

**THE EFFECTS OF REMARRIAGE  
ON THE FAMILY**

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MATS

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## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to find out the impact on the family when remarriage takes place. The total of 100 persons affected by divorce and remarriage were interviewed from Baptist churches in Ogbomoso.

A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed to find out the actual effects on the family members. The four hypotheses proposed were tested by the results using percentage of each point to judge the effects stage by stage. The results confirmed all hypotheses to be true, that is there are negative effects on the couple when they (couple) contract a new marriage. Their children and their relatives are affected also.

The result of the study recommends, therefore, some caution to those who look at divorce and remarriage lightly to avoid it and that there should be much counselling/education for couples as well as those who are yet to, or about to marry. The church needs to be more serious on marital issues. The remarried persons should be accommodated with their children in the church as they are being interceded for to recover spiritually.

## **Conclusion**

This research has exposed more of the effects of remarriage on the family and so it is necessary to take some vital actions. One of these is the way people can be educated on marriage as a divine institution for the glory of God. God's intention for marriage institution is for it to be for life time. The fall of man has caused men to lose good relationship with God. However, the teaching of God's Word and biblical counselling will restore the life of the family to its original order. This teaching therefore has to be very thorough for the married, remarried and the would-be couple. Those who think of separation will have proper understanding of what they want to do. Those who have divorced or remarried would understand their position before God. The teaching of Paul that summarized the climax of Moses and Jesus' teaching on no separation or divorce or remarriage except for specific reasons can become clearer to Christians especially members of the Baptist Churches in

Ogbomoso. By this, the eternal nature of marriage which is God's intention could be upheld by churches. The church has been given the ministry of reconciliation to bring fallen men to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The church is duty bound to educate her members whether they are married, unmarried, divorced, remarried or widowed to know God's will concerning remarriage. The education of the church should be extended directly to un-believers for a change of the society where the church is. Through the teaching of God's Word constantly and persistently with regular prayer the church will change the society for good. This research, although is carried out in Ogbomoso, is for all Christian churches. Therefore, it becomes necessary to formulate some guidelines to follow as recommendations of this writer in this research.

### **Recommendations**

Having concluded that the churches must rise to educate families and the society concerning the origin, meaning, functions and importance of durable homes through the Bible, these recommendations become necessary. These are teaching and counselling.

#### **Teaching**

A constant teaching of God's word is necessary. Firstly a curriculum of God's created order with regards to marriage life, responsibilities such as finance, forgiveness and love should be organized and taught out regularly at all age levels. Secondly, the psychological aspects of marriage should be examined. These include sex in marriage, human relationship, and

distinctiveness of sexual behaviour (of male and female) and a call to condemn female circumcision from the land since it is not biblical and is not medically approved as well.

Thirdly teaching should include the effect of the fall of man on the body, behaviour and spirit. This should expose the doctrine of salvation from sin. The fourth point is that the church needs to be taught that the remarried persons be accommodated in the church together with their family members.

### **Counselling**

There should be a better marital and premarital counselling programme organized and functioning through some trained personnel by the pastor. The church has to budget annually for it. A couple fellowship should be organized as well as different groups like widows/widowers, single men and single women, the divorcees and unwed mothers forum be formulated for group counselling. These people need occasional retreat for effectiveness in status, at associational/conference level(s).

### **Suggestions for Further Studies**

1. The value of sex in marriage.
2. Factors responsible for sex problems including female genital mutilation.
3. The economy of the home and finance management.
4. Sex education for youths.
5. Equality of men and women before God.