

PRE-MARITAL SEX AMONG THE SINGLE LADIES:
ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGING
LYDIA AUXILIARY - CASE STUDY OF IBADAN EAST
ASSOCIATION

NBTS
M. Div
Ala II - P

BY
JANET MOTUNRAYO ALAGBE

JANET MOTUNRAYO ALAGBE
BEING AN ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY OF THE
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO, NIGERIA

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF THE MASTER OF
DIVINITY (THEOLOGY) DEGREE

JUNE 2003

07 - 0057

ABSTRACT

The title of this essay is "Pre-marital Sex Among the Single Ladies: Its Implications for Managing Lydia Auxiliary: Case Study of Ibadan East Association." The study is an attempt to create an awareness about the high level of the prevalence of pre-marital sex among the female singles, especially members of the Lydia Auxiliary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. The causes and consequences of pre-marital sex, what the home, the church and especially what the Lydia Auxiliary can do to restore the victims of pre-marital sex, and to prevent it from spreading further form the core of the study. The importance of the study lies in the fact that pre-marital sex, from the biblical viewpoint, attracts death penalty - physical or spiritual death, or both which we don't want our youth to experience.

This study has five chapters. The introduction which includes the definition of terms formed chapter one. Chapter two presents various positions and views about pre-marital sex. The chapter shows that the African Traditional Society is against pre-marital sex though it lacks the appropriate and effective strategies to curb or prevent pre-marital sex. Islam also frowns at pre-marital sex. Islamic preventive and curative strategies are however weak and one-sided, hence, it fails to eradicate pre-marital sex. The contemporary view is that of indifference. The several laxities of the Western world has infiltrated into our society through the print and electronic media. The Bible, both Old and New Testaments are absolutely against pre-marital sex. The stand of Jesus Christ against it is even stricter than all other viewpoints before and after Him. This notwithstanding, pre-

The Seminary staff members and students rendered one assistance or the other towards the completion of the course. They are too numerous to mention. I appreciate them all.

My church family, Agbowo Baptist Church members, Ibadan, the Pastor, Rev. E. A. Falade and his family are a source of encouragement to me and my family at all times. I acknowledge their love and prayers for the completion of this course.

Siblings, friends and well-wishers who played one role or the other towards the completion of this essay and the entire course are all highly acknowledged. The Lord knows and appreciates you all.

Finally, I specially acknowledge the support, prayers, encouragement, suggestions and other contributions of my dearly beloved husband, Paul A. Alagbe. He is always there for me. In "tears" we are sowing together and together with joy we shall reap here on earth and especially in heaven by God's grace and mercy. Amen.

B. Recommendations

1. To the Single Ladies

- i. **Be Born Again:** Fornication is listed as a manifestation of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. II Corinthians 5:17 says that whoever accepts Jesus as his/her Lord and Saviour is a new person capable of separating from the sinful past and starting anew.
- ii. **Be Content Financially:** No parent can adequately satisfy her children with all their financial needs. Ladies are therefore advised to be content with whatever they have. The Bible teaches that "...Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will

⁵ Leader's Guide on "True Love Waits" (Nairobi: Baptist East African Region, 2001). p.1.

⁶ Taiwo Babatunde, "Keep Yourself Pure" In Lydia (Ibadan: Baptist Women's Missionary Union, January – June, 2003, Volume 23, Numbers 1 and 2), p. 53.

be content with that... for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...(I Timothy 6:6-10).

- iii. Don't keep company with unbelieving male or female friends. The Bible warns us:

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers... What fellowship can light have with darkness ...Therefore come out from them and be separated (II Corinthians 6:14-17).
- iv. Mind what you watch and Read: Seductive materials on the print or electronic media should be totally avoided. Popular foreign and local media directly or indirectly present the view that sex outside of marriage is exciting and thrilling. This is a lie of the devil. Whatever encourages pre-marital sex should be avoided, for, whatever goes in through the media influences one's thinking and action.
- v. Set a Goal for a Relationship with the Opposite Sex: A healthy premise to start any relationship with the opposite sex is to set a clear-cut goal. Sex should not be the ultimate even if the two are to marry each other. Becoming a godly lover should be the focus from the onset.

Self-discipline is also important. Temptation can come but a disciplined Christian will not yield to Satan's attraction to sin.

- vi. Have Intimacy in God's Way: Most young people use sex in an attempt to find intimacy. They want somebody who really cares for them. They don't want sex as much as they want closeness with another human being.⁷ This quest for intimacy must be a godly one. Intimacy in God's way is sacrificial and it breeds happiness. It requires time to mature,

⁷ McDowell, Why Say No to Sex? P. 20.