# TALKING STAGE

## A WORKBOOK FOR THOSE SEEKING TO ENJOY THEIR COURTSHIP

**INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS TALKING STAGE?**
The "talking stage" is a modern term, popularized by social media, for the early phase of romantic interest. In theory, it refers to preliminary conversations between two people of the opposite sex considering a relationship. But in practice, it often involves talking to multiple people at once, and enjoying relationship benefits, while avoiding commitment. This often creates undefined connections without responsibility.

From a faith-based perspective, spousal relationships should be intentional and directed toward marriage, not casual or open-ended.

In the Bible, there are only three relationships that GOD recognizes:

1. Friendship,
2. Courtship, and
3. Marriage.

*For the purpose of this workbook, we will refer to your "talking stage" as "courtship", and the person you are with as your "intended".

**WHO SHOULD BE IN A COURTSHIP?**
*"But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry."*
**- 1 Corinthians 7:36 KJV**

To "pass the flower of your age" means to be mature, and this implies that courtship is intended for mature individuals. Maturity here refers to having attained personal stability and individuality in life. Courtship should be reserved for those truly prepared for the responsibility of marriage.

**WHO IS MATURE?**
**A Mature Person is an Individual, and an individual is a person who can:**

1. Gather the right information,
2. Process that information,
3. Make a decision from the information gathered, and
4. Stand by their decision (and its consequences, whether good or bad).

**A Mature Person is Financially Responsible**
Another way to know a mature person is that he/she can:

1. Make money,
2. Manage money, and

3. Multiply their own money.

*To help you in your spousal selection process, we have two other workbooks on our website. Kindly search for “Marry Your Tribe Workbook” or “Spousal Selection Form” to get started.

# WELCOME TO COURTSHIP!

*This is for those who met the criteria in the previous page.*

In this segment, we hope to help you detail the purpose of GODly courtship and what to do in it.

Firstly, the number one enemy of GODly courtship is **LUST**.

The primary source of lust is your association, and the effect is lustful conversations, often leading to sex, which in turn dulls reasoning and ensures that two believers are in a relationship without truly knowing one another, which is why many people marry strangers that they have been sleeping with.

*“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, **with them** that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”*
**- 2 Timothy 2:22**

If you look closely at 2 Timothy 2:22, you will see the answer to lust: the right company. Lust cannot be fought alone. It is only overcome by continuous association with true believers.

Also, in Song of Solomon 2:7, women are warned to not awaken love prematurely:
*“Promise me, O women of Jerusalem,*
*by the gazelles and wild deer,*
*not to awaken love until the time is right.”*
***- Songs of Solomon 2:7***

**Now, if you can get lust out of the way, you can enter courtship with clarity and sincerity.**

# HOW TO ENJOY COURTSHIP

**A. BUILD FRIENDSHIP**

Is your intended your friend?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What makes you so sure?

**HOW TO BUILD FRIENDSHIP:**

**Have meaningful conversations**

If your conversations with someone you like are shallow and filled with memes or trivial questions, it's a sign you may not be able to build a life together. The purpose of courtship is to build genuine friendship, and friendship is built through purposeful, meaningful conversations that are useful to life and problem-solving.

List 3 meaningful conversations you have had with your intended?

Do you speak freely with your intended?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Describe a scenario where you spoke freely

Do you think that your intended is honest?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you think that your intended is vulnerable?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you think that your intended is judgemental of you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Describe a scenario that supports your answer

Is your intended generous?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Describe 3 occasions that affirm so

**B. BUILD BONDS**

Marriage is about partnering with your lifelong friend, so if you can't talk or work together, it's a red flag. Sex is not the bond : it is the special bond reserved for marriage. Bonds are built through shared experiences, not physical intimacy.

What activities do you do together?

Have you attended any conference/seminar together?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Will you attend a conference/seminars together?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you have mutual friends?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you had a group game yet?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you know each other's families?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you visited each other's family together?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which charity or community service can you do together?

**C. ALIGNMENT OF VISION**

The courtship stage is for understanding each other's passions and vision—what drives them and what will make their life meaningful. It's about learning how to support one another, finding where your goals align, and complementing each other's ambitions without one person sacrificing their vision.

**INTERESTS**

What is your intended passionate about?

What are your intended's hobbies?

What is their academic/career/business aspiration and why?

**GOALS:**

What is your intended's goal/vision in life?

How does their vision fit into GOD's Vision?

How does your vision harmonize with your intended's vision?

Is there room for your goals in your intended's life?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Is there room for your intended's goals in your life?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How can you help your intended to achieve their goals?

How can your intended help you to achieve your goals?

Which of your intended's interest interests you?

Which of your interests interests your intended?

**D. SERVICE**

Regularity, punctuality and active service in a local church is the believer's commitment to GOD's mandate, and if you are with the right person, you will serve GOD more, because marriage is for serving GOD.

Is your intended committed to service in their local church?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How does your intended strengthen your commitment to your local church and to service?