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**THE PLACE OF MARRIAGE
IN THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS
OF A PASTOR**

**AN ESSAY PRESENTED
TO THE FACULTY OF
THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO, OYO STATE
NIGERIA**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD
OF THE DEGREE
BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY**

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5.2 Conclusion

Actually to mean that every pastor must be a married man, would be as extreme as to insist that every pastor must have children. Yet we can still suggest reasons for some who decided to be single in the Scriptures.

Apostle Paul was willing to forego his perfect right to a married state. He was a special apostle to the Gentiles having no certain dwelling place, and he had special gift to abjure marriage as far as he is concerned.

John the Baptist was not a type of Christian pastor. In fact, he was in a class almost alone. His celibacy could not be taken as a pattern for pastors to follow.

Jesus was celibate according to the flesh but that freedom from family ties was not for the purpose of limiting the clergy to single life. He is the bridegroom of the Church, so he needs no earthly bride with fleshly offspring, boasting of lineal descent from the Saviour. In fact Jesus disavowed the last element of fleshly relationship when he referred Mary to John as son in the words, "woman behold thy son."

We can therefore conclude that although it is not compulsory to be married as a pastor, but it is very necessary.

5.3 Recommendations

To the Married

1. Give God a chance in your marriage. He is the author and initiator of marriage.
2. Set your priority right.. God first, your family, then others.
3. Learn to communicate better with your spouse, share suggestions, ideas and interest together.
4. Spend time with each other, give your time and energy.
5. Repeat your courtship behaviour, being conscious of your appearance, take time to go out together.
6. Do not under-estimate the importance of sex in your marriage, observe a healthy sexual life.

7. Handle your marital problem(s) together maturely.
8. Uplift one another in prayer, for prayerful Christians are powerful Christians and the family who pray together stays together.
9. Love one another, do not allow the third party in your relationship. Love is the foundation of a happy marriage.
10. Handle financial matters together.

5.3.2 To the Singles

1. Pray, plan and marry those who will be ready to be involved with you in the ministry.
2. Your home should be a model, do not marry a hypocrite.
3. Marriage is the first testing ground of a successful ministry.
4. 'There is need for premarital counselling.
5. Marriage provides maturity in one's ministry.
6. The would-be minister's wife should pray very well for courage to face the challenges ahead.
7. Do not jump into marriage, for marriage will be a test of your integrity.
8. If you are not ready to marry yet, try to use your singlehood wisely, let no one despise your singlehood.
9. When you get married, try to spend time with your spouse.
10. Always seek God's face in all matters.

The writer is very happy that this research work has enlightened him to discover many new things about marriage. This will be of great help to him as he

applies them in his counselling and pastoral care. He also hopes to continue on this research in his post-graduate training opportunity.

Standard Version.

The Man in the Manse. London: Epworth Press, 1977.

The Growing Minister. New York: Abingdon Press, 1978.