CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE: A TRIUNE RELATIONSHIP

TMC 421/521- Lecture Series
by
Prof. M. L. Akinyemi,
Department of Physics,
Covenant University, Ota
CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

God's mandate for Families

Features of a Christian Family

How to build a Christian Family
CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Gen. 1:18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

NB: Meet for each other.

Christian Marriage is a Triune Relationship
Man and Woman must be connected to GOD

WHY?
Right from courtship, you need God’s intermediary.

Mat 1:20 .. while he thought on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, .. fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
Peace reigns when both are connected to GOD

Tension, unnecessary argument and rancor are eliminated when both are vitally connected to the same source of information and can hear from the LORD clearly.
The Place of Real love (Agape) & Romantic love (Eros), in Christian Marriage (1)

Real love (Agape) - I Cor. 13:3-7
- is the Rock,
- the hardcore
It constitutes high percentage of the foundation for a solid home.

It manifests in:
Respect for each other,
Sensitivity to your partner's need,
You showed your love by encouraging each other to succeed in life.
The Place of Real love (Agape) & Romantic love (Eros), in Christian Marriage (1)

Romantic love (Eros), feelings, emotions, is like potted plants.

Beautiful with nice fragrance.

But plays very little role in the structure of the building.

NB: Eros in marriage context, is like flowers that adorns & decorate the home.

https://www.ikea.com/image Retrieved: 30/01/2017
First thing first!

You want a solid, beautiful home,

You get the drawings, the builders, building materials, etc.

It is after the structure is completed, you bring in the flowers

http://lamreh.com/  Retrieved: 10/02/2017
Three kinds of love - Agape, Philos and Eros

*Agape love* is our focus, as described in 1 Cor.13.

*Philos love* is loving one another just like your brother or sister, ...

*Eros love* is based on strong feelings and longings.

Of the three kinds of love – *Eros is the most easily abused.*

Abused Eros is selfish and usually associated with sex. It is possessive, often seeks to conquer and control.
2 Sam 13:2 – And Amnon was so (vexed with Eros), that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; Tamar was naïve. Innocence does not imply naivety. Wisdom and foresight is important.

Abused Eros: A Momentary Fleeting Love
2 Sam 13:15 - Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love ...
**Young man, beware of passion. It makes a “beast” of a gentleman.

At same time, never fall for religious gimmicks.
“Thus says the LORD, you are to be my wife”. (for later discussion)
Real love (Agape) - I Cor. 13:3-7

Love is patient.
Love cares more for others, than for self.
Love is not jealous.
Love does not want what it doesn’t have.
Love is not arrogant.
Love is not rude.
Love always looks for the best in others.
Love never gives up, never looks back.
Love keeps going to the end.

https://www.shutterstock.com/image Retrieved: 04/02/2017
Love is patient in all its dealings

Be patient in dealing with suspicion.

Often it is just an imagination, sometimes it is real.

Which ever way, the Holy Spirit can handle it. (Mary & Joseph)

Don’t take rash decision
Love is patient in all its dealings

Patience with others is love. Patience with self is hope. Patience with God is faith.

iliketoquote.com
Love is not jealous!
In Christian marriage, what does this mean?

Exo. 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

God is jealous FOR us, but NOT jealous OF us.

A person whose property (home, car) is about to catch “fire”, will want to prevent it “jealously”! (Psalms 91:10)
It is all about jealous FOR that property!
Jealous FOR, but not jealous OF!

Saving the situation to avert the pending doom:

Must HEAR FRESH from God per time, and take steps as led.

Experience of past successes may NOT work today.

Follow David’s example: ... David inquired of the LORD ...

- 1 Samuel 23:2
- 1 Samuel 23:4
- 1 Samuel 30:8
- 2 Samuel 2:1
- 2 Samuel 5:19
- 2 Samuel 5:19
Zero Eros – Zero Agape

BEWARE of religious impostors. They are real. “Thus says the LORD, you are to be my wife”.

Zealous sisters are usually the victim. His voice instills fear into the lady. May even frighten her with the danger of disobeying God.

Will hardly touch her, no erotic display. Yet, little or no Agape. Want marriage max. within a year of proposing, even when the girl is not ready.

Seek help and cover from higher SPIRITUAL authority. Don’t keep it to yourself.
The Cycle for **Sustainable Relationship**

Every relationship starts on **accommodating** each other. *(Rebecca Gen. 24:14)*

Desire more of each other’s company “**dating**”.

**Appreciating** each other more and more

Appreciating leads to **celebrating** each other

This cycle is repeated for life: **accommodating, appreciating, celebrating**.

**Riches, wealth, position not withstanding!**
There is time to cast out stones;

There is time to cast out demons.

• In the days of local ofada rice - you sieve out the stones to enjoy the rice.
• No amount of ingredients in the jolof rice, will cover up the stones!
• Remember, the stones are not your fault, nor your partner's. Yet it must be removed by you the wife.
Lesson from some Bible Characters

• Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1 – 24)

• Samson (Judges 14:1- 20)

• Nabal & Abigail / Ananias & Sapphira
  (1 Samuel 25:1 – 36; Acts 5:1 - 11)

• Aquila & Priscilla (Acts 18:26; Romans 16:3; 1Cor. 16:19)
Lesson from Adam and Eve - Genesis 3:1 – 24

- Beware of whom your family relates with

- No room for gentleman when dealing with the serpent

- Adam should have walked out the serpent from onset and the woman should have turned the conversation to her husband
Lesson from Samson - Judges 14:1-20

i. Samson proposed marriage was of the Lord
(Judges 14:4 - But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the LORD)

ii. Despite this, be at alert for warfare against your home:
(Judges 14:5 .. and, behold, a young lion roared against him)

iii. Acknowledged the good hand of God:
- The slaying of the lion
- Honey in its carcass, instead of maggots

iv. Keep no secret from your partner.
(be transparent in your dealings)
Lesson from Samson – (cont’d)

Real Lion without and
Invisible Lion within (anger)

Had Samson overcome the lion
within (anger) and has taken his
wife he would have been saved
from the temptation of Delilah

Judges 14:15
And his anger
was kindled,
and he went up
to his father's
house. (He left
his wife behind).
Lesson from Ananias & Sapphira - Acts 5:1 - 11

Never agree with your spouse on an evil decision.

(Acts 5:1-2 -...Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it)

Stand for the truth according to your conscience.

Pray for God to intervene.
Lesson from Nabal & Abigail - 1 Samuel 25:1

Take necessary step to correct any wrong decision already taken.

*(1 Samuel 25:25 ... but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send).*

But never curse your spouse or wish him/her evil, because you are already eyeing another person to marry!

*(1 Samuel 25:26 - ...now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal).*
Lesson from Aquila & Priscilla (Acts 18:26; 1Cor. 16:19)

Be well rooted in the word of truth
Acts 18:26 ... whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

Unite to do good work and expand God's kingdom
1Cor. 16:19 ... Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house
Marriage by Correspondence! How long should it be?

For how many years should a married couple live far apart?

Settle this right from day 1.

Too many of such pending issues among Christians!

https://www.powerofpositivity.com/illustrations
Retrieved: 30/01/2017
LOVELY THOUGHTS

Avoid carrying over unhappy memories of past experiences. Parents, Aunties, Uncles... did the best they knew. LET IT END THERE!

Ecc. 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

Isa. 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.
COMFORT FOR THE WOUNDED
If you know anyone already wounded and brokenhearted, you can pray:

*Psa. 147:3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*

*Psa. 34:18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart;*

The LORD will heal their broken hearts; Bind up their wounds; And leave no scar.
CONCLUSION

I trust that all have been imparted and have become more informed on the subject of Christian marriage.

May the Holy Spirit help you make good decisions based on the knowledge acquired, when the time comes.

For further reading, check books on Christian Family by:
1. Pastor (Mrs.) Faith Oyedepo &
2. Pastor (Mrs.) Mary Abioye
thank you