

**MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP:  
MAKING GOD'S PRESENCE A REALITY**

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## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

### Conclusion

This essay has approached the problems associated with marriage relationship. It is obvious that in Christian marriage relationship, the reality of God's presence can be felt, but where the presence of God is lacking in any marriage relationship; It usually leads to unhappiness, disgrace and lack of fulfillment. The research also reveals the causes of marital disharmony among the husband and wife may include separation and divorce, problems associated with in-laws, problem of infidelity, and lack of forgiveness, money, and sickness. Marriage was instituted by God and His expectation on marriage is that marriage be enjoyed by both husband and wife. Instead, many married couples are enduring it rather than enjoying it.

Biblical basis for marriage relationship was examined where the husband and the wife must leave their father and mother in order to become one flesh in a marriage relationship. "Leaving" and "Clearing" are two essential actions that must be obeyed. Failure for the husband and wife to leave their father and mother will attract crisis and dependency on the third party. Monogamy is God's ideal type of marriage. Jesus Christ reinforced the message to the Pharisees that "for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." (Mark 10: 2). The passage therefore revealed God's mind that there should be no separation and divorce in any marriage relationship. Marriage is meant to be permanent until death separates the husband and wife because marriage is of God, divorce is of man. Contemporary types of marriage was X-rayed and it include: Church or Christian marriage, Legal marriage and traditional or

customary marriage. Care should be taken in choosing a particular type of marriage relationship because; the type of marriage relationship can determine either the success or failure of the marriage. Customs and traditions can continue to influence greatly marriages that are done customarily. Legalistic attitudes can become an underlining factor or principle between husband and wife that are legally joined in marriage relationship. It is equally possible that teachings of Christ and the Church inevitably become the norms in the Christian or Church marriage. God's presence in a marriage relationship is not automatic because a husband must love his wife and the wife should submit to her husband for marriage to succeed. Therefore, some conditions must be met for God's presence to become a reality in any marriage relationship. These conditions include: Parental content, the husband and the wife should not marry unless their parents consent; husband's love for his wife must be total and unreserved, the wife's submission to her husband must be total and unreserved. Children involvement, prayer, bible study, and godly counsel is important for the success of a marriage or family. All these are vital condition that must be present in a marriage relationship for it to witness God's presence and blessings. Basic trainings such as sexual and communication cannot be over emphasized in marriage relationship.

Special attention was given to sexual intercourse because husband and wife suffer in silence over this area. Pastors and family counselors should give much attention to this area. It needs urgent attention because the peace of the society depends on the stability of families. Not much emphasis is given to sexual intercourse between husbands and wives from biblical and theological point of view.

Marriage has been under attack right from the Garden of Eden and the need for marriage and family enrichment programmes is inevitable. Therefore, marriage relationship should be given adequate attention from the pulpit, through marriage enrichment programmes and marriage

seminars. Husband and wife should realize that marriage is under attack from outside the family. Husband and wife should be equipped with the word of God in order to protect their marriage. They should avoid attitudes and life styles that can further weaken their marriage cord. The role of the Church in making God's presence a reality cannot be undermined. The role of the pastor in this regard is crucial. The pastor is God's representative among His people. The presence of a pastor in a home symbolically represents the presence of God. Husbands and wives should not take for granted the pastor as a marriage counselor. They should be contacted as soon as possible if they noticed an unresolved issue. Organizational meetings such as men fellowship, women fellowship, youth fellowship can be a tremendous assistance to marriage relationship. The Sunday school, Church training, and discipleship programmes of the church can be an added advantage for husband and wives to experience God's presence in their marriage relationship.

#### Recommendations

Marriage relationship: Making God's Presence a Reality is a joint business between the husband and wife. Other people's involvement that has been mentioned is complementary. It is the sole responsibility of the husband and wife to make God's presence a reality in their home. From this research so far, it is obvious that Marriage relationship plays an important role in the church and society. Marriage relationship is a fruitless exercise without God's presence. This researcher is suggesting that implications of God's presence in Marriage relationship need to be examined more thoroughly. New generation pastors and marriage counselors should work harder on seminars, marriage enrichment programmes; and publish more books and materials on marriage relationship. Here are some recommendations the researcher is proposing for marriage enrichment: the husband and wife should understand better the necessity of having a Christian home. This researcher is aware of a husband and wife that have a serious disagreement during

the day. They refused to communicate with each other throughout the day. Infact, they could not pray together before going to bed. In the night, the husband touched the wife, and the wife responded: "Why are you touching me? Don't you know we are fighting?" the husband also responded "people that are fighting usually touch each other. Because we are fighting that's why I'm touching you." The hour of silence was broken. They both discussed the problem and prayed together.

One can imagine what would have happened if both husband and wife are staying in different rooms or sleeping on different beds. It is possible that they wake up the following day refusing to greet each other and refusing to pray together. Because marriage is a joint business between a husband and wife, they should therefore sleep together. It is believed that when the sexual life of a couple is what it should be, (alright all others things will be alright.

#### **The husband and wife should talk together.**

Steps towards communication improvement were discussed in chapter three. The husband and wife should talk "the essentials" and "non-essentials" together. Husband and wife should communicate while at home, in the church, in the car. Psychological and emotional feelings can only be expressed through communication. Introvert husband or wife should be helped and encouraged to express the feelings.

#### **The husband and wife should eat together.**

Many issues can be settled at mealtime. When invitation is offered for meal, one can imagine that an important discussion will take place. Gideon international brethren use to raise fund to print Bible at meal time. Queen Esther received answer to her request from the King when she prepared a delicious meal for the King (Esther 5). Some husbands will refuse their wives' food because of disagreement. Attitudes like this should be abhorred. To eat together is a

wonderful fellowship. Husbands should avoid staying late outside so as to provide opportunity of eating together with the wife.

### **Husbands and wives should pray together.**

wives Jesus said "man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God". (Matt. 4:4). Apostle Paul also admonished, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with wisdom, and as you sing Psalms ..." (Col. 3:16). Attitudes to prayer and Bible study go together. Prayer life of the couple should be accompanied with Bible study. The husband and wife should study the Bible and pray together everyday. Husband must not divorce his wife neither should the wife be separated from her husband. This is God's commandment on Marriage relationship. Marriage is of God. Divorce is of man. (Mark 10:2)

Pastoral visitation should be intensified among church members. The pastor is God's representative among His people. Pastoral visitation could be likened to "Emmanuel" meaning "God with us". The pastor should be conscious of his preaching and teaching on marriage relationship. Marriage relationship is the second deepest relationship that can ever exist. Pastors should also be more equipped biblically and theologically to be able to meet the pressing need of marriage in the society. Societal values on marriage are on decline. Pastors should rise up to meet this crucial challenge. Individual couples are advised to pray. Nevertheless, the pastor should lead the church to corporate prayers. There is a place for individual prayers as well as cooperate prayers for Christian families. The Bible enjoined us to "pray without ceasing". One of the strongest weapons the church can use to fight Satan's attack on homes is through corporate prayers.

