't feel the heat or the cold-husband to be present to provide the necessities of the house as well as discipline. Marriage without love is like a house without a roof. Wife to submit to husband and husband to love wife.

Foundations

God is a God of foundations. He lays foundations in people's lives for the purpose for which He shall use them. He lays foundations of families for the purpose for which He shall use them. God lays foundations of people's callings - ministries - so that He uses His ministers:

Everything the Lord does as He has to lay a foundation so as to build on it.

1. Earth foundation - Psalm 104:5 Job 38:4
2. Jerusalem temple foundation
3. Our salvation foundation - Acts 2:38
4. The Church foundation - Ephesians 2:20.

   Because of this secret Satan knows and put foundations in people's lives to destroy them.

Marriage is an Institution of God and it is therefore a building structure / house. Common sense tells us that in every structure there is a way of building it in order to be strong and stable and able to withstand all weather conditions and to last long meaning the foundation must be right in the first place.

EXCEPT the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Psalm 127:1-2

The family (the home) can only be built if the husband and the wife (the couples) are with God as everything that is done without God's blessings are all in vain.

Now that calls for the couples to rely on God in whatever they do in order to have a good family/home. In the same vain it means to be obedient to the words of the Lord (Deuteronomy 28:1-14) and if not they will end up toiling the whole day in vain and eating the bread of sorrows (as a result of disobedience to their God who created them (Genesis 3:16-17).

A family is built just as one can work to come up with a building; it requires a lot of effort to come up with a good building same to the family, that is, a good Christian family /home. In order to do that one must use the word of God to do it and do it pretty well (Matthew 7:24-25) and not based on human wisdom (Matthew 7:26-27). Marriage is founded and built on the word of God same to Salvation (Acts 2:41-42, Ephesians 2:19-20).

If we decide to build our families on something else, we displease the Lord that is why in the book of Psalms 127 verse 2b it says God gives his beloved sleep, that is, the obedient who I believe he gives rest and joy from their labors and not sorrows. God was pleased with his Son

because he was always obedient to Him. (Matthew 3:17, Isaiah 42:1) and that is why he successfully accomplished his mission on earth bringing man's redemption. You can read more in building the family in chapter 6 on parenting.

Marriage is a process and not an event as you can see from the foregoing and requires soberness of mind, a lot of preparation as well as patience and should not be hurried/quickly concluded as love is not blind as some people do say, as one does not bump into another and then they begin to engage each other but God is the one that introduces one person to another and then love attracts them and they begin to socialize slowly getting to know each other and lastly come to engage each other for a marriage.

What is a Foundational spirit?

A Foundational spirit is that spirit that has penetrated the life of a person at a very early age; such that, that spirit grows with that person or the person grows with the spirit such that they are one.

Phases

A Foundational spirit may have two phases

a. Positive (from the Lord)
b. Negative (from the enemy Satan)

Children are given to parents by the Lord for the purpose of the Lord. In God husband and wife are holy and children they get are holy for the purpose of the Lord.

Checking of Children:

1. How children are born
2. Where children are born
3. How children grow.

Studying Children:

Study each child individually the message of God in them: Circumstances they were born, their reactions, characteristics and rectify where necessary and strengthen them in their areas of (gifts, talents, etc.)

Look at:

a. Positive spirits (+) – good spirit – Holy Spirit.
b. Negative (-) spirits – bad spirit – evil spirit

(a) Positive (+) Spirits

According to God marriage is holy *(Hebrews 13:4)* All children are to be born in a marriage to parents-husband

and wife. Children are born to a Father and a Mother. It is for the purpose of covering (an umbrella). Children are supposed to be raised by mother and father so that in God there is a balance – Not mother alone or father alone (an imbalance)

A hard father (man) and a soft mother (woman) to raise a child leads to a balanced child. The spirit behind these children are of the Lord. A balanced child can be corrected at any level Church, School, Nation etc.

Examples of Children with positive (+) spirit.

1. Isaac – The promised - Genesis 18
2. Samuel – Promise of mother to the Lord 1 Samuel 1
3. Samson – Judges 13 Angel's Prophetic word.
4. Jeremiah – Jeremiah 1:5
5. John – Luke 1 – Father's prophetic word
6. Jesus Christ – Isaiah 11 – Angel's prophetic word.

Children born to parents and are raised by parents Ephesians 6, fulfill the purpose of the Lord.

Examples of Negative (-) Spirit.

(Children born out of)

1. Fornication Through, out of iniquity placing of a child by the enemy, out of flesh,

2.Adultery out of sin.

3.Witchcraft

i. Marriage from different race.

ii. Marriage from different tribe.

iii. Marriage from different religious background. e.g. Christian and Muslim. These marriages have problems 4-i----iii

1. Children born of fornication

Suffers from: The spirit of

- Fear
- Rejection
- Frustration
- **Fornication**

(Numbers 25:6-8)

People rejecting the child in the womb e.g. mother (in abortion), boy who slept with the girl (refuse – deny the pregnancy), parents of the boy, the contemporaries (village mates) speak of the pregnancy. The spirit of rejection employs the spirit of frustration. The spirit of fornication, actual spirit in that child may later render the child vulnerable to fornication and rape.

2. Children born of adultery

Suffers from: The spirit of

	- Fear
Sin of father	- Rejection
and mother	- Frustration
sealed	- **Adultery.**

Spirit of Death

Both in fornication and adultery, those involved may attempt an abortion and in doing this, the spirit of death will take advantage and stay in the girl or boy and the girl or the boy can easily kill.

3. Children born of witchcraft

(Jeremiah 17:5) Children of rebellion

(1 Samuel 15:22*)* Become very active rebels (Satan's nature).

Suffers from: The spirit of

Sin of mother sealed

- Frustration
- Hostility
- Disobedience
- Rebellion
- **Witchcraft.**

Such children grow into false prophets or witchdoctors.

4. **Children born of mixed marriages**

Different: races, clans, tribes, nationalities, opinions (e.g. religious) Numbers 12:1-6

Suffers from: The spirit of

- Fear
- Frustration
- Rejection

Children born out of rape

- Suffers from: The spirit of

- Fear
- Frustration
- Animal spirits.

It is so as mother was in fear in rape, child - mother frustrates, animal spirits rape being animals' behavior.

Children born out of plan

Suffers from: The Spirit of

- Frustration
- Rejection
- Fear

This is a situation where parents wish was to have only say 2 children, but now although they already have 2 are expecting the 3rd one - pregnancy. Also, there is a case where children are born at short lapses of time- unexpectedly. In such situations, parents hate the situation and can even contemplate abortion – child will suffer as above. Prayers towards the child while still in the womb acknowledging acceptance of the child can help; or when

child is born, prayers for acceptance of the child is necessary for the child not to suffer as above.

Mystery of Children

The parents that get children must be careful because the children are sent with God with different messages. Genesis 49.

1st Child – honor

2nd Child –Witness, confirmation.

Placement and Misplacement

It is the science or art of placing the children where he is born

Naming

Father's side	Mother's side

There should be proper balance in naming children in a home. Children are supposed to be born in a home and are not (should) not be transferred from one home to another. They should be named as are born, father's side and mother's side as the two agree - a balance.

Misplacement

When a child is named outside the couples family he is misplaced; Alternatively when a child is named on the mother's side instead of the father's side or on the father's side instead of the mother's side, he is misplaced (normally reasons for such naming is that father or mother may say, "I don't want that child named on my side etc.") Better discuss issue of naming together and come to agreement otherwise child will suffer from the spirit of

Frustration- Rejection-Fear

Although it is good to agree on naming a child by both the parents (husband and wife) the husband need to take the lead in doing so as the head of the house as men were created by God to be rulers and the women to be loved and them to serve (be subject to their husbands).

If we go to the scriptures although we find that some women named their children but it is not the norm and for

that matter, I am going to present scriptures touching on men naming their children.

1. Adam

And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Genesis 5:3

2. Seth

And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name E'-nos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

Genesis 4:26

3. Lamech

And La'-mech lives a hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:

And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

Genesis 5:28-29

4. Abraham

AND the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare him, Isaac.

Genesis 21:1-3

The above was as God had directed Abraham to do (Genesis 17:15-19)

5. Jacob

And they journeyed from Beth-el; and there was but a little way to come to E'-phrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labor.

And it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shat have this son also.

And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-o'-ni: but his father called him Benjamin.

You can see in the above case that Jacob had overruled his dying wife Rachel and renamed their son from Benoni (son of my sorrow) to Benjamin (son of my right hand). Women seem to be careless at times. You can read the case of Phinehas' wife who named her child Ichabod saying the glory is departed from Israel (1 Samuel 4:10-22) and the case of Jabez's mother who named her son that way saying because she bore him with sorrow (1 Chronicles 4:9) and that prompted Jabez to call on God to protect him from trouble and pain (verse 10). Parents must think properly before naming their children and not just to give a name carelessly / casually without much thought of its meaning.

6. Joseph

And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which As'-e-nath the daughter of Po-ti'-pher-ah priest of On bare unto him.

And Joseph called the name of the first-born Ma-nas'-seh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

And the name of the second called he E'-phra-im: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Genesis 41:50-52

7. David

And David comforted Bath-she'-ba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jed-i-di'-ah, because of the LORD.

2 Samuel 12:24-25

8. Joseph

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:18- 21

7. Zechariah

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zech-a-ri'-ah, of the course of Abi'-jah: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zech-a-ri'-ah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zech-a-ri'-ah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Luke 1:8-13

Please note that in some of the cases God himself or through his angels directed men and not women to go name their children who happened to be sons like the case of Abraham, Joseph son of David and Zechariah. It seems the revelation I get from all these is that men name sons and women name daughters!

Names

Names can be the cause of spirit of:

- Rejection
- Frustration
- Fear
- Lying.

A child may suffer because he has a wrong name. Never give a child an animal name it is provocation to the Lord; or a pet you give name of a man. You have abased (lowered) dignity of the child from the state of a person to

the state of an animal. It is open mockery to the Lord - the child can behave like an animal. Animals that are given names of people - you have lifted the animals up from the bush in the animal state to people status. In the Bible all names have a meaning. Jesus *(*Matthew 1: 18-21) means "Savior". The name that a person has encompasses, justifies the spirit that is in him.

Warning

Do not call people bad names because you are justifying evil spirits to them - related to that name. For example, do not call your child a wild animal's name or other dirty, foolish, or weak names, you can throw an evil spirit to them in that act. You can renounce the wrong names in your children etc. go for an affidavit and have name changed.

One thing that each partner in a marriage should know is that there is no perfect husband or perfect wife per se as they are human but instead there is a perfect marching God Himself being the marcher as the Creator and that is why partners must have done consultation with him before moving to the other stages which will culminate into a

marriage. Otherwise each person is uniquely created by God and come from different family or home background.

Both couples in a marriage need to work on each other to make them what they would want them to be than to begin to compare their partner as not being better than the other person outside there. Both of you as couples can contribute to make or to break your marriage, depending on how good or bad you are handling your marriage. Also do take note that all men and all women on earth have similar body features and no man or no woman has a better or unique body feature than the others and therefore superior. That is a fact that need put one away from falling into temptation of immorality. Let your familiarity in marriage not lead you to think that you can get more goodness from outside the marriage but continue to appreciate your marriage respecting one another and respecting oneself out there and not to try to appeal to anybody or to accept any unbecoming conduct from anybody like a pat on any part of your body, a hug or a kiss from anyone of the opposite sex by refusing and rebuking that act forthwith.

Learn to appreciate each other and thanking each other as well as trusting each other and respecting each other by avoiding unnecessary digging to your partner's privacy

looking for things like their telephone messages or pay slip or ever asking “who called you on phone” “who were you calling”, and such like, as that might not help you in a way but make you sick and not hold your marriage together.

Be careful in accepting blindly praises by people out there say on your dressing and so forth as some may be having a hidden agenda, same to accepting favors like going for a walk or tour or being taken for lunch or tea or accepting appointments in offices outside official working hours by a member of the opposite sex, if a must, make effort to be accompanied and not going alone. There is a saying that “not all that glitters is gold”. Also remember one scripture among many others (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

I then LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Maybe you think you know someone’s heart, as for me, I don’t know. So, take care!

CHAPTER 4

Responsibilities: Husband and Wife

In a marriage each marriage partner has responsibilities which one has to fulfill and which I do present to you here.

Responsibilities of a husband:

1. He must acknowledge and confess Jesus Christ as Lord of his life.
2. He must accept that God has ordained him the Priest and the head of his household *(*Ephesians 5:23*)* and that he himself is under headship (1 Corinthians 11:3)
3. He must recognize that his wife was created by God to be his help-meet; not help-mate (Genesis 2:18)
4. He must leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife (Genesis2:24, Matthew 19:5, Ephesians 5:31).
5. He must recognize that his wife is of like nature and substance *(*Genesis 2:22-23).
6. He must recognize that he and his wife are one (Genesis 2:23 Matthew 19:4-6).

7. He must love his wife as Christ loved the Church (Ephesians 5:2, 25).
8. He must sacrifice for his wife, give himself even as Christ gave Himself for the Church (Ephesians 5:25).
9. He must nourish his wife (promote her health and strength) *(*Ephesians 5:28-29).
10. He must cherish his wife (impart warmth, foster and care for) (Ephesians 5:29).
11. Respect and honor his wife *(*1 Peter 3:7).
12. Live in harmony (unity) (1 Peter 3:8).
13. Have compassion (1 Peter 3:8).
14. Love as a human being (1 Peter 3:8)
15. Be sympathetic (1 Peter 3:8).
16. Be courteous (1 Peter 3:8).
17. Not retaliating *(1 Peter 3:8-9)*
18. Not be abusive with his tongue (1 Peter 3:10.)

Responsibilities of a wife:

1. She must acknowledge and confess Jesus Christ as Lord of her life.

2. She must know her area of responsibility. Husband and wife are equal as persons, but not equal in responsibility

3. Must accept responsibility in the right attitude. The woman is not inferior to man; not competing with man. Husband and wife are equal in, importance, but not in position.

4. She must have a submissive spirit (Hebrew meaning to come under the protection of another) (Ephesians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter3:1).

5. She must have a quiet and meek spirit (1 Peter3:4).

6. Modest and godly (1 Timothy 3:11).

7. Recognize that she and her husband are heirs together of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:7).

8. The wife is the help-meet; the compliment to her husband (Genesis 2:18).

As a "help –meet" she should surround her husband with all sorts of aid and assistance in his weak areas to make him successful in life.

9. Love her husband and children (Titus 2: 4-5).

10. Avoid the sin of nagging (Proverbs 19: 13; 21:9; 25: 24 & 27:15).

Please note that it is the lack of submission by the woman Eve in the Garden of Eden that led to her downfall by seduction by the serpent. It is obvious her husband, the man Adam must have told her all that God instructed to be done, but she went on to argue with and enter into debate with the serpent (the devil) (Genesis 3: 1-6, 1Corinthians 11:3,8-9: 1 Corinthians 14:34, 1Timothy 2:13-14).

Please note that the husband is normally the head of the wife in a marriage relationship (Ephesians 5:23) but going by the following scriptures you find that God begins this time by instructing first the woman and not the man (Ephesians 5:22-27, 1 Peter 3:1-7, Genesis 2:15-17). Why? The more seeming reason is that the woman is the source of many problems in a marriage as you are going to see in some scriptures to follow in due course.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:22-27

Now there is something interesting in the above scripture. That Christ gave himself to the church because of love and was ready to sanctify and cleanse it so as to present it to himself a glorious church spotless and wrinkleless and to be holy without blemish. Both the husband and the wife need to sanctify each other by maintaining purity in their marriage by not going outside themselves for sexual intimacy and thereby having their bed undefiled and honorable before the Lord (Hebrews 13:4).

Equally, both of them can strive to make the other be presentable to him or her through various efforts so that he or she is for him or her alone (exclusively).

LIKEWISE, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

1 Peter 3:1-7

Here also you can see the wife is being addressed first (verses1-6) only reaching verse 7 the Lord addresses the husband specifically. Now something else. That a husband dwell with the wife as unto the weaker vessel. Now it has been said that "where there is a smoke, a fire can be hidden there". First of all let me stop there for a moment and bring you some scriptures touching on wives.

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 3:1-6

The first woman Eve, the wife of the first man, started the ball rolling by not being subjective both to the authority of God and Creator and to her husband. God had instructed Adam how he should live in the Garden of Eden where God placed him (Genesis 2:15-17) and Eve had not yet come to the scene. But when Eve was brought to Adam, Adam must have told her what the Creator said, hence her talk with the serpent in verse 2 and 3. But she quickly took in the lies of the serpent (verses 5-6) and went ahead to do the contrary in full disobedience. No wonder as you read in those two scriptures, God began addressing the woman (wife) in a marriage, before going to the man (husband). Because the serpent was subtile, he weighed both the man and the woman and realized that the woman as an easier prey.

AND it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest

son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.

And he said, Behold, now, I am old, I know not the day of my death: Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

And make me savory meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

And Rebekah heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and to bring it.

And Rebekah spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,

Bring me venison, and make me savory meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death.

Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.

Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savory meat for thy father, such as he loveth:

And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.

And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man:

My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing;

And his mother said unto him, upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.

Genesis 27:1-13

It is a bit of a long story but I have purposely decided to cut it short. You can read the rest from verse 14 onwards and see all that transpired. But what I say is this, husbands, watch out on your wives who seem to be having very sharp ears for hearing. Don't think she is too far in the corridor of the house, or in the kitchen, she can easily hear what you say while in the living room. Do you know? Wives can be very good schemers as you can see from this incident.

Rebekah just brought trouble to her family by having very foolishly by trying to help God!? (Genesis 25:19-28) God had so many ways to see Jacob was blessed and it was totally out of order and uncalled for Rebekah to behave that way. Couples in a marriage must also avoid taking sides with their children (verse 28).

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sor'-ek, whose name was De-li'-lah.

And the lords of the Phil-is'-tines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see where in his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.

And De-li'-lah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.

And Samson said unto her, if they bind me with seven green withes that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

Then the lords of the Phil-is'-tines brought up to her seven green withes which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

Now there were men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber.

And she said unto him, The Phil-is'-tines be upon thee, Samson.

And he brake the withes, as a thread of tow is broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known

And De-li'-lah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.

And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that were never occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

De-li'-lah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Phil-is'-tines be upon thee, Samson. And there were liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

And De-li'-lah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, if thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.

And she fastened it with the pin, and said unto him Phil-is'-tines be upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam and with the web.

And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? Thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.

And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;

That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.

And when De-li'-lah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Phil-is'-tines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath showed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Phil-is'-tines came up unto her and brought money in their hand.

And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

And she said, The Phil-is'-tines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.

But the Phil-is'-tines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Ga'-za and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

Judges 16:4-21

Ooh, women!! So you can be hired by the enemy? Too bad for you. So, women are just betrayers as some men? (Matthew 26:14-16; 47-56). Well, I told you that women can be very good schemers (verses 7-12). Ask yourself, at what time did this horrible Delilah bring in those liars to abide in her chamber!?

I believe there are some few issues a husband may not disclose to his wife not because he does not love her, but it is safe that way. Moreover, women can be the worst secret keepers as experience has proved, they can easily betray their husband ignorantly as they gossip more than men when they meet other women and some lack the wisdom to constrain themselves and can wash their dirty linen to the public by their uncontrolled talk. Husbands need to carefully watch, monitor and evaluate the advances of their wives as they could be having something up their sleeves.

BUT king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Mo'-abites, Am'-mon-ites, E'-dom-ites, Zi-do'-ni-ans, and Hit'-tites;

Of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall

they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.
And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

1 Kings 11: 1-3

There you are. Women sometimes can turn away men's hearts from the Lord; so, watch out your spouse. If they can turn the heart of the wisest man, on earth, how about you and me? The Lord help us.

AND it come to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jez'-reel-ite had a vineyard, which was in Jez'-reel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Sa-mar'-i-a.
And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.
And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.
And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jez'-reel-ite had

spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers.

And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

But Jez'-e-bel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

And he said unto her, Because! spake unto Naboth the Jez'-reel-ite and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

And Jez'-e-bel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jez'-reel-ite.

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast and set Naboth on high among the people:

And set two men, sons of Be'-li-al, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God

and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jez'-e-bel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them.

They proclaimed a fast and set Naboth on high among the people.

And there came in two men, children of Be'-li-al, and sat before him: and the men of Be'-li-al, witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones that he died.

Then they sent to BeJez'-e-bel, saying Naboth is stoned, and is dead.

And it came to pass, when Jez'-e-bel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jez'-e-bel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jez'-reel-ite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jez'-reel-ite, to take possession of it.

And the word of the LORD came to E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Sa-mar'-i-a: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.

And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, in the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.

1 Kings 21:1-19

I am not against women as such but I am just reporting what is recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Women can be that bad, married women. This woman called Jezebel was so wicked and schemed for Naboth to be killed, an innocent man! Ooh poor brother Naboth, he didn't know what was coming his way, after all, he had just said his mind/the truth. Now kings, elders and the nobles can be bad people. Look what they did! Such things are happening even today. It was done to our Lord Jesus Christ and to our brother Stephen. (Matthew 26: 1-5; 57-68, Acts 6:8-14). This child

of Belial also called Jezebel used uncouth and unorthodox means to take away the life of Naboth. She reverted to taking her husband's authority and to misuse power most likely without her husband's knowledge/presume. The fast proclaimed was a hypocritical one as it was not for good but for evil purpose and God saw it was coming as he is awake 24/7 and judged the act accordingly. Jezebel was also not spared as was proclaimed by the prophet of the Lord Elijah (who God had spoken to – verse 23) All these came to pass as per the word of the Lord God (1 Kings 22: 29-38, 2 Kings 9: 30-37)

AT that time Herod the te'-trarch heard of the fame of Jesus,

And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him.

For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison, for He-ro'-di-as sake, his brother Philip's wife.

For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of He-ro'-di-as danced before them, and pleased Herod.

Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.

And she, being instructed by her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.

And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her.

And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother.

And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

Matthew 14:1-12

Herod the tetrarch and Herodias were all living in the sin of adultery and as if that was not enough then they had John the Baptist not only put in prison but to take away his life for rebuking them of their sin. It costed John the Baptist his life. The two who did this must have had something very wrong in their upstairs to take away the life of a servant of God.

Let us now turn back and look at how a woman came about into the scene after a man was created by God.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.
And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
And Adam said, This is now the bone of my bones, and the flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

From the language in the above scripture (verses 21-23) it looks like God duplicated somehow man and came up with a woman who became a resemblance of man. Now from the earlier accounts of the women (wives) it seems more probably why the scripture (1 Peter 3: 7) talk of a woman

(wife) to a man (husband) to treat and dwell with her as unto a weaker vessel (to have that knowledge and to give her honor). Going by that and a few other scriptures, I seem to come to the conclusion that a woman to some extent is a weaker vessel spiritually and physically. Why? Because righteousness and unrighteousness directly affect the spiritual status of an individual.

WOULD to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: an indeed bear with me.
For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

2 Corinthians 11: 1-4

Apostle Paul was talking to the church of Christ (the bride to be of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and the

Son as well and referring to the woman (Eve) how she was deceived by the serpent.
She had the truth of God which she received from her husband (Adam) who also received (as an instruction) from God but sadly enough she was found culpable by bearing with the serpent who had come to her with blatant lies, hence she is spiritually vulnerable.

For Adam was first formed, then Eve.
And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.
Notwithstanding she shall be saved in child bearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

1 Timothy 2:13-15

Apostle Paul went further and suggested to women to continue in faith, charity, holiness and sobriety. To be faithful, one must be obedient, to love one must be holy and in holiness sobriety is key in maintaining holiness in one's life. If Eve the first woman was sober, she would not have fallen prey to the Devil.
On the physical side of a woman too, experience shows that women can't carry heavy luggage compared to men. An example is in weight lifting. The category of weights

that men can lift up from the ground and then above their heads is on the higher side compared to their counterparts the women. Women too are easier to convince, easier to cry or wail compared to male counterparts. But let no one put blame on them as it is how they were created. On the same note, No one should put any blame on the Creator, who is an all wise God, who in his wisdom and discretion did what he did.

The woman (wife) only needs more love from her husband (the man) due to her make-up and the man (husband) needs more respect and submission from the woman (wife) who actually came from him. (Ephesians 5:33)

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Ephesians 5:33

Each one must play his / her part very well and all will be well. The issues I raised are sensitive in marriage and the observation I have recorded here, if there is anyone who thinks otherwise, let him or her come up with scripture to prove me wrong as I am not infallible but can say that I have tried in the books the Lord had enabled me to come

up with to inspire as much as possible going by the scriptures and not merely giving stories which are not useful to anybody. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 2:4-8, 1 Corinthians 2:6-12).

A wife needs always to subject herself under the authority of his husband as the scriptures say (Ephesians 5: 22-23) or else can face serious consequences an example being the case of Vashti who because of her disobedience to her husband, she ended losing her queenship (Esther 1:1-2:18)

As long as your husband gives you a lawful order (in the Lord) you need not disobey or else you can become like a rebel before the eyes of the Lord and you cannot be left unpunished at some point by the Lord who hates rebellion. God is the one who gave you a husband and therefore you must respect him (1 Samuel 15:22-23, Genesis 2:18-22).

You are free to raise your grievance to him as the Israelites did to king Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 10:1-5) or to point a wrong doing as prophet Elijah did to king Ahab (1 Kings 18:17-18) or as John the Baptist did to king Herod (Luke 3:16-20). But to willfully disobey your husband's lawful order is to bring a curse upon yourself just as Korah and Dathan did rebelling against Moses the servant of God and they perished (Numbers 16:1-33). For that reason, never

take lightly your husband's lawful orders but instead obey them fully (Peter 3:1-6, Ephesians 5:24)

Another thing is that never mislead your husband as Eve did to Adam and was punished (Genesis 3:1-6, 14-16) or as Sarah did to Abraham by causing him to sin the sin of adultery (Genesis 16:1-12) by that one act alone we continue to see terrorism acts thriving all over the world (verses 11-12) or as Rebecca did to Isaac by subverting his authority and also using tricks to have her son Jacob receive Isaac's blessing instead of leaving to God to do it His way (Genesis 25:19-26;) she also made her son Jacob to lie severally to his father (Genesis 27:1-30). Although Esau had sold his birthright to his brother Jacob (Genesis 25:27-34) Rebecca used unorthodox means to fulfill God's promise on Jacob but I believe God cannot be helped as he is not helpless and his ways and thoughts are not ways and thoughts are not our ways and our thoughts as he is both omnipotent and omniscient (Genesis 18:9-14, Isaiah 55:8-11). What Rebecca did is more or less similar to what Jezebel did to Ahab and she received her portion (1 Kings 21:1-23; 2 Kings 9:30-37)

On the other hand, a husband as the head of a family is a leader and need to lead properly and be an example

obeying his Master (Jesus Christ) in obedience to Him (Ephesians 5:21-23, Joshua 24:14-15)

In a work place no supervisor can try to supervise his or her boss (the General Manager or the Managing Director and so on) but is expected only to supervise his or her juniors.

The big question is, how comes that in marriage some sisters in the Lord want to supervise the brothers in the Lord (their boss / head) by asking such questions: Is this the time to come home? 'Where were you all this time? 'Who were you with? Instead of welcoming the brothers home warmly and with respect. It is quite irritating and is insubordination.

Sisters in the Lord need to submit to the brothers' theocratic rule by obeying them in all things in the Lord and not to try to bring democracy in the home.

The brothers in the Lord likewise must not be autocratic but to rule with love in God's wisdom and be role models too. The sisters in the Lord are not to be treated as football or punch bag to be kicked and punched as one likes, but be treated as tender beings, needing much love and care (1 Peter 3:7). The brothers as the heads of their households need to defend and protect the sisters and the children as

the brothers serve as their cover/umbrella (Genesis 14:1-16).

The sisters in the Lord are expected to supervise their juniors (the children) for the brothers who are often out of the home going to fend for them. (Genesis 2:8-17; 3:19. 1Timothy 5:8) It is only that way that they become true helpers of the brothers in the Lord as God intended them to be (Genesis 2:18).

The sisters need to be busy in the home and not in neighbors' homes wasting time there say in gossiping and so on (Titus 2:3-5).

The sisters must appreciate the fact that the brothers are adults and not children needing any supervision and that where ever they are they will be acting responsibly in useful ventures for the welfare of their households and therefore need not be asked silly / unfounded questions. The brothers hardly need instructions from the sisters (Job 2:1-10).

CHAPTER 5

The Part of Sex

Sex that is acceptable (holy) is only between husband and wife who are legally married to each other. Sex is the climax of their unity, it is the renewal of the covenant marriage *(*Proverbs 5:15, 18, 19 1Corinthians 7: 1-5). The act of sexual intercourse is the marriage seal.

Marriage is supposed to be clean free from fornication and adultery (Hebrews 13:4, Malachi 2:14 – 16) Adultery is an entry point of the spirit of mockery. When one is involved in fornication or adultery, he pours out his honor – he will be dishonored as he has dishonored the Lord.

God knows fornication, adultery etc. lead to pollution of sex system – response should be to only one partner, but when involved in unholy sex the sex system is corrupted and will henceforth respond to any one that one meets of the opposite sex (Proverbs 5: 16-17).

The Lord God takes sexual sin very, very seriously because the body of a Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit where he dwells and if it is defiled, the Holy Spirit has no place where to stay and operate (work) in a Christian and hence the body becomes useless for God's work by the Holy Spirit who is a Christian's helper. In essence, one has

virtually closed one's life to God and the consequence is severe as we are going to see in the scriptures.

May the Lord God help us to keep away from this sin, which the scripture say is the only sin done inside the body and therefore very destructive to the one involving in it. God has advised Christians on several occasions to stay aware from the sin (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Numbers 25:1-18, 1 Corinthians 10:8; 3:16-17; 6:12-20).

FURTHERMORE then we beseech you, brethren and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and please God, so ye would abound more and more.

For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor;

Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have for warned you and testified.
For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

AND Israel abode in Shit'tim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.
And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods, and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.
And Israel joined himself unto Ba'-al-pe'or: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.
And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of people, and hung them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.
And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, slay ye ever one of his men that were joined unto Ba'-al-pe'or.
And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Mid'-ia-nitish woman in the sight of

Moses, and in the sight of all congregation of the children of Israel, who were worshiping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And when Phin'-e-has, the son of El-e-a'-zar, the son of Aaron the Priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;

And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.

And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.

And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

Phin'e-has the son of El-e-a'-zar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was Zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my Jealousy.

Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:

And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with theMid'-ia-nitish woman that was slain was coz'bi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Mid'-i-an

And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying,

Vex the Mid'-ia-nites, and smite them:

For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have beguiled you in the matter of pe'or, and in the matter of Coz'bi, the daughter of a prince of Mid'-i-an, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Pe'or's sake.

Numbers 25

Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand

1 Corinthians 10:8

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid.

What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two saith he, shall be one flesh.

But he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Well, the Holy Spirit could not be harsher than that. You have seen what the children of Israel got when they tried to play with fire. (Numbers 25). It is that serious brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Unclean and unholy sex

1. Fornication - Deuteronomy 22:28-29, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 9-20
2. Adultery - Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Matthew 5:27-28)
3. Incest - Leviticus 20:11, 14, 17.19-21, Deuteronomy 22:30
4. Masturbation - Male playing with his sex organ for sex arousal
5. Homosexuality - Romans 1:21-27
6. Lesbianism - Romans 1:21-26
7. Sodomy - Leviticus 20:13
8. Rape - Deuteronomy 22:23-27
9. Bestiality - Leviticus 20:15-16

By involving in such practices one, corrupts and pollutes one's sex organ.

Sex is so important in a marriage that God gave a positive maxim to safeguard it as is recorded in the book of Deuteronomy 24 verse 5.

When man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.

Deuteronomy 24:5

God in his own wisdom gave the above commandment to the Israelites so that his will of procreation can take place in that window of time (one year in a marriage) as he had done creation in the beginning and now delegated the work of multiplication to mankind and through sexual intercourse he makes it possible for pregnancy to take place and by it; internally creates another being out of it (Genesis 1:26-28; 4:1-2, 17-22, 25-26; 5:1-32, 9:1; 30:1-2; 16:1-2). God knew that if a man who has just married went to war there was a possibility of him being killed and he would not be in a position to continue with his conjugal responsibility and would leave no seed (offspring) of his own who would further propagate God's agenda to populate the earth hence the above restriction.

The above is part of the Laws of domestic relations the Lord God gave to the Israelites. In the spiritual sense, Christians are now the true Israelites of God (Galatians 6:15-16, Philippians 3:3, Colossians 2: 11-12). No wonder these who know of this fact (Deuteronomy 24:5) and are newly married and can afford, go for a honeymoon for a few weeks or even a month to cheer up themselves before settling down for other business in life. It is a time to get to know each other's likes and dislikes and so on before settling down to serious marriage life thereafter.

Some of the reasons for sex

- It is for procreation purposes (Genesis 1:27-28).
- It is for maintaining the bond of unity (Genesis 2:21-24).
- It is for a wholesome relaxation of the: body, soul and spirit (mind).
- It is for enjoyment by the couples (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).
- It is an expression - act of love (1 John 3:18).

The Lord God takes sexual immorality (sin) very, very seriously because the body of a Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit where he indwells a believer and if it is defiled, the Holy Spirit has no place where to stay and

work in him or her and hence the body becomes useless for God's work through the Holy Spirit who was indwelling, who actually is a helper to him or her, and therefore in essence he or she has virtually closed his or her life to God and the consequence is severe as we can see from the Scripture. May the Lord God help us to keep away from this sin, which the Scripture say is the only sin done internally and therefore very destructive to one involved in it (Numbers 25: 1-18, 1 Corinthians 10:8, 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 17, 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20).

Children born out of the will of God

The children born out of the will of God (through sin) such as rape, fornication or adultery are likely to turn out in life as rebels, prostitutes, murderers, witchdoctors, terrorists and so on and serve Satan than God as they are a product of sin. Our God is a God of order and does not like any disorderly conduct - sex outside marriage or immorality in marriage. A good example of such a child is Ishmael (Genesis 16:1-12) whose descendants are a violent lot and are fond of involving in terrorist activities, hence serving Satan and not God. But we have an exception by the name Jephthah who was used by God at some time to fight the

Ammonites for Israel. As his name implies ‘opener’, he opened up 20 cities of the Ammonites for Israelites. (Judges 11:1-33) and from this act he was mention in Hebrews 11:32.

Children so born out of sin out of wedlock are considered as bastards and are unwanted in many communities because of the tendency of bad behavior in addition to people fearing that they might inherit properties in homes when they are accepted. (Genesis 21:9-13).

Childlessness in marriage

God gave a covenant to Adam and Eve that they will be fruitful and therefore being childless in a marriage is not in God’s will we find that Adam and Eve had many children has God promise, some whose names were; Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 1:27-28, 4:1-2, 25, 5:4).

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: ……

Genesis 1:27-28

AND Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bear Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel ……..
And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth; …….

Genesis 4:1-2, 25

And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:

Genesis 5:7

Going through the Scriptures we find that there are few reasons why a couple can remain childless. God can close / shut up a woman's womb for one reason or another, disobedience to God and failure to ask the Lord for a child. Let us look at the following Scriptures in connection to the above reasons. I wish to add something on the first reason which is God may not have shut a woman's womb as conception does not take place as is not on God's timing – God is a God of plans and has a plan for each person, a

timely plan and not haphazard plan (Jeremiah 1:4-5, Genesis 20:18, 25:21; 30:1-2, Deuteronomy 28:1, 4a, 15, 18a, 1 Samuel 1:5, 9-11, 19, Psalm 128:1-3, Matthew 7:7-8, Luke 1:5-25)

AND when Rachel so that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.
And Jacob's hunger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

Genesis 30:1-2

For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of A-bim'-e-lech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife.

Genesis 20:18

But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

1 Samuel 1:5

AND it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do

all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body,

……

But it shall come to pass if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Cursed shall be the fruit of thy

body,……

Genesis 28:1,4a, 15, 18a

BLESSED is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.

For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

Thy wife shall be as fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

Psalm 128:1-3

And Isaac entreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was entreated of him, and Rebeccah his wife conceived.

Genesis 25:21

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shi'-loh, and after they had drunk. Now E'-li the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.
And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.
And she vowed a vow, and said O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affiliation of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine hand maid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.
And they rose up in the, morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house to Ra'-mah; and El-ka'-nah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

We find that Isaac stayed in marriage for almost twenty years before his wife Rebecca got a child, he had not asked God nor his wife. (Genesis 25:20-21, 26) likewise Isaac's father Abraham took at least eleven years to get the child Ishmael from Hagar his wife's maid, - he had not asked God also. Genesis 12:4, 15:1-3, 16:1-11, 16). From the above Scriptures it is necessary to ask God to give (bless) us with children, and early enough say after a year in marriage and still no child is forthcoming- (3 months allowance for conception and 9 months from conception to birth of a child). (Genesis 18:8-14, 2 Kings 4:11-17). From the 2 Kings 4:13 we get yet another point (reasons) for childlessness – contentment with the status quo (childlessness)

In Psalms 127:3 and 128:3 we find that children are not only the heritage of the LORD but the reward of the womb and are the beauty of a family (home). Children bring beauty to a family. Mind you, the family (home) is supposed to be beautiful as the Garden of Eden and be a replica miniature of the New Jerusalem where the populace

will be composed of both adults and children. Therefore, husband and wife together with their children are a fore shadow of the populace of the coming Kingdom of God. A home needs to be beautiful with an atmosphere of love, peace and unity, a foretaste of the wonderful life in heaven which is perfect in everything with abundance in life.
Be wary of what Jesus said to his disciples (Matthew 26:41) and what Apostle Paul said to the church in Galatia (Galatians 5:17).

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:41

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:17

The flesh the body is weak and is not ready to do what it ought to like praying and fasting which is the will of God but is strong and ready to do the opposite, which is not the will of God, like lusting and many other such like things. Therefore, do not be a fool giving your flesh to do anything

you may think of as it will definitely lead you to sin. Although the spirit may be innocent, but if the flesh- body does something contrary to God's will it automatically defiles the spirit which it houses together with the soul- as all these three is the total/complete make up of a human being and all need to be sanctified before the Lord God. (1 Thessalonians 5:22-23)

Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:22-23

Please note that one's sanctification is conditional and therefore don't live a care free life but be discreet in your doings and not to abuse your liberty in Christ. Read the following scriptures as well.

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

Romans 12:9

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Romans 7:18-19

I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Romans 6:19

The grace should not be abused by yielding to anything that comes one's way but yield only to righteousness unto holiness. Read also the next scripture.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

To underscore my argument against hugging and kissing by opposite sexes, I bring your notice to the fact that even in normal practice more often one can see believers of the same sex hugging or kissing each other after the end of a church service or a Christian fellowship but not the other way round, that is, finding a sister hugging or kissing a brother or vice versa. Get to know that kissing at times can be hypocritical and betraying as you are going to see in a few scriptures and therefore don't love it much or trust in it.

NOW it came to pass in the days when judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem-Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was E-lim'-e-lech, and the name of his wife Na-o'-mi, and the name of his two sons Mah'-lon and Chil'-i-on, Eph'-ra-thites of Beth-lehem-Judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.
And E-lim'-e-lech Na-o'-mi's husband died; and he was left, and her two sons.

And they took the wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Or'-pah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

And Mah'-lon and Chil'-i-on died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

And Na-o'-mi said unto her two daughters-in-law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

And they said unto her, surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

And Na-o'-mi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? Are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

Turn again my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have a husband also tonight, and should also bear sons;
Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? Would ye stay for them from having husbands? Nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.
And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Or'-pah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth clave unto her.

Ruth 1:1-14

From the above account you can see that Orpah's kiss was nothing (of no use) to her mother-in-law who she left. This was the same Orpah that wept with Ruth and now was gone probably not patient in waiting to get another husband. Her tears when she wept must have been as people call them "crocodile tears" as she was not genuine/sincere in all her actions but was playing the hypocrite. If she really loved her mother-in-law, she wouldn't have left her and more so, too soon! Therefore a kiss is never always a sign of true love to each other As for Naomi's kiss, it was out of a true love in her as they both were still young and needed to get married again and bear children (1 Timothy 5:5-7; 11-15, 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; 6-9). Kissing is a fleshly (physical) act

and there is no spiritual significance as I see it personally and need not be taken too seriously. Let me present to you another scripture which may discourage and disappoint you from the issue of kissing.

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.
Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.
And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.
And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Matthew 26:47-50

Some kisses are never sincere and are given just as a cover up and hold ill motives by the one doing the kissing. So, when next time someone kisses you, just be careful, very careful with such a one and ask yourself why? Why? And what is the person's next move? You can see now very clearly that the kiss of Judas was but only one thing- a betrayal, period. Some people can be fooled by a kiss, not me please.

Apostle Paul led by the Holy Spirit knew that there were two classes of kisses - an unholy kiss and a holy kiss. Judas' kiss was an unholy kiss. Read on…

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.
Greet one another with a holy kiss.
All the saints salute you.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. A'-men.

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

The above is full of love - God's love. A holy kiss only comes with a holy love, okay.

Warning:

However harmless it may appear before you and regardless of how spiritual you think you are, avoid all forms of kissing and hugging of each other with opposite sex, except he or she is your legal husband or legal wife. If you do, you will have saved your soul from a possible fall into temptation.

But if you involve yourself in those acts it is like tempting the Lord to protect you from your foolish and willful action as well as giving your body to take its course or giving the devil a chance in your life. Let me give you an example, just as unlike poles of a magnet attract each other and like poles repel each other, the same applies to the body which is not spiritual but physical, the saying that all truth is parallel may/can as well apply here. Going now to the scriptures I have seen some four examples of kissing and hugging though they can be more. But from all these only one is of the opposite sex and even that, ended in a marriage. (Genesis 27:26-27; 29:10-12; 33:1-4 and Luke 15:20)

Now let me give some scriptures also that talks of being careful in life situations.

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:……

……

Romans 6:13a

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:16-17

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the lord thy God.

Matthew 4:5-7

I hope you too, is not going to tell me that it is written in the scripture that we love each other. Yes, it is written, but you need to walk in wisdom in love and not give the devil a chance to tempt you. He is experienced a lot and knows how weak the flesh (body) is. Don't play with fire, fire will burn you (Proverbs 3:13-18; 6: 27-33, Galatians 6:7-8).

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.
Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:22-24; 27

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:
In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Colossians 3:5-7

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:
But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

That is a strong warning by Jesus Christ. The so called "harmless" kissing or hugging can easily ignite bad

thoughts in your mind which in themselves are as lethal as doing the very act of adultery, fornication. Just do the simple thing stay away and stay safe (Verses 29 and 30).
The only exception is on small children or teenagers who one can hug casually or can kiss the cheek or part their back and so on.

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.
But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.
Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.
And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

Now look at this scripture too, in addition to those you read earlier.

When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 13:21-23

Some people seem not to know what they go to do in a church as show lack of the fear of the Lord and involve in such acts like reading a newspaper in the church or talking with their mobile phones in the church. Such practices although it is becoming common on some people in the church, it is sin and must be discouraged completely. The house of God is a sacred place and should not be used for transacting just anything and is not a place for doing business as usual. No wonder Jesus Christ chased some people from the temple because they were on their own business and not on God's business. (John 2:13-17)

And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

John 2:13-17

I hope you don't want the Lord to make a scourge of small cords to drive you out of his Father's house. Mind you, he is the same Lord who did that in the temple and can likewise do it now in the church, so watch out and behave/conduct yourself well in a church building as is required of you.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1 Corinthians 10:9, 11

Sex is something that has been abused so much both by the unmarried and the married alike and which should not be the case at all as God had designed it for a holy purpose.

Mankind has distorted sex because of his fallen nature which has brought in him a corrupted mind and heart and now sex seems to be a bad thing instead of a good thing as God intended it to be (Titus 1:15-16, Genesis 1:31, Ecclesiastes 7:29).

CHAPTER 6

Parenting

Parenting or child rearing or caring for a child is very important in shaping the character of a child and is crucial in the stages of the child's growth and therefore parents must bring their children to Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:13 – 14, Mark 10: 13-16).

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.
But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.
Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.
And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mark 10: 13 – 16

Parents must have love God, study His word and teach their children to do the same (Deuteronomy 6: 4-9).

Hear , O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sitteth in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes,
And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

The teaching of children the word of God should be a routine, including writing them upon the posts of the house to inculcate the lifestyle required by God reminding them always as they see and read them daily. Parents also must administer correction when needed: correction is an act of love (Proverbs 13: 24) correction will drive out foolishness (Proverbs 22: 15) – foolishness, if not corrected, will produce pride.

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 13:24

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 22:15

Foolishness and pride yield:

i. Contention

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom

Proverbs 13:10

ii. Strife

He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat

Proverbs 28:25

iii. Bring the parent low

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit

Proverbs 29:23

iv. Shame

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but that lovethchasteneth him betimes

Proverbs 13:24

Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die

Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

Proverbs 23:13-14

Responsibility of the child

1. Children are to obey their parents:

i. In God

My son hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Proverbs 1:8

CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right

Ephesians 6:1

ii. In all things Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:20

2. Children are to fear the Lord

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction

Proverbs 1:7

a) Children are the heritage of the Lord

Lo, children are a heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate

Psalm 127:3-5

b) They are the reward of the Lord

He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD

Psalm 113:9

And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and children; and said; Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.

Genesis 33:4-5

c) They are highly esteemed by God

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table

Psalm 128:3

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:14

d) They are a crown

Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

Proverbs 17:6

Parents are to train their children *(Proverbs 22:6)* – 'To bring to a requisite standard, as of conduct or skill, by protracted and careful instruction; specifically, to mold their character of; educate; instruct; to render skillful or proficient'.

Parents are not to provoke their children, but bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3: 21) children can be worshippers of God (Matthew 21: 15-16) parents are to correct their child to get rest: (Proverbs 29: 17)

Parents to keep on reminding their children about God in their conversations with them (1 Chronicles 28:9).

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and undertstandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever

1Chronicles 28: 9

In rearing a child much must come from the home (parents) Church, school and society just supplement a little.
Both parents have this responsibility but more so with the mother. Don't leave your house helps to be with your children most of the time, stop being too busy with things and have good time with your children, nor leave them to learn from T.V and Radio programs etc. Have time to teach your children the word of God (Psalm 119:9-10).
Invest in Bibles and Christian literature, Christian audio and video tapes. As much as possible try and check literature your children are reading or programs they are watching or listening to and censure accordingly. Be a role model, they are ever watching you in words and deeds and copy you.
Care must be taken on how the children are handled in the home.
A conducive atmosphere needs to be created by the parents otherwise children may run away from the home and go into the streets and become street children who later turn into street families. The street children and the street families are a social problem to society, and the government.

Parents should not mistreat their children in action and words. Street children suffer out in the streets because they are not under cover (umbrella) which is none other than parents to take care of their welfare.
Street families come about as a result of immoral people in society who take advantage of street children and also because of indiscipline in these children some who involve in immoral acts. Ephesians 6:4 is God's advice to parents not to provoke their children.

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

Parents need to be very careful on the toys they buy for their children and the cartoons their children watch on the T.V sets as well as the games they play out in the field with other children or play in playing machines or on computer most of which may turn out to be occultic in nature. Parents should see to it that they dress their children in a right dressing and they themselves must dress rightly in a holy way otherwise their children when they grow up will just dress badly as the parents.

Failure to discipline

Failure of disciplining children by parents have far reaching consequence and should not be allowed by parents. It is only through necessary discipline by parent to an erring child can the child become disciplined in life with self-control. As I said earlier, in rearing a child, much effort must come from the home, that is, from the parents. The church, school or the society can do just a little.

Parenting cannot be delegated as such. The parents the father and the mother jointly must make daily efforts on their children giving them direction and encouragement on godly behavior and where they deviate to mete out discipline and bring them back on the right track. After all, the children are yours, your blood, and not anybody else is. The ball lies squarely on the parents' court and they have just to play their part well.

We are now going to see some examples and learn lessons from them on the failure on the part of parents in the task of rearing them.

1. David's family

Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat.

Wherefore his servants said unto him, let there be sought for my Lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my Lord the king may get heat.

So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel and found Ab'i-shag a Shu'-nam-mite, and brought her to the king.

And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.

Then Ad-o-ni'-jah the son of Hag'-gith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? And he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Ab'-sa-lom.

And he conferred with Jo'-ab the son of Zeru'-iah, and with A-bi'-a-thar the priest: and they following Ad-o-ni'jah helped him.

But Za'-dok the priest, and Be-nai'-ah the son of Je-hoi'-a-da, and Nathan the prophet, and Shim'-e-i, and Re'-i, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Ad-o-ni'-jah.

And Ad-o-ni'jah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zo'-he-leth, which is by En-ro'-gel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

But Nathan the prophet, and Be-nai'-ah, and the mighty men and Solomon his brother, he called not.

Wherefore Nathan spoke unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Ad-o-ni'-jah the son of Hag'-gith doth reign, and David our Lord knoweth it not?

Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that then mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.

Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my Lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? Why then doth Ad-o-ni'jah reign?

Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

And Bath-she'-ba went in unto the king into the chamber; and the king was very old; and Ab'-i-shag the Shu'man-mite ministered unto the king.

And Bath-she'-ba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldst thou?

And she said unto him, My Lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.

And now, behold, Ad-o-ni;-jah reigneth; and now, my Lord the king, thou knowest it not:

And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and A-bi'-a-thar the priest, and Jo'-ab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.

And thou, my Lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my Lord the king after him.

Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my Lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.

And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

And they told the king, saying, behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.

And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Ad-o-ni'-jah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?

For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and A-bi'-a-thar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Ad-o-ni'-jah.

But me, even me thy servant, and Ze'-dok the priest, and Be-nai'ah the son of Je-hoi'-a-da, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.

Is this thing done by my Lord the king, and thou hast not showed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

Then king David answered and said, call me Bath-She'-ba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.

And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of distress,

Even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.

Then Bath-she'-ba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, let my lord king live for ever.

And king David said, call me Za'-dok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Be-nai'-ah the son of Je-hoi'-a-da. And they came before the king.

The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your Lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gi'-hon:

And let Za'-dok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

Then ye shall come after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

And Be-nai'-ah the son of Je-hoi'-a-da answered the king, and said, A'-men: the LORD God of my Lord the king say so too.

As the LORD hath been with my Lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than of my lord king David.

So Za'-dok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Be-nai'-ah the son of Je-hoi'-a-da and the Cher'-e-thites, and the

Pel'-thites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gi'-hon.

And Za'-dok the priest took a horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpets; and all the people sand, God save king Solomon.

And all the people came after him, and the people piped with pipes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.

And Ad-o-ni'-jah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Jo'-ab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar?

And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of A-bi'-a-thar the priest came: and Ad-o-n-jah said unto him, come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings.

And Jonathan answered and said to Ad-o-ni-'jah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king.

And the king hath sent with him Za'-dok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Be-nai-ah the son of Je-hoi-a-da, and the Cher'-e-thites and Pel'-thites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule.

AndZa'-dok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gi'-hon; and they are come up from

thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This is the noise that ye have heard.

And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom.

And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed.

And also thus said the king, blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it.

And all the guests that were with Ad-o-ni'-jah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way.

And Ad-o-ni'jah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Ad-o-ni'jahfeareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, let king Solomon swear unto me today that he will not slay his servant with the sword.

And Solomon said, if he will show himself a worthy man, there shall not a hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to King Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

1 Kings 1

From the above scripture we can see that as parents, whether we are in high position in society or not must not take for granted the spiritual well-being of our children by say leaving it to the church or school to administer. Therefore, we need to take our time and energy to do it ourselves as it is a God-given responsibility, which we need not shy away from.

Starting from verse 5 to verse 6, we see that because King David had never at any time from Adonijah's birth to date questioned any of his conducts, Adonijah was busy doing his own things on his own way / wisdom (as he lacked fatherly direction and discipline). The scripture say he exalted himself (had become proud). Pride is the beginning (the start of a fall). Indiscipline is a fertile ground for pride. We are further informed that this same.

Adonijah was a very goodly man (may be why King David never questioned how he conducted himself).

But my fellow brethren, cuteness of our children should never make us lose focus on our responsibility as parents in dealing with them.

Many parents have lost focus already and branded their children such names as “Baby,” “Sweetie”, “Daddy,” “Mummy” “Uncle”, “Auntie”, “Grandma”, or “Grandpa”, and so on sometimes because they resemble them so much in some way and so on, hence just pat them on their back instead of giving them direction or discipline as necessary thereby making them undisciplined and useless in the society. The children need not be treated like eggs that are too fragile, they must get disciplined or corrected whenever necessary (Remember proverbs 13:24 and 22:15). The children are foolish and still lack wisdom and need our advice in teachings on the word of God and followed further with discipline to remove out foolishness in them to get now wisdom. Otherwise by so not doing that, we are but destroying them in the process unknowingly.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Yes, for a truly responsible parent, a child must be trained in the Lord and when reaches adulthood (he is old), he will

not depart from it and will become a good citizen and continue to be so (especially when also led to Christ as well)

Now let us continue from verse 7 onwards to verse 31. We can see that Nathan the prophet of the Lord God knew all what was in the offing and went to Bathsheba not only to inform her of the plot but advised her as well. He went further and advised King David and because all obliged, King David did save his kingdom for his son Solomon. I like true prophets of God because without them any nation can be destroyed for lack of divine guidance. Except a nation refuses to be guided and go its own way. No nation can see, but the eyes of a nation is a true prophet of God who hears from the omniscient God whenever sees a necessity in a nation, and the prophet conveys the same to the nation either to the king, to the church or publicly to the whole nation for action as is necessary, before the Lord God acts for them or against them, depending on their response to the message so delivered to them.

True prophets of God hold much authority in the name of the Lord and must be honored and not handled carelessly (2 Kings 1:1-17). Now let us continue from verse 32 onwards to verse 53. We see that Solomon the son of David was

made king over Israel and Judah to take over after his father, as it was both the wish of the king and was in God's divine plan (verse 17 and in 1 Chronicles 22: 9-10). We also find Adonijah the undisciplined young man bowing down to his brother Solomon now made king and we also note Solomon's caution on his brother, that he needs to seriously behave right to save his head (life). Surely, pride comes before a fall.

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding. I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

Proverbs 8:13-15

2. Eli's family

AND the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before E'-li. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.
And it came to pass at that time, when E'-li was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, here am I.

And he ran unto E-li, and said,

Here am I, for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again.

And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to E'-li and said, here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to E'-li, and said, here am I; for thou didst call me. And E'-li perceived that the LORD had called the child.

Therefore E'-li said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, speak LORD; for thy servant heareth.

And the LORD said to Samuel, behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

In that day I will perform against E'-li all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth, because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

And therefore I have sworn unto the house of E'-li, that the iniquity of E'-lis house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering forever.

AND the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Phil-is-tines to battle, and pitched beside Eb-en-e'-zer: and the Phil-is-tines pitched in A'-phek.

And the Phil-is'-tines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.

And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of E'-li, Hoph'-ni and Phin'-e-has, were slain.

And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shi'-loh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

And when he come, Lo, E'-li sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God.

And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out.

And when E'-li heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told E'-li.

Now E'-li was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

And the man said unto E'-li, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled today out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Phil-is-tines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hoph'-ni and Phin'-e-has, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of

the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

1 Samuel 3:1-14; 4:1, 10-18

Here we find another example where the parent Eli a priest of God failed in rearing his two sons. As, I said earlier, in whatever position you may find yourself in the church or in any other institution, spare time for your children also, enough time to help them in their daily life, don't be too busy with the work in other institutions that you have no time for your family. As I said earlier, children are still foolish but get wisdom slowly and surely only if they are taught and brought up with the word of God (which is wisdom) and the cane (for discipline) for going out of the word. This can be seen in verses 1 to 10 where the child Samuel was beginning to learn by the priest of God Eli.

It is us the parents who must begin to tell the children about God and how he operates. Unfortunately for the priest it seems he had not done all in his strength and wisdom to direct his sons rightly as we look at verse 11 to 14. He as a parent did not restrain them. It looks like he talked to them only rather than not sparing them and caning them.

If the priest used some physical force as above in trying to discipline them, they wouldn't have continued in

wickedness and gone out of his control. (It is too bad / dangerous to leave your child to go out of your control)- Children must be managed. Now because of the above, the whole family perished in one single, day (verses 16-18) - All received God's judgment just as God said. Children are under the umbrella of their parents unto adulthood (when they have married or have been married away) and must obey their parents as a duty. If they disobey, the arm of the Lord will definitely catch them as we have seen. The parent who also fails in his duty will equally face the same fate as Eli the priest. Children are answerable to their parents, to authorities in the government and to God. Parents are answerable to authorities in the government and to God. The mother (wife) is additionally in submission to her husband. The sons of Eli, their conduct had become completely unacceptable.

Now the sons of Eli were sons of Be'-li-al; they knew not the LORD.

And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priests servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a flesh hook of three teeth in his hand;

And he struck it into the pan or Kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the flesh hook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did it in shi'-loh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

Also before they burnt the fat, the priests servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

And if any man said unto him, let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it to me now: and if not, I will take it by force.

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

Now E-li was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And he said unto them, why do ye such things? For I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.

If one man sin against another the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for

him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the LORD, and also with men.

And there came a man of God unto E-li, and said unto him. Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon my altar, to burn incense, to wear an e'phod before me? And did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honorest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come, upon thy two sons, on Hoph'ni and Phin'-e-has; in one day they shall die both of them.

And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for over.

1 Samuel 2:12-17; 22-35

From the above we see from verses 12 to 17 that the sons of Eli are referred to as sons of Belial because they know not the LORD. (1 John 3:10). It is a dangerous thing to try involve oneself in the work of the Lord if you don't know him personally. The sons of Sceva had it rough (Acts

19:11-17). Something else. As a parent you could be a Christian (born-again) and know the Lord, but if you are blessed with a child, your salvation is not enough, your child mind you, also need salvation of the Lord and therefore you need make all efforts possible to have him/her come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the savior.

Otherwise he/she is likely to give you much headache and heartache you can hardly bear. Let us now turn to verse 22 to 25 although Eli the priest of God heard from the people of Israel all the evils they were doing, even to the extent of sleeping with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation still he could afford to reason with his sons instead of meting them severely for such abominable acts.

It seems these sons were only used to hearing the voice of thy father (if any) and not action and therefore ignored their father's reasons. Already God had placed a final verdict on these two as their wickedness had reached a climax and no repentance in sight.

The sons were deliberately sinning against the Lord and had made it a habit in their lifestyle and God could never tolerate at all. Meanwhile the child Samuel on the other

hand grew on and was in favor both with God and man. Why? Her mother Hannah had asked God for this child and when God gave, she decided to return him back to God to serve the Lord in his tabernacle. She took her son where he could be nurtured in the word. Parents apart from ministering the word to your children go further and see to it they always regularly be in Sunday school in the church and are at a youthful age above church Sunday school, to see to it they accompany you to church services and Christian fellowships. If you don't, they can easily stray away and be completely consumed in the world and probably never to turn back and come to church. Verse 27 onwards we find that in addition to the reports by all people, very bad ones, the Lord sent another servant of his to talk to the priest. God was justified to act as he had said. Verses 10 to 11 we see that the Israelites had carried with them the ark of the covenant of God to the battle with the philistines probably hoping to get God's protection and victory only to be badly humiliated and defeated. Why? God was not with them. There was sin in their midst and God and sin are never companions (Remember the men of Ai smote the Israelites) because there was sin in their midst

by one person Achan the son of Carmi (Joshua 7). God is holy and is not ready to support or mingle with sin.

As parents, if we are not careful enough and make every effort to bring our children to the Lord, we may be surprised much later that they have instead taken us out of the Lord.

3. Samuel's family

AND it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel.

Now the name of his first-born was Jo'-el and the name of his second, A-bi'-ah: they were judges in Beer-She'-ba.

And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ra-mah.

And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

1 Samuel 8:1-5

In the above scripture we see, that Samuel's sons were not walking in the way of their father in righteousness but in their lust for money corrupted their ways in the taking of

bribes and thereby giving wrong judgments. Surely in the work of God (ministry) Samuel had somehow had no balance and failed as a parent to deal with his sons. As parents we need make a proper balance of the Lord's work, our work in earning a living and our work in the discipline of our children such that none of these suffers because of lack of proper and enough attention.

Samuel who served both as a priest and a prophet of God is one of those the scripture hardly at all records that given an assignment by God failed to do it. Let us look at part of his address to the Israelites when he had served the Lord God and he was now old.

AND Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and I have made a king over you.

And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grey-headed; and, behold, my sons are with you and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ax have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I

oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? And I will restore it you.
And they said, thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand.
And he said unto them, the LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

1 Samuel 12:1-5

As parents most of the time at home we are with our children and need take the time to teach our children to know God and to fear him and to monitor them to see if they are in tune or out of tune and to applaud or discipline them as appropriate so as to mold their character and behavior such that they are an asset to us and not a liability. What they turn out to be to us is what they will turn out to be to the society in general. In disciplining them we need to apply reasonable force in love and also not use unethical means of doing the same for example, one need not burn a child's finger, kick a child, knock a child's head on the wall (bang on the wall), slap a child using a panga (which is a weapon), cutting a finger of a child, refusing to provide food to a child in several meals and so on and so forth,

because the child has done wrong. Also, the punishment ought to be in commensurate with the act committed. Discipline need not be too little as to be of no effect in correcting a behavior or not too much to bear and bringing more harm than good to a child. Let us play our part well with much effort so that those children who are adamant, for us, we have washed our hands and what is left is for each individual to account to God on the judgment day.

Praying for children

Prayers for our children on a regular basis is very important indeed. It is not enough just to teach them about God and to discipline them where they go wrong otherwise our efforts may not achieve the desired results. We need as parents to fortify/seal all our efforts toward our children with continual prayers throughout their childhood up to an adult stage and even beyond. Satan knows that our children and especially in their youthful age are energetic and more curious and can take the opportunity to lead them to all sorts of bad behavior save for our prayers to God to not only protect them but to guide them in their daily activities. Let us look at one example:

THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

His substance was also seven thousand sheep, and there thousand camels, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

And his sons went and feasted in their houses, everyone his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offering according to the number of them all: for Job said,

It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.

Thus did Job continually.

Job 1:1-5

In the above scripture we see that Job who was a rich man not only feared God but as a parent was equally concerned about the spiritual well-being of his children by not only

showing concern, but doing something about it (meaning he cared). We are not told at all if Job was a priest. But from the scripture verse 5, it looks like he took upon himself to act like one and maybe there were no priests around. Nevertheless, what he was doing was commendable - he was concerned on the issue of sin that may have been committed by his children and sanctifying them. If we go to the book of Leviticus chapter 4 and verses 1 to 12, we see that Job was doing a similar thing in fulfilling the law of sin offering by giving out a burnt offering for each of his children continually. Job was right in offering the sacrifices as a father, one need to be a spiritual leader of one's household. He was wise to have done so as children can get into all sorts of mischief in life and he took no chances on their lives.

As parents we need to be praying to God to forgive our children the sins they have committed and to help them to live a life that pleases him (that being our sacrifice).

The Lord God may have mercy on them because he is a merciful and gracious God.

As we continue to read verse 6 onwards in this book throughout to chapter 2 verse 10, we see that Job under went very, very difficult misfortunes; but all the same he

stuck to his God. Now let us go to the end of the book and see how Job ended.

So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.
He had also seven sons and three daughters.
And he called the name of the first, Je-mi'-ma; and the name of these second, Ke-zi'-a; and the name of the third, Ker'-en-hap'-puch.
And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.
After this lived Job a hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his son's sons even four generations.
So Job died, being old and full of days.

Job 42:12-17

From the above we see that Job got a double portion of earthly riches (verse 12) just as Elisha who got a double portion of heavenly anointing (2 Kings 2:9-22). As if that is not enough God gave him back seven sons and three daughters (the number he had before his tragedy) - could it

be because, he cared for his children's spiritual welfare? Probably, God knows. I believe if we truly care and do something tangible, for our sons and daughters, by God's grace we can have them back to us in heaven, how splendid. In the first book of Samuel and in the first chapter we have Hannah who too seemed to be a praying mother.

Let us parents not be discouraged so soon praying for our loved ones as in due course God will do wonders in their lives. We should not quit praying because we prayed once, twice and still could not see any result, but to continue as that is what Job did continually by attending to his children.

Ideally, those who marry or get married need as individuals to have already received Christ into their lives, Why? Because marriage is an institution of God and God expects those entering into it be an enlightened lot (have been saved and are in Gods light) as God is light. Otherwise how can one operate in an environment one is not conversant with. You need know God and his word to operate in God's institution. Moreover, how are you going to pray to God for your children or teach them about God whom you don't know!? Marriage is a spiritual institution just as God is a spirit. You may end up messing your marriage by divorce

or separation and mess up your children for lack of providing spiritual guidance. You need be spiritual to train your children spiritual teachings and lead them to the Lord God whom you have and know. Otherwise, a blind man can't lead a blind man or else they will all fall in a pit (Matthew 15:12-14).

As parents you need be role models to your children by shaping their conduct in a godly way. How do you conduct yourself that way unless you have God in yourself for your children to copy from? The home is the first classroom for a child at a very early age under a year.

Children are a curious lot and will ask you parent all sorts of questions concerning life. All issues of life are in God's word in the Holy Bible and if not, a Christian what are you going to tell your children? Lies about life or the customs and traditions of your parents or grandparents, which are not the truth?

THEN came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which come from Jerusalem.

And when they saw some of the disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen hands, they found fault.

For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not.

And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brazen vessels, and of tables.

Then the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciple according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

He answered and said unto them, well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Mark 7:1-9

Yes, washing of pots and cups is not spiritual. Traditions won't help in marriage and in parenting. One need Christ Jesus to be enabled to go Christ's way and not mortal men's ways. When Adam and Eve decided to go man's way they fell flat. Likewise, you are going to fall. Many bad incidences in marriage is as a result of not knowing God and purposes of marriage.

Dedication of children

By dedicating one's child to God one acknowledges that the child is a gift from God (Psalm 127:3) and as God is the Creator he can protect and provide for the child and therefore presents the child for God's blessings on the child. In doing so one sort of is making indirectly a Nazarite vow on behalf of the child (Numbers 6:1-8, 1 Samuel 1:1-11, 24-28). Therefore for that matter it is very important for parents to see to it that they nurture their children by the word of God properly and adequately for the child to grow in the ways of God so as to come to the true knowledge of the Son of God and to be converted to Christ so as to be able to live a holy and righteous life serving and worshipping the Lord in spirit and truth (2 Timothy 3:15-17, John 4:23-24).

Just as God expected the Israelites and their children to serve and worship him, he expects parents today and their children to do the same. Parents have therefore the responsibility to prepare their children towards that worthy cause so that God's will is done on the earth (Genesis 1:26-28; 9:1).

Dedication of our children to the Lord is equally important and should be done at an earlier age from birth probably a week, a fortnight, a month is reasonable and not say 5,10 or 15 years of age. This act is like clearing the spiritual path of the child unto the salvation of the Lord. Children dedicated to the Lord can be easier to lead to Christ than those not dedicated.

As parents we need take our children to our pastor for dedication in the earliest opportunity so that he can dedicate them to the Chief Priest (Pastor) who is none other than Jesus Christ who can shepherd them.

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

The scriptures say young children not youths and further refer them as little children. We need take them to the Lord as they belong to him and his kingdom.

We are now going to see in the scriptures two examples of the dedication of children beginning with baby Samuel and then followed with baby Jesus.

Samuel

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshiped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ra'-mah: and El-ka'-nah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called

his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

And the man El-ka'-nah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there, abide forever.

And El-ka'-nah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one e'-phah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shi'-loh: and the child was young.

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to E'-li.

And she said, Oh my Lord, as thy soul liveth, my Lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 1:19-28

The woman Hannah was a wise mother because she was careful enough to see that her son appear before the Lord and also to say 'Thank you' to the Lord. She knew that children are from the Lord for the Lord and are to be dedicated to him (Psalm 127:3, Deuteronomy 7:12-13, Genesis 33: 4-5).

Jesus

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

(As it is written in the law of the Lord, every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him.

Luke 2:21-33

Here also we see the parents of Jesus took him to the temple to present him to the Lord.

Ideally as we have seen in the case of baby Jesus, both parents were present when presenting their children before the Lord in his temple for dedication (Luke 2:22-24) the same should apply to parents today doing the same (both the father and the mother) need be present at the function before a servant of the Lord in a church.

Provisions for children

Children apart from the spiritual food in the form of God's word from the Holy Bible, they also need the physical food in the form of foods and drinks in addition to other none food items from a shelter to other basic needs including clothing for putting on and beddings for sleeping on as well as finances for education and transportation as well as for health services and any other upkeep. We find therefore an assortment of provisions for their physical survival. Luckily enough, God has provided the vital item essential for life to use and our children including other living beings, that is, air that we breathe and imagine how often we breathe.

We need air to breathe throughout our entire life on each second of life. But even the others still God himself provides us with either directly by our efforts (work) with the strength he has given each one of us as well as indirect through his mysterious works (supernaturally) by miracles of supply. We very well remember the supply of water, manna and quails by God to the children of Israel in the wilderness on their way to Canaan the Promised Land including the preservation of their clothing and health supernaturally. (Exodus 16:1-17: 1-7, Deuteronomy 8:1-4).

If we start with a shelter, it is the duty of the husband (man) to bring a wife (woman) into his home or father's home if he has not yet had one, though ideally he need to have one to start his own family away from his parents and for privacy and for sole authority over his family. Hence it is him to have the house at least (in his father's home) or a home of its own for himself and his wife and children God will bless them with. It should not be just a house or a home which is empty but with at least the basic furniture, kitchen ware and cutlery as well as beddings.

Further, he needs to be having engaged himself in at least some activity where he gets his daily provisions for livelihood such as a formal employment or informal

employment, business or farming. That should be so because he is an adult and not a child and can't expect to be still depending on his parents for a livelihood and for this matter for his spouse and later his children as well, but need to be independent. The couples each can engage oneself in some activity which they combine to be able to provide to the whole family. Children when they are old enough and can be now in a position to work can now also be engaged in house work as well as field work like gardening. No one in the family should just be left to be idle most of the time. Children need to be inducted in some trade which their parents have been talented in, so as to be of help at a time when one parent is not there or both for one reason or another or when the children grow into adulthood and have not yet gotten some employment and so on, to earn a living from. Otherwise if left not knowing any work may become a social problem in the society. Now let us look at some scriptures.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened to the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the thee, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is

the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee: and thou shalt eat the herb of the field:

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 3: 17-19

There we see that after the first man Adam and his wife Eve fell into sin, God decreed as above. We have to work to earn a living.

AND it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

And all these blessing shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

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The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storerooms, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deuteronomy 28:1-8

The Lord God is going to bless us in many ways key being the work of our own hands and conditionally, we obey and do his commandments. We stop sinning and are assured of blessing on the work of our hands.

Forever when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

If we don't work, we should not expect a miracle to happen just like that and have food on our tables ready for our eating!

But if any provide not for his own and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Timothy 5:8

There it is, a stern warning on us who are parents. We just have to deliver (provide) for our children. There is no option, save if our children are orphaned or we us parents are totally incapacitated in one way or another.

Even this is not a guarantee but to only true close relatives and friends who happen to have compulsion on them. Not everybody is normally ready to help his/her fellow man/woman.

We have so many orphans in every society and every few individuals who are willing and ready to help them to earn a normal living as the rest of people in the society where they are. Eeh, for the scripture to say that one who cannot provide to his own household has denied the faith it is quite serious, why? Because we still have another better life eternally in heaven after this one here on earth; if we are serious Christians trying all it takes to live holy and righteously.

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathered her food in the harvest.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?

When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

So shall thy poverty come as one that traveleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 6:6-11

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 10:4

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Proverbs 13:22

Many people have talked about youth radicalization in this country who later join such wrong/criminal groups such as Al-Shabaab and give some of the reason for the cause of that to be unemployment of the youth and so on and so forth.

The root cause of such problem lies squarely on the parents in this country who if are Christians have neglected their collective responsibility by not laying a proper foundation in their children by teaching them continually the word of God and being role models to them in their lives as parents as well as administering on their children proper discipline in correcting their lives, when they try to go astray. (Deuteronomy 11:18-21, Proverbs 19:18; 29:15)

In addition to that, the parents seems not to bother to know where they are going when they are to leave the house or who are their friends who they associate with and give them much time to do whatever they want and not engaging them to some house or garden/farm tasks and so on.

There are also parents who are not yet Christians and might not have much to teach their children as they are not in the word and even whatever they may teach them they themselves will not be living by them and therefore confusing their children altogether. Many parents may be teaching their children yes, but their ungodly behavior cancels all their teaching if any and instead of leading their children, they end up misleading them instead.

The only true foundation that we have is Jesus Christ and we as parents should begin by teaching our children the word of God with the hope that it will introduce them to godly character (right living) and eventually lead them to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior to equip them fully into godliness (1 Corinthians 3:11, Matthew 7: 24-25). Let us look at the example of Abraham as a parent what the scripture says about him on this subject of parenting.

And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.
And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?
For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Genesis 18:16-19

The Lord God saw that Abraham as a parent was going to teach his children and household to live godly lives by teaching them the commandments of the Lord. Why? Because Abraham had shown to God that he had faith in God by his obedience to God (Genesis 12:1-5) God called him as the father of faith (Romans 4:1-3, 11) as he was obeying the voice of God (Genesis 22:1-13).

Abraham therefore was a good parent because he believed in God and was obedient to him. Likewise, all parents in that note, need be believers in God (saved-born again) to be able not only to live but also teach the same to their children and household (male and female servants). Parents must be people of faith to be of much use to their children and household. The parents can direct their children to Sunday School if they themselves are still non – believers.

When you see indiscipline in a child get to know that there is a failure in one or more of the following areas where there was no positive responsibility. I have listed the areas going by their weight in impacting of a child:

1. The parents
2. The church
3. The society
4. The education system

From the above it is obvious that the parents have the biggest responsibility in shaping the character of a child as the owner / custodian and have the most time with them and should do their best in instructing and nurturing them before releasing them to the other areas where they are needed in life as well.

If not done they end up in the hands of the state for correctional purposes and which should not be if all the above areas played well on their part.

CHAPTER 7

Marriage Models: Good and Bad

The husbands and wives of today have some marriage models in the Holy Bible and a can copy (emulate) them. There are both good and bad role models and we are going to look at some of them in each group. Scripture reference has been given beside each person selected and which somehow correspond with each one's behavior.

Good marriage models

1. Noah – Genesis 6, 7& 8.
2. Abraham – Genesis 12, 13,14, 22: 1-18
3. Joshua – Joshua 1, 2,3,4,5,6,24 Numbers 13.
4. Job – Job 1& 2
5. Samuel – 1 Samuel 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,15 & 16
6. David – 1 Samuel 17,23,24, 26 & 30
7. Nehemiah – Nehemiah 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 13
8. Joseph son of Jacob – Genesis 37,39, 40: 1-12, 41: 1-16 & 50
9. Joseph husband to Mary – Matthew 1: 18-25 & 2
10. Joseph of Arimathea – Luke 23: 50 -53
11. Sarah – 1Peter 3: 1-6
12. Abigail – 1Samuel 25: 1-36

13. Hannah – 1Samuel 1& 2
14. Deborah – Judges 4 & 5
15. Ruth – Ruth 1,2,3, & 4
16. Mary – Luke 1: 26 – 38
17. Mary Magdalene – Mark 16: 1 – 11
18. Elizabeth- Luke 1:5-7, 39-43
19. Esther-Esther 4
20. The Shunamite woman - 2 Kings 4:8-10
21. Lydiah - Acts 16:13-15
22. The Canaanite woman – Matthew 15:21-28
23. The Queen of Sheba -1Kings 10:1-10

Bad Marriage Models

1. Nabal – 1Samuel 25: 1-38
2. Saul – 1Samuel 18: 17 – 19: 24, 22: 5-19, 28: 1-25
3. Rehoboam – 1Kings 12
4. Ahab – 1Kings 21
5. Herod – Matthew 2, 14: 1-12.
6. Eve – Genesis 3
7. Delilah – Judges 16
8. Jezebel – 1Kings 19& 21
9. Athaliah – 2Kings 11
10. Herodiah – Matthew 14: 1-12

11. Haman - Esther 3
12. Job's wife - Job 2:1-10
13. Zeresh - Esther 5:9-14

Something that Christians should take note is that they should not follow God half - heartedly in their Christian Walk as that can be a snare to them that can easily lead to apostasy. Apostasy when it crops in and not checked and acted upon it eventually will lead to death. Let us look at the following example of king Amaziah.

AM-A-ZI'-AH was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Je-ho'-ad'-dan of Jerusalem.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.

Now it came to pass, after that Am-a-zi'-ah was come from the slaughter of the E'-dom-tites, that he brought the gods of the children of Se'-ir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.

Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Am'-a-zi'-ah, and he sent unto him a prophet which said

unto him, why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?

And it came to pass, as he talked with him, that the king said unto him, Art thou made of the king's counsel? For bear; why shouldest thou be smitten?

Then the prophet forbare and said, I know that God hath determined to destroy thee, because thou hast done this, and hast not hearkened unto my counsel.

Then Am'-a-zi'-ah king of Judah took advice, and sent to Jo'-ash, the son of Je-ho'-a-haz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, Come, let us see one another in the face.

And Jo'-ash king of Israel sent to Am'-a-zi'-ah king of Judah, saying,

The thistle that was in Leb'-a-non sent to the cedar that was in Leb'-a-non, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Leb'-a-non, and trode down the thistle.

Thou sayest, Lo, thou hast smitten the E'-dom-ites; and thine heart lifted thee up to boast: abide now at home; why shouldest thou meddle to thine heart, that thou shouldest fall, even thou and Judah with thee?

But Am-a-zi'-ah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of E'-dom.

So Jo'-ash the king of Israel went up; and they saw one another in the face, both he, and Am'-a-zi'-ah king of Judah, at Beth-she-mesh, which belongeth to Judah.

And Judah was put to the worse before Israel, and they fled every man to his tent.

And Jo'-ash the king of Israel took Am'-a-zi'-ah king of Judah, the son of Jo'-ash, the son of Je-ho'-a-haz, at Beth-she'-mesh, and brought him to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of E'-phra-im to the corner gate, four hundred cubits.

And he took all the gold and the silver and all the vessels that were found in the house of God with O'-bed-e'-dom, and the treasures of the king's house, the hostages also, and returned to Sa-mar'-i-a.

And Am'-a-zi'-ah the son of Jo'-ash king of Judah lived after the death of Jo'-ash son of Je-ho'-a-haz king of Israel fifteen years.

Now the rest of the acts of Am'-a-zi'-ah, first and last, behold, are they not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?

Now after the time that Am'-a-zi'-ah did turn away from following the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem; and he fled to La'-chish: but they sent to La'-chish after him, and slew him there.

2 Chronicles 25:1-2, 14-27

Now king Amaziah was a contrast of King David in that when king David sinned and God sent a prophet to him he did not hesitate to repent when he realized he had sinned before God. But in the above scripture (verse 16) we see king Amaziah threatening the prophet sent to him. king Amaziah thought God was still on his side as he was when he fought with the Edomites (verse 17) just as many Christians think, yet they know they are not walking right, but he was mistaken (2 Chronicles 15:1-2). King Amaziah may have forgotten that Jehovah God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:4-5). Just as I said that apostasy leads to death king Amaziah surely met his death although he fled to Lachish (verse 27). The enemy is looking for the backslidden to finish them before they have a good chance to turn back to the Lord again.

King Amaziah forgot God's commandment which you too need not forget and which reads as follows.

Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD:
And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

CHAPTER 8

Improper Marriages

Polygamy is improper (wrong) marriage; marriage of the flesh, not constituted by God and brings with it a curse known as curse of polygamy. When a man has more than one wife it is disobedience and rebellion – which is witchcraft. Consequently, polygamy has potential witchcraft

When a man marries a second wife, he has rejected the first wife, consequently, polygamy has potential witchcraft. It is an entry point of the spirit of rejection. The first wife suffers and her children also suffer. They also suffer frustration which is a result of rejection- the spirit which draws frustration. Other side effects are bitterness. In polygamy you have a village instead of a home – encourage villages. Entry point of spirit of lust. There is unavoidable witchcraft in polygamy. The behaviors that are in polygamy deny God, deny also the family pattern, deny honor of marriage. They lower man to level of animals.

In a family unit there are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, cousins and so on. In the animals' kingdom there are no family units – no fathers, mothers, brothers,

sisters etc. - no law by God in them. Polygamy breaks the law of God (1Corinthians 7: 1-5), thus allowing animal spirits to penetrate the family.

Other animal spirit penetrations:

1. Animal spirit can penetrate one's life because of a name. When one has a name of an animal.
2. Animal spirit can penetrate one's life because of certain sins such as:
    a. Incest – sex with relatives
    b. Rape – no consent of the victim – talking; hence one behaves like an animal.
    c. Food – food normally need to be washed and cooked then prayed over before serving. Eating etiquette also need to be observed. Animals don't prepare their food and also rush to eat – gluttony – animal like. One should not involve in such acts.
    d. Sicknesses – madness, possession, indecent dressing, walking naked – no dressing in animals.

e. Polygamy – immorality- animal like behavior, body is the temple of God (1Corintians 6:19)
f. Orphanage – parking boys / girls scavenging for food etc. thrown babies taken to orphanage homes.
g. Sex – sleeping with animals.

A person can have the mind or spirit of God. On the other hand, animals don't have insight. God created man in a way one can know what is good or evil.
Animals care less, but man to have care. Man has reasoning ability (Isaiah 1: 18) and have insight (can plan for the future).

'Gay marriages'

'Gay" (being attracted sexually to a person of the same sex) is abnormal and hence 'gay marriage' (union) is sin. It is unscriptural as God created a man and a woman to live together and not a man and a man or a woman and a woman to live together as couples. (Genesis 2: 18)

And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

Genesis 2:18

God declamation "not good" is not the ordinary and neutral expression of displeasure but the strongest usage in expressing negative reaction. There is certainly no contradiction or changing in the divine immutable will, however, because God earlier pronounced "good" at the completion stage of creation (Genesis:1:4, 10,12,18,21,25). Rather the terminology is expressing incompleteness which has surfaced at this precise moment, a deficiency which is only momentary because God has the needed completion already in His purposeful plan for creation. In the midst of this perfect creation, man was "alone" and that was "not good". A "help meet for him '' (Ezer Kenegedo in Hebrew) is quite literary a "helper fit for him", a "helper of his like," a "help like or as himself", a "help corresponding to him". The woman was to be a help to the man:

1. As a spiritual partner to assist the man in obeying the word of God and being active in spiritual ministry.

2. As man's partner in the divinely assigned process of procreation in order to assure the continuation of the race (Genesis 1:28)
3. As man's friend to offer comfort and fellowship (Genesis 1:23-24)
4. As man's encouragement and inspiration. The woman is the perfect resemblance of man, possessing neither inferiority nor superiority but like and equal in essence and unique and different in function.

Another thing which is out of order on marriage and which has gained much popularity especially among young men and women is what has become known as "come we stay"-(co-habit) This is the worst short-cut on the marital issue and should be condemned completely.

CHAPTER 9

Widows, orphans and the poor

In this chapter I wish to mention the widows, the orphans and the poor who are part of every society and come from different families. Jesus Christ said that we will always have them in the society (Mark 14:3-7) and that we need to care and provide for them. God has more compassion on them, same to the physically disabled and views them as a special group as they are a disadvantaged group in life. We too need to consider and treat them humanely and God will be pleased with us. If we fail to do so it will not be well with us, as it is our duty/obligation to treat them very well.

The widows, orphans and the poor are the weak and defenseless in any society and are considered by many in low esteem but in the eyes of God they are highly esteemed. In fact, they are considered in so low esteem with some people mostly the rich and the influential in a way that their voices cannot be heard - ignored and not taken seriously. But the Lord God their Creator and the Creator of all living things gives them special attention and provides for them, hears loudly their cry and also protect them. If it were not for the Lord God they would go into extinct for lacking.

It is not normally their fault to be in that state in the society. In fact, anybody can find themselves in that state any day and anytime anywhere wherever one is, that is the true fact. Their status, especially for the poor is not always permanent as they can become rich someday by the grace of God. It has happened to many homes, especially those homes where the people (the parents) knew the Lord personally. This also applies to the rich. One day they can find that poverty has caught up with them. My advice to the rich who are priding in the money and wealth God has bestowed on them to throw away their pride in the dustbin (1Timothy 6: 17-19, James 1: 9-11; 5: 1- 6, Deuteronomy 8: 17 – 18, Job 1). Let us now look at what the Scripture says about them.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, not trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against he time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:
But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away
For the son is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withered the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away.

James 1: 9-11

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for the miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.
Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last day.
Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.
Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

Ye have condemned and skilled the just; and he doth not resist you.

James 5:1-6

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.
But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8: 17-18

In Job chapter 1 we read that he was the greatest of all the men of the east and thank God, he was also a perfect and upright man and feared God and eschewed evil. But in a short period of time (one day) he lost everything, but good enough he hadn't trusted as much on those things and God later restored him with health and the number of days to live, his children and his wealth restored back to him as well *(Job 42:7-17).*

I am afraid if you are a rich sinner and have not repented and accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior by inviting him into your heart you are not going to be lucky as Brother Job. By the way, anything, be it education,

wealth, talents, position, name it, without Jesus Christ in one's life all is nothing.

On widows, orphans and the poor the Lord God, because he loves and cares for them, he has said a lot in the Scriptures touching on them and how people should handle them and how he Himself is going to handle them and so on. The following is a list of the scriptures: Deuteronomy 10: 18, 24: 17 – 22; 27:19, Exodus 22: 22-25, Psalms 68: 5; 82: 3; 146: 9, Proverbs 23: 10-11, Isaiah 1: 17, Malachi 3: 5 Matthew 23: 14, Luke 21: 2, 1Timothy 5:3, James 1: 27.

He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

Deuteronomy 10: 18

Ye shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child.

If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows and your children fatherless.

If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as a usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.

Exodus 22: 22-25

A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 68: 5

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Psalm 82:3

Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:
For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee

Proverbs 23: 10-11

The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and window: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

Psalm 146: 9

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1: 17

Honor widows that are widows indeed.

1Timothy 5:3

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1: 27

Apostle Paul in writing to Timothy and the Corinthian Church had the following instructions touching on the widows (1Timothy 5: 1-16, 1 Corinthians 7: 39 – 40). Those instructions were to inform the widows their responsibility to the Church and also how the Church should treat them. God expects widows to live holy lives for Him to provide for them and the widow should set herself apart for God's service and worship.

Examples of widows are:

1. **Anna**

   And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phan'u-el, of the tribe of Asher: she was of a great age, and had lived a husband seven years from her virginity;

   And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

   And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

   Luke 2: 36-38

2. **Ruth**

   And she said, Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law.

   And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will

I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

Ruth 1:15-17

3. The widow of Zarephath

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying

Arise, get thee to Zar'-e-phath, which belongeth to Zi'-don, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zar'-e-phath, And when he come to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thy hand.

And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

And E-li'-jah said unto her, fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for they son.

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

And she went and did according to the saying of E-li'-jah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by E-li'-jah.

And it come to pass after these things, that the son of the woman the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breadth left in him.

And she said unto E-li'-jah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into

a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said O LORD, My God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

And the LORD heard the voice of E-li'-jah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

And E-li'-jah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and E-li'-jah said, see, thy son liveth.

And the woman said to E-li'-jah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.

1 Kings 17:8-24

4. The widow with two mites

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and behold how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much

And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing

And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, verily I say unto you, that this widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Luke 12:41-44

Otherwise if a widow is to be self-centred and idle she literally becomes useless.

CHAPTER 10

Christ and the Church

Marriage is symbolic of the Church of Christ in that in marriage God has placed the husband in order of creation as head of the home, just as Christ is the head of the Church (Ephesians 5: 23).

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the savior of the body.

Ephesians 5: 23

Husbands need to love their wives just as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5: 25).

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5: 25

Wives on the other hand need to submit themselves to their husbands as unto the Lord (Ephesians 5: 22).

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22

Christ loved the Church not because it was holy but in order to make it holy *(Ephesians 5: 25b – 27).*

…….even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it;
That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5: 25b-27

In verse 22, above on the submission of wives to their own husbands the word "submit" is a military term in Greek (hupotasso) meaning "to place under" or " to subordinate" The extent of submission is over all (in everything"), but the degree of submission is limited to God (Ephesians 5: 24).

The family unit we saw in chapter one is a symbol of the Church of Christ which is the family of God. Also, to note is that a husband is both a leader in the physical and spiritual sense of his family. Being physical as the head of

the family and spiritual as a priest in the family. Some few examples are as follows:

1. Joshua and his family (Joshua 24:14-15).
2. Job and his family (Job 1:1-5).
3. Elkanah and his family (1 Samuel 1:1-5).
4. Joseph and his family (Luke 2:41-52).

Equally as the husband is the head of his household (Ephesians 5:23), his wife becomes his body (Genesis 2:21-24) so is his children (the physical offspring of their union (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24) just as Jesus Christ is the head of the Church which is his body (Galatians 3:23-29, Ephesians 1:17-23; 5:23, 25-33) and which is a spiritual union though partial but to be total at the rapture and that is why the Church is to receive a total spiritual body at that time (John 1:11-14, Matthew 22:23-30, 1 John 3:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:50-54, Philippians 3:20-21, 1Thessalonians 4:13-18). It is so because Jesus Christ as the Bridegroom is totally spiritual and therefore the Church as his Bride must equally be as their Master in all aspects at that spiritual marriage and supper of the Lamb of God (Revelation 19:1-9). One thing that should be clear to us is that the wedding of the Lamb of God Jesus Christ and the Church who is His bride is not a physical but a spiritual wedding. Read Luke

20: 27 – 36. Christ after his death at resurrection he took a spiritual body and ascended into heaven with that body likewise Christians at the rapture of the Church will be given spiritual bodies and be caught up in the air and be with the Lord at his judgment seat for rewards followed by his wedding the marriage Supper of the Lamb (1 Corinthians 15:15-35, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 Romans14:10–13).

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.
If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.
And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.
And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Revelation 19:6-9

Consciousness of seen and unseen visitors

It should be noted by married couples that whether they know it or not, that there are a special group of visitors some seen and others unseen, who pay them a visit now and then some are good and some are bad. It follows therefore that spiritual alertness is required in the home environment by being keen on the various happenings there to see if it is peaceful and harmonious or chaotic and also taking great care on those visitors that visit.

The visitors can and do impact the home environment positively or negatively depending from which group, as we are going to see from the scriptures. The good visitors are God and his angels and the bad visitors are Satan, demons and Satan's servants (men and women)). The Bible tells us that history repeats itself and therefore as it happened many, many years back as recorded in the scriptures, the same is still happening at our present time. (Ecclesiastes 3:15).

As couples, when things don't seem to be working well as is expected, one may be required to go on one's knees and seek the intervention/counsel of God as He is the Author of marriage. It could be for sure that you have been visited by a bad visitor who is unseen, save for his servants who are

seen (men and women). Let us now look at some of the visitors and who they visited.

God's visit to Noah

Read Genesis 6:9-7:10. You will find that by that visit Noah and his family were saved from God's judgment.

God's visit to Abram

Read Genesis 12:1-7. By God's visit to Abram, Abram is promised great things if only he obeys the voice of God.

God and his angels' visit to Abraham

Read Genesis 18:1-14. By this visit God announces to Abraham the beginning of the good things to come to pass soon (in a year's time)

God's angels visit to Lot

Read Genesis 19:1-16. By the angels visit to Lot, Lot is informed of the imminent judgment of the city of Sodom and Gomorrah and he and his household are saved from the same.

God's angel's visit to Manoah's wife

Read Judges 13:1-16. By this visit only Manoah's wife who was barren was promised a son child (Samson) which was actually fulfilled by the Lord.

God's angel's visit to Zechariah

Read Luke1:5-17. By this visit the angel of God announced the coming birth of a son child (John the Baptist) that came to pass. At last Elizabeth's barrenness was to be no more.

God's angel's visit to Cornelius

Read Act 10:1-8. By this visit Cornelius and his household later received their salvation.

Now let us look at some of the bad visitors, and whom they visited.

Satan's visit to Eve

Read Genesis 3:1-6. By this one visit only the destiny of mankind was totally changed for the worst. Man fell and had to suffer the consequences of disobedience to God his Creator.

Satan's visit to Adam and Eve's son Cain.

Read Genesis 4:1-9. By this visit we see the first murder ever recorded and which has been followed by murders to date of mankind.

Satan's visit to Abram's home

Read Genesis 16:1-6. By this visit the case of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden seem to be repeated, only this time it is not an apple which is forbidden for eating but polygamy cum-fornication which is sin. That suggestion and later action was influenced by the Devil who is the father of all lies.

Demons' visit to Jacob's home

Read Genesis 30:1-16. By the visit we see the spirit of envy, the spirit of death, the spirit of immorality and the spirit of strife involved in all the circus in the home. (James 3:13-16)

Demons' visit to David

Read 2 Samuel 11. By the visit we see the spirit of laziness, the spirit of lust, the spirit of adultery, the spirit of hypocrisy and the spirit of murder all working to bring the king down.

Satan's visit to Job's home

Read Job 1:6-2:10. By the visit Job was not only lost his possessions and children but he himself became terribly sick in a very sorry state all because Satan was at work and even whispered to Job's wife that she should tell her husband to lose his integrity in God and curse God and die! Surely the wife was speaking the foolish language of the Devil. It is rarer to find an upright woman than an upright man (Ecclesiastes 7:27-28) Read also 1 Timothy 2:14 and 2 Corinthians 11:3.

Satan's visit to Anania's home

Read Act 4:32-5:11. By this visit Satan persuaded and convinced the Ananias to part with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their land and allowed the spirit of hypocrisy and the spirit of lying to work in them to their destruction (death). Surely Satan is a bad, very bad visitor indeed.

Notes to the reader:

I thank you for taking your time to read the contents of this very important book for your life. I believe very strongly that the Lord God has enlightened you on the marital issue by his Spirit.

Feel free and write to me on any issue about the book giving your views, comments or suggestions, as well as scripture references using the address below for future improvement. If you require on holding a seminar on the subject use the same contact.

Inspirational Publications
P.O Box 14500 – 00400 Nairobi
Kenya East Africa
E-mail: inspirepublicly@gmail.com
Mobile phone: +254722505468 / +254736140970

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