

PREMARITAL COUNSELLING: AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR A
SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

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Conclusion

Churches, pastors and parents, what is your quota in helping the young one to have a successful Christian marriage in our churches today? Do we see the vision or need for a meaningful Christian marriage for our youths? If yes, what then can you do as individuals and as a body of believers to recover your vision for our young once who are preparing for marriage?.

Many marriages are not stable while some are about to collapse. Whatever is done to bring real stability is done for the peace of the church and for the Christ. Premarital counseling is one of the powerful tools to bring back peace and joy that lead to successful Christian marriage. Will you as individual or body fold your arms and say "let other people take care of it"? I Corinthians 15:58 says "... Be steadfast... always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain (RSV)

Therefore, avoid procrastination and join the group of people who seek to bring marriage to what it should be though premarital counseling programme in our churches.

May the Almighty God through Jesus Christ grant us and others who delight and desire a successful Christian marriage in our churches through premarital counseling programme the listening ears as counselor and untiring feet for the task.

Recommendations

Any opportunity or effort made to discover should be used to recover. All efforts invested on this work to research, discover, think and write in order to make known those helpful ways by which we can have a successful Christian marriage through premarital counseling would not be completed without helpful recommendations to recover what is missing in the area of premarital counseling. Therefore, based on all that have been said in this essay, the write wishes to make the following recommendations to:-

The church.

Since it is believed that people in the church are the church not the building, according to the definition of the church, then churches should be endeavour to provide every support she can render for all her members to have a meaningful marriage through premarital counseling. Churches are expected to compossary premarital counseling programme for all her members who are yet to married before they can be joined together in holy matrimony in other for such a marriage to succeed. Based on the nature of premarital counseling, churches are encouraged to have a resident pastor not a lay leader or student pastor, resident pastor that would be able to carry on the programme (premarital counseling) effectively and meaningfully. Churches are also encourage to be organizing several retreats, seminars and workshop for her members that are yet to many most especially the youths, in other for them to have pre-knowledge of what marriage entails or calls for.

Intending Couple


Intending couples are advised to see the need for premarital counseling and ready to go through it for their own good after marriage. This does not exclude youth pastors in our seminaries who are preparing for their Holy matrimony.

In order to have a successful Christian marriage, Intending couples are also advised not to plan for a crash wedding programme by giving a short notice to the church, that may not allow them to fully go through premarital counseling before marriage. In other words, they should give their pastors a long time notice before their wedding day. Every intending couple who desire a successful Christian marriage should develop the habit of openness to their counsellors during the premarital counseling programme. This would give room for them to know both the good and bad characters of one another that may serve as source of help for their marriage relationship.

The Pastor

Pastors are advised to encourage every youth in the church the need for them to go through premarital counseling programme before their wedding. This can be done on some Sundays during the youth's week programme. Encouraging the youth to develop personal interest in premarital counseling programme, the pastors are to encourage the youth. This is necessary because it will help

the pastor to have a well planned outlines or lessons on different topics that needed to be thought during the programme. Effective work is expected to be done by the pastor he has an office for this special assignment (premarital counseling). This is necessary in other for the pastor not to be disturb during the counseling.

 Pastoral ethics is expected to be kept by the pastor during the premarital counseling secret shared with the pastor during the counseling should not be discoursed with anybody by the pastor. This pastoral integrity should be boast of in the ministry of every pastor.

The parents

Parent are encourage to support their young ones in going through premarital counseling programme before their wedding. This can be done by given their consent on time concerning the proposed date for marriage, so that both the intending couple and the pastor can quickly agree on when and what time to be meeting for premarital counseling before the wedding day approach.