

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES GUIDING MARRIAGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR  
CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

An Essay

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## ABSTRACT

This essay is titled "Ethical Principles Guiding Marriage and its Implication for Christian Marriage." The purpose of the study was to find out the ethical principles that are guiding marriage and the implications they have on Christian marriage. The implication of the research is to sensitize and foster moral sanity in Christian marriage by considering ethical norms in every marriage; irrespective of religion, ethnic group and culture. It will also aid in providing relevant recommendations to the married couples and intended couples to build a healthy home that is void of moral decadence. The study design was a descriptive survey which requires collection of information from the sample of the population. Sixty nine (69) respondents were drawn randomly from three selected religions and three major tribes in Nigeria with a researcher's designed questionnaire. It was discovered from the research that majority agreed that ethical principles have great impact on marriage irrespective of whether it is a Christian marriage or not. The ethical principles discussed in the research include: Love, Faithfulness, Submission, Permanency and Monogamy. Although, the issues of monogamy and permanency brought about discrepancies in other religions outside Christianity most especially Islamic and African Traditional Religion; nevertheless these two ethical norms remain valid and undisputable in Christian marriage. The research showed that marriages that encouraged ethical principles are the best forms of marriage. Furthermore, some recommendations were made to the Government, spouses, individuals and religious leaders.

## 5.2 CONCLUSION

Ethical principles in marriage are the basic tools for a joyful home. Ethical principles of marriage have been discussed in this essay as being essential tools that every couple who hopes for a joyful home must practise. God is interested in a loving relationship between spouses; that is, a loving relationship without reservation between both couples. No Christian marriage can be said to be effective except where these ethical principles that are guiding marriage are practised. The implication of this is that every marriage where faithfulness, love and responsibility are lacking, such marriages are only endured and not enjoyed by the couple. Also monogamy as an ethical principle must be practised by Christians irrespective of reasonable reasons that are being given by people from other religions. It is always truthful that some respondents supported their reason for engaging in polygamy as a means to avoid adultery, but polygamy is not reasonable enough to proffer solution to the issue of adultery in marriage. It has also been ethically proven that many do engage in polygamy in time past as a means to boost and sustain their economy strength in farming; yet there is a general saying that “multiple children attract multiple suffering”. This suggests that life struggle is a function of personal wish.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the result from the findings, the following recommendations are made for the couples and intending couples:

1. Since everybody believes in the moral living, therefore; Government should sensitize the public through teaching of morality into the populace; this will serve a medium through which morality will be practised in the marriages, organization, and community at large.
2. Morality as an ethical practice should be practised in marriage irrespective of their religion; since everybody believes in the moral living.
3. Government should not handle any form of immoral act within and outside marriage with levity. Unfaithful partners that are caught in immoral act should be punished. As it always leads to spreading of contagious diseases which may be detrimental to other partners in marriage. It has also led to increase in mental challenges and crime cases within marriages in Nigeria. This is so because the abandoned children always seek every means to care for themselves.
4. Monogamous marriage is to be enforced by Nigerian Government and if need be for any man to engage in polygamy, several precautionary measures must be put in place by the Government for the husband as a means of sustenance for the first wife and children in order to avoid any presumed challenges.
5. Every intending couple in church, mosque and court must be enlightened on the need for monogamy and permanence in their marriages as it will equip them to prepare for a long-lasting relationship. If need be, divorce should be the last option for every marriage.

6. Polygamous system of marriage should not bring about discrepancies in the church. The right of the polygamists should not be denied in the church since they also contribute their quota to the development of the church.