

## ***Criteria for Marriage Approval Part 2***

***“But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.”  
(1 Corinthians 7:17 KJV)***

To make an end of ungodly marriages, we decided to put criteria for marriage approval that contains clear outlines that will give the proper direction of God’s intention to build up Godly families. Below is what we had come to agree upon:

To follow God’s will in raising Godly children within Godly families, and to honor Christ, and to avoid the bad consequences that ungodly marriages stemming from wrong choices and unpreparedness of partners would cause, the following steps must be followed for approving marriages in our church:

**A.** All marriages that are proposed need to be brought before the Church Council and the Church Overseer for evaluation and approval.

**B.** The Criteria of the Approved Worker will be used as an initial step. Please review below the Criteria of the Approved Worker:

### **The Criteria for the Approved Worker:**

***“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2 KJV)***

***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)***

The Church of God, United Arab Emirates and all the congregations under its care adopt the following criteria for the approved worker, that no worker will be given a ministry if he or she is not showing these criteria in his life:

- 1.** True conversion, repentance, faith in Jesus, life testimony, and water baptism.
- 2.** Sound in doctrine.
- 3.** Spiritual discipline; a life of prayer, Bible reading and study, praise and worship, and fasting.
- 4.** Commitment to the local church; attend regularly, financial commitment (tithe regularly), agree and go along the church vision and the leadership of the church.
- 5.** Good steward for time, talents, resources, and money.
- 6.** Family responsibility; marital and parental responsibility.

**7.** Work responsibility: Willingness to work in a secular job whenever that is needed besides doing his ministry.

**8.** Moral purity; no work of the flesh and no bad habits.

**9.** Good character; personal integrity and fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**11.** Modest appearance for dress, speech, conduct, and lifestyle that pleases God.

**12.** Being a good citizen, keeping the country’s rules, praying for the leaders of the nations, and evangelizing the lost.

### ***Why we use the Criteria for the Approved Worker?***

**a.** God calls us to work with faithful people; those who are not committed to the Lord and His Word they are disobedient people.

**b.** This is our integrity and honesty to God and to the church that He entrusted to us. Biblically the criteria we use goes along the Scripture and agree with the Church of God practical commitment and doctrine.

**c.** No one should think that their disobedience and lack of full commitment can be compensated by their talents or money. As if they are buying their salvation. **“Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:9 KJV)**

**d.** We don’t want to give way for compromises in the church and the Lord’s service because this is an invitation for the evil work.

**e.** To avoid that others will start to disobey, compromise, and not to follow correctly.

**f.** If the disobedient will be part of God’s service, then what will be the picture we will give to the non-believers and those outside the church? Disobedient acts also include traditions, practices, and values that contradict God’s Word.

**g.** If we will give a ministry to the disobedient then very difficult to correct them and difficult when we take it out from their hands.

**h.** As we clean the church from disobedient people and not allow them to touch the sacred things then God’s blessings will abound to us; the more He will add to His church.

**i.** That set up will expel wolves out. This will spare us a waste of effort, time, and money, and to avoid division and disharmony in the future.

**j.** That set up will attract more sheep to enter the pen. The church will be a healthy atmosphere for those who are willing to walk with God and that will be a good atmosphere for more disciples and workers to raise and more disciples and workers to join the church.

**C.** The boy and the girl need to be prepared:

**1.** They must be prepared materially, with a good amount of finances and savings, sufficient regular income, a place for living with good facilities, and a facility to sponsor and keep the spouse and children in countries that need residence visas and documents.

**2.** Both the boy and the girl must be mature with a persevering character to bear the strain of the family.

**3.** Both must be free from responsibilities towards their parents and/or the rest of their siblings.

**4.** Both should have had exposure to the teachings of child discipline and the use of the rod in child discipline.

**D.** God should speak and give the final approval with a clear sign based on His Word.

**E.** There should be no communication between the boy and the girl while we seek God for His will about their marriage.

**F.** After approval, to prevent immorality between the partners, boys and girls are not allowed to communicate before the wedding day. All communications will be through the church. They will be together only after the church wedding.

**G.** The practices of having boyfriends and girlfriends, dating, courting, and other cultural and traditional practices and arrangements for marriage will not be entertained. The practices will be based on God's Word and His will.

**H.** Marriage between partners where one partner is from another church will be approved under the following guidelines:

**1.** They should pass through the same above-mentioned criteria.

**2.** The churches they come from will be examined if they have proper criteria for workers, criteria for marriage, and discipline for children.

**3.** If there are difficulties to get clear data about these boys' and girls' churches, or if there is no transparency, then the marriage will not be approved.

**4.** In the case of boys and girls who fulfill all the criteria, but the churches they belong to are compromising and/or not having proper criteria for workers, criteria for marriage, and discipline for children, then their marriage proposal will not be approved. In such situations, we understand that they had not been taught and trained well. These boys and girls can receive discipleship training if they are willing to join us and then be members of our church. In such circumstances, we will continue to follow them up and teach them until God will reveal His will and His good plan to them in a clear way concerning life and marriage.

**5.** The marriage of boys and girls who fulfill all the criteria along with their churches, who have proper criteria laid out for their workers, for marriage, and the discipline of children, will be approved. The marriage will be held in the church that the man belongs to, and after marriage, the wife will be under her husband and in his church.

**I.** We expect that all workers and members will use these criteria for their benefit and the benefit of the church and the rest of the members and workers and the glory and honor of Christ.

**J.** In the case of members and workers who bypass these criteria in their marriages, it will not be possible and feasible for us to follow them up and their families after their marriages.

**K.** In the case of members and workers who fail to meet these criteria in their marriages, we will neither be able to walk or work with them nor will we approve of them joining other churches.

**L.** These criteria are to be announced and distributed to reach all the congregations of the church to educate and teach the members.

**M.** All council members, pastors, workers, and the rest of the members are called to be watchful to implement these criteria so that disorders and bad outcomes could be avoided.

**N.** These criteria will be open to suggestions and improvement based on Scriptures whenever it is deemed a necessity to do that.

**O.** These criteria for marriage approval represent our repentance and our turning back to the Lord from the wrong practices of the past and the present, about the issue of marriage that had caused the church to drift away from what God had ordained from the beginning in His Word. It is our earnest desire to let Christ be glorified in our midst by allowing Godly marriages resulting in Godly children within Godly families. With this attitude, we will not be swept away upon Christ's second coming. Let us not allow in our lives what had happened to the people at the time of Noah, because of their sensuality, lack of discretion, and indifference to take heed of the warning from the Word of God that was preached to them: ***"26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."* (Luke 17:26-27 KJV)**

May the Lord be glorified in our midst and bless us as we abide in His will and plan.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** Come now to God and reflect on the message that we received today and the criteria for marriage approval and for the approved workers and start to apply in your life, in pertain to preparation for Godly marriages and in pertain to life of service and ministry unto God.

It is a time for you to come to God, to repent of your sins, to surrender your will, and to renew your mind to walk in the way that God wants you to go through. It is a time for you to consider seriously the message that you received today and start to apply the instruction in your life so that you will be prosperous and successful. Let us pray . . .

***My Prayer:*** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for this teaching about preparation for Godly marriage how to prepare myself for marriage and how to be an

*approved worker in your church and ministry. Lord thank you for the teaching, the corrections and the admonishments that I received from this message.*

*Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of physical and spiritual preparations and your lack of resources but you insist to go through marriage. Confess and renounce all the works of the flesh in your life. Confess and renounce your lack of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Confess and renounce your non willingness to open up your plans to the church to receive corrections and instructions. Confess and renounce your lack of saving and your bad stewardship, Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God, especially in pertain to marriage. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers and fasting. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, having many friends and in bondage with the Media. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit myself to apply what I learned today from your Word in my life. Lord I surrender my life and my will to you. Lord I am willing to go through the process of discipleship in pertain to preparation for Godly marriage to prepare myself for the kind of family life that you had prepared for me. Lord I am willing to serve you and be a faithful worker in your church in following the instructions that I received in this message.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, humbled themselves, surrendered to you, and committed to live according to your will and follow your plan for them and the teaching that we received in this message. Lord take them and use them in your service and ministry, Lord bless the marriage and the family plans that you have for them and let their lives be good testimonies to others to follow you.*

*Lord, bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach and implement your Word in the life of the members and the workers of the church and in pertains to the preparation for Godly marriage and the criteria of marriage that we received in this message. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to be ready to go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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