

SPOUSAL RELATIONSHIP GUIDELINE WORKBOOK

CHAPTER 1

YOU MUST MARRY A BELIEVER 2 Corinthians 6:14-17

The bible is very clear as to whether a believer should or should not marry an unbeliever. To marry an unbeliever is to limit the reality of your new creation experience and the effect of your ministry. The bible In 2 Cor. 6:15 referred to the unbeliever as “Belial” and the sons of Belial is likened by David in 2 Sam. 22:26 as to thorns that cannot be handled. This means that the unbeliever cannot be led by the Spirit of GOD as only the sons of GOD can be led by the Spirit of GOD.

Rom. 8:14 “for as many that are led by the Spirit of GOD, they are the sons of GOD.”

One of the most important criteria for a good marriage is spiritual harmony, because it is from the spiritual that we do life. It is pertinent to ascertain the spiritual condition of the person with whom you intend committing the rest of your life here on earth with and not assume their salvation.

Deuteronomy 7:3-4a “neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughters thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods”

One of the most effective ways GOD increases believers is through relationships, and on the flip side, the devil through relationships aims to bring people down: GOD won’t ask you to marry an unbeliever. Despite his desire that all men be saved, he has not ordained marriage for that purpose. You are at liberty to marry anybody of your choice. However, such choice must be among believers who are co-joint heirs with you. 1 Corinthians 7:39.

WORKBOOK:

Is he/she a believer?

How do you know he/she is a believer?

Where does he/she take their counsel from?

Who is his/her pastor?

CHAPTER 2

YOU MUST MARRY SOMEONE WHO IS COMMITTED TO THEIR SPIRITUAL GROWTH Mark 14:19-20, Romans 12:11

The apostle, Paul, described three categories of people:

i) the spiritual man; the man in Christ, born from above and is of the same spirit with Christ. He is the one that will receive the things of GOD because he has the capacity to compare spiritual things to spiritual.

ii) the natural man. 1 Cor. 2:14, Job 14:1. He is the man who is not born again and cannot receive the things of GOD.

iii) and the carnal man. The carnal man is not an unbeliever, but a non growing believer.

Everything listed in Mark 4:19 are the fruits of a person who is not growing spiritually. The mark of a non-growing believer is carnality and the cure to carnality is spiritual growth. Carnality is a state where of a person where he is one who is more in tune with the cares of this life and has strong desire for the things of this world than with the things of God.

At whatever point things mean more to you than the word, your growth gets stunted. This is why no matter how busy you are, you must prioritize the word, the gathering of the saints and service, in the house of GOD. 1 Cor. 3:1-3.

WORKBOOK:

Does he/she have a person they're submitted to?

Do you see a progression in their spiritual life? Mark 4:19.

Would he/she rather be with you than be in church on a service day?

Does he prioritize GOD's work than earthly things? How?

Does he serve in his Church? If not, why?

Does he listen to messages?

What are the kinds of things he/she posts more often on his/her social media wall?

CHAPTER 3

MARRY SOMEONE WHO IS DILIGENT

2 Thessalonians 3:11-14

Romans 12:11 “not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the LORD;”

To be slothful means to be wasteful. It describes a person who is slack in handling things that he wastes opportunities, relationships and resources.

1 Thess. 4:11 “And that ye study to be quite, and to do your own business and to work with your own hands as we have commanded you.”

Work is the channel through which the blessings of GOD come. Ps. 1:3 Anyone who doesn't want to work is already a confirmed criminal. He/she will steal eventually.

2 Thess. 3:11-14. When you're trying to help a person that is not willing to work, your help is no longer 'help', but further destruction to the life of that person. This is where you need to cut that help.

Any form of charity that makes the one being helped to depend on the helper is no longer charity but emasculation. Real help is that you're pushed to stand on your feet. Some people would've been better now if the right people were tough on them. God didn't make you to depend on anyone for your needs. If you find yourself there temporarily, it's fine, but don't stay there.

Run away from a person who is always borrowing money from you. In marriage, there's nothing like lending money to your spouse. No money is your money. Some women would depend on the man to do everything in the house, saying he's the man of the house. They won't even replace toothpaste; don't be that person. The husband neither has his money, nor the wife her own money— “And the two will become one”. This is why you can't company with someone who always has white elephant projects, and whose said projects you can't see. Let the last money you gave them be a seed.

You can't also marry a person who brings all their family issues to you on the first date. A woman should not plan her future based on what she'll get from a man. Man or woman, laziness is a lack of commitment to self.

WORKBOOK:

What work does he/she do? 2 Thess. 3:11.

Does he/she always have an excuse not to go to work?

Does he/she shy away from responsibilities?

Can you trust him/her to finish the work they've started?

Is his/her love for money proportional to their willingness to work for it?

Would they rather uphold GOD's way than make money through quick and deceitful ways?

Is he/she always lacking motivation to do anything?

Does he/she set realistic goals that are followed through?

How would you describe his/her ability to manage money, time and relationships?

Can they control their appetite?

CHAPTER 4

MARRY A PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS THE WAY OF PEACE

Rom. 12:18. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

As believers we are joint heirs with Christ who is the prince of peace, and that also our marriages should reflect.

1 timothy 2:1-2 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty of GOD's word."

In every healthy relationship there must be disagreements; if there're no disagreements someone is being cheated or someone is suppressing a lot. And a spouse that suppresses a lot can do the unimaginable when they've had enough. However, the quarrels must not be more than the peaceful days. Peace shouldn't be the exception, it should be the norm. Disagreement is the exception, not the norm.

1 Tim. 2:1-2 makes it clear that the best life is peaceful.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

The love of Christ for the church the church is such that HE forgives in advance and in full, that should be modeled too in the home. You may need to decide on how to settle disputes before hand and have the conversations early. When you love peace you would neither keep malice nor make it hard to be apologized to.

Col. 3:15. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

One of the things that makes a peaceful home is a good sense of humor.

In a good friendship all of these are there, and this is why your spouse cannot be the only friend you have. The person you marry is a friend you've covenanted with for a long time. If you can't keep a healthy friendship, you can't keep a good marriage.

Marry a peace lover and you know a peace lover by the way he/she relates with people in authority, their friends and siblings. They'll treat you the same way.

A person who cannot forgive his parent or anyone for a wrong done is not a peace lover.

WORKBOOK:

How willing is he/she ready to open up and discuss when he/she is offended?

Can he/she admit to a wrong easily?

Does he/she have good friends?

Do they have good relationship with their family?

CHAPTER 5

MARRY SOMEONE WITH THE SAME DOCTRINAL PERSUASION AS YOU 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 1:27

Philippians 1:27 “only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel;”

Not every believer can pray together, because not every believer is taught the same thing. Therefore it's important you do life with someone who has the same belief system as you. When that is not in place, valuable time may be spent fighting over doctrines.

The person with which you should do life is the person who has heard what you've heard, seen what you've seen, looked upon what you've looked upon and handled what you've handled (1 John 1:1). There must be a convergence of core values for a healthy relationship.

WORKBOOK:

Do you attend the same church?

Do you have the same persuasion on the following; salvation, the nature of GOD, and the absolute authority of the scripture in a believer's life?

CHAPTER 6

MARRY SOMEONE WHO GENUINELY LOVES THE LORD AND NOT BECAUSE OF YOU 2 Timothy 2:22

Serving the LORD, by anybody, should not be as a favour to a spouse. (2 Tim. 2:22). Many people are in Church but have not met Christ. And you'll know if a person truly loves the LORD by their company. Sometimes during courtship, we may see these red lights but decide to give excuses for it. Sometimes, we even blame ourselves for their character until we get into the marriage and discover who they really are.

A person who constantly keeps company with bad friends cannot be the only good person in their midst. If their conversation is always not about scriptures, and is edifying, and they do not pray together; that person doesn't love GOD.

You can't be his/her only connection with GOD.

WORKBOOK:

How sure are you that he/she is not being committed to a Church just to please you?

Is he/she accepting the doctrine you believe just to avoid a fight with you?

Who are his/her closest friends? Are they people who love GOD?

How do you know his/her closest friends love GOD? Do they pray together?

CHAPTER 7

MARRY SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN YOU AND YOUR DREAMS

Dreams take possession of a person like a virus; it will soon be all the person talks about. You can't marry a person whose dreams you don't believe in. However, the person you are marrying must not believe in your dreams more than he/she believes in you. That would mean such a person only wants to partake in your dreams and is only there because of your gifts.

We can all do certain things, but the attraction must be more about who you are than on what you do.

WORKBOOK:

How would you tell he/she is more attracted to you than your dreams?

CHAPTER 8

MARRY SOMEONE WHO GENUINELY LOVES YOU

Your definition of love matters, because if you don't know what love is, you will not be able to tell who genuinely loves you from who doesn't. Many people's definition of love is buying of gifts and going to the movies. If you use gifts to tell who loves you, it will mean you are being bought. Together with the person who loves you, you can buy anything in the world.

What makes you close shouldn't be a shared trauma. People who come together based on similar hurt can only form a union, and a union at best, cannot achieve or build anything. The person you should marry is the person who is ready to build. And you shouldn't look for a "ready-made". If you meet a person who seems to already have resources, you want to check how it was gotten. If it's not progressive be careful, because anything that comes from GOD is progressive.

A person who loves you will do many irrational things because of you and wouldn't even mind. But if that person doesn't respect you or always gives excuses, they are already showing you that they don't love you. Love must be reciprocal. You can't be the only one giving in the relationship. There is no abuse in love, even verbal abuse. And the duration of a relationship doesn't define love.

More importantly, if you come from a place where you have not really experienced love, don't jump into any relationship. If you constantly feel the need to be loved, you will make a lot of wrong choices. There are people who can say the right thing, it doesn't mean they are the right people. The void you feel is a space only the love of Christ can fill. A person who has not experienced the love of Christ cannot truly love you; because we are not commanded to appropriate our own love but the love with which Christ has loved us. This is important because while it takes two people to build a relationship, it takes one person to end it—no matter how loving and forgiving the other person is.

There are certain things a person will do to you that, even if you forgive the person, could ruin your relationship with that person for life. But what happens when your spouse does worse? What would you do? A successful marriage is beyond man's capacity. It takes the love of Christ to truly forgive and not have to view everything your spouse does with the lens of it.

WORKBOOK:

How do you define love?

Do you daily enjoy the love of Christ?

Does he/she know the love of Christ?

Are your acts of love reciprocated by him/her?

Does he abuse you in any way?

Do you have healthy friendship?

BY SUBMITTING THIS FORM WE ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE ANSWER ALL THE QUESTION

SUBMIT