

Preparation for Godly Marriage Part 1

“5 Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; 6 Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.” (Jeremiah 29:5-6 KJV)

“9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)

God has called us to care for families and to show evidence of Biblical foundation for a Godly marriage to build up Godly parents, who are called to raise Godly offsprings who will carry the truth of God's Word to the next generation. Generally, the marriage preparation varies from place to place, from time to time, and from culture to culture. But the Word of God contains correct principles for the preparation of a Godly marriage or marriages that are solemnized as God has planned, prepared, and approved.

* In the life of the family, how the husband and wife function as parents, is a vital aspect for the church to focus on. * Nowadays, family affairs are kept private or hidden away from the church. Many churches are neglecting or are silent about keeping holiness in marriage and family affairs. A church that indulges in many social gatherings and activities and programs is not at all a healthy or growing church. It is rather a dying church because the Godly families are not preserved. Let us consider how the Lord God prepared the marriage of the first man and made a family.

From the first day to the sixth day of Creation, God created everything that would be needed for the man to live a life pleasing to God. In the garden eastward in Eden, God placed the first man and prepared him to be responsible before instituting the first marriage:

“8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. 11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. 13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. 14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates. 15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. 18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to

every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” (Genesis 2:8-25 KJV)

There are certain things the Lord prepared for the marriage of Adam that we can see clearly from this passage.

I. God set up a proper place for living: God did place Adam in the garden eastward in Eden and that was a proper place with the good provision and complete facilities for the man to live and enjoy life with his wife, in the presence of the Lord. *“9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food” (Genesis 2:9 KJV)* There, all things were available and the place was well-equipped for a good living before the woman was created for the man. **Consequently, a proper and comfortable place or accommodation for the family must be prepared before asking God for a partner to marry.**

II. God sustained resources: God made rivers to sustain the Garden of Eden for Adam and his wife to live. *“10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. 11 The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12 And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. 13 And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. 14 And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.” (Genesis 2:10-14 KJV)* As God placed the four rivers and gold, bdellium, and onyx stone reserves near the garden, there must also be other resources to sustain a pleasant and proper place for the man and his wife. After marriage, they may have a house to live in but can they afford to pay the water, electricity and internet bills? Do they have savings and have conserved provisions to sustain and back them up in times of need?

III. God provided job and instruction: God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work on it and care for it. God assigned work for the man to do before mentioning what he will eat. **In the same manner, the man must have a proper job so that he can provide food and other basic needs for his family.** Moreover, God gave clear instruction and commandment to the man: *“15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:15-17 KJV)* **Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God. A man needs the Word of God to feed his soul and get directed, and the man also needs to eat to nourish his physical body that is why he needs to work.**

While preparing for a Godly marriage, the proper understanding of who God is and what God's Word requires needs to be fully achieved by the man and woman. God's purpose for marriage is to raise Godly children and to illustrate the love of Christ for the church through the husband and wife relationship. God's Word should be heard and obeyed by both the

husband and his wife. They must be spiritually mature so that the purpose of God will be accomplished in their family. Both husband and wife need to be born again, truly repented, water baptized, having true faith with a good testimony, and had finished reading their Bible. Both of them should be disciples of Jesus and had shown their commitment to Christ and His church and ministry.

IV. God's time frame: The thought of a Godly marriage should be fulfilled in God's proper time. *"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."* God said that in *Genesis 2:18*, but He did not fulfill that at once because there were more things needed to be prepared and accomplished. There should be no hurry in getting married. God has a time for everything, and God makes everything beautiful in His perfect time. Hurry and haste make a mess, missing the right choice of God. Some more characters and attitudes need to be developed in the life of the man and the woman before they get involved in marriage.

V. God gave responsibility and authority to the man: The Lord tested the maturity of the man, and He checked if he was a responsible person before He brought the woman to him. *"19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field."* (*Genesis 2:19-20 KJV*) God asked the man to name the animals and birds, and he did. That was not an easy task. There were vast numbers of animal species and types and it might take the man years before he finished naming them all and listing them in the record. When he finished doing that, the man proved to God that he was mature and responsible, so God thought that he would bring him the woman. The husband is the head of the wife. So before marriage, a man should prove that he can fulfill his role as a husband and father to his Godly offspring. He should be mature in the knowledge of God, a person with authority, and able to direct his family to achieve the purpose of God. The man should lead his family after marriage and provide for them their spiritual and physical needs, and who is ready and able to deal with trials and crisis.

The woman should also be mature and responsible and understand that after marriage, she will be under her Godly husband who will lead her according to the will of God, and she needs to submit to him and listen to his instructions and support him in all things she can to make his mission successful.

Love is important within the family to unite them, love between husband and wife will unite and build a family. Jesus said, *"15 If ye love me, keep my commandments."* (*John 14:15 KJV*) The love between the husband and wife that will unite the family is their love toward Christ, and their love toward Christ will be measured by their obedience to His commands. Man loves his wife when he provides for her and concentrates to give himself to care for the home and his family, and when he cleanses her using the Word of God. *"25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church."* (*Ephesians 5:25-29 KJV*) A Woman will show her love to her husband when she submits to his authority as he is leading

the family in obedience doing and achieving the good plan of God for his family: *"22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."* (*Ephesians 5:22-24 KJV*)

The man before marriage might be accountable for various responsibilities, but he needs to realize and come to the point of maturity that after marriage he needs to be accountable to care for his wife and his new family. For this reason, he needs to adjust himself to this purpose. He might need to trim certain relationships, activities, and commitments that would contradict the good plan that God had for him and his newly formed family. The Word of God gives importance to that even to the point that allows the man to be freed from certain responsibilities for a while as he is entering into marriage, *"5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken."* (*Deuteronomy 24:5 KJV*)

The woman before marriage might be still under her parents' care, or she might be living her life of singleness and decide for herself. But she needs to realize that after marriage she is to be under a husband and she needs to submit to his instruction that comes from God and His Word.

Both of them, the man and woman, should free themselves from friendships and relationships with people before marriage so they can have more time to care for one another and to care for their new family.

Both man and woman should take these two responsibilities mutually; caring for each other and submitting one to another out of the fear of God, *"21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."* (*Ephesians 5:21 KJV*) Whatever the Word of God says then both should follow and be instructed with.

"11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." (*1 Timothy 2:11-15 KJV*) The order of God inside the family is that the man will be the one to have authority over the woman, and is the one to teach her God's Word and instructions. In the beginning, God created the man and instructed him, *"13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve."* (*1 Timothy 2:13 KJV*) But what God would expect from Adam? God expected from Adam that he needed to instruct his wife, Eve, with God's Word and give to her clear instructions of what she needed to do and abide with. It was to Adam and not to Eve God said, *"16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* (*Genesis 2:16-17 KJV*) So what was expected from Adam that he should be the one to impart and implement the instruction of God inside the family; that is why also Paul said, *"12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."* (*1 Timothy 2:12 KJV*) The man should take the lead in the family, to work, to provide, and to watch that things are going well following God's Word. The man

should scrutinize what is going on inside his family. He should correct things when the matter goes wrong and God's Word is broken. True that Eve was deceived, **"14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."** (1 Timothy 2:14 KJV) but Adam should be the one to verify from Eve from where she brought the fruit before he ate it and caused sin to go into his family.

The man should rule over his family, his wife, and his children. We have Scriptures that states: **"4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)"** (1 Timothy 3:4-5 KJV) Man is the leader for the family, and man is the leader chosen by God to lead others to God through Christ. Now **1 Timothy 3:4-5** is for those who desire to be bishops who will lead and nurture others for Christ. They need to do that in their families first. Therefore wives need to submit themselves to God's Word and be willing to be ruled by their husbands. That will help the children respect their father and finally fear God and subject to their parents who are doing the will of God to keep Godly families. Some men would say that **1 Timothy 3:4-5** is to those who desire to be bishops, who will lead and nurture others in Christ. But that is not correct excuse to escape the responsibility to rule over their own families, because God calls everyone, men and women, to lead others and nurture them in Christ because we are the royal priesthood in Christ, **"9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."** (1 Peter 2:9 KJV) Therefore men should be firm in taking this responsibility to rule over their wives and children, and women need to humble down before God and His Word, and willing to be ruled by their husbands who are followers of God.

This principle is repeated in this chapter of **1 Timothy 3**, as we can read here the same for the deacons who are responsible for administrative things in the life of the church: **"12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."** (1 Timothy 3:12-13 KJV) Also repeated in Titus about the criteria for an elder, **"5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly."** (Titus 1:5-6 KJV) Therefore with these Scriptures, men should stand firm before God and put their homes in order, and their wives need to show how to submit to their husbands so children will be under subjection, and the family will be a good example for others to follow.

Women need to love their husbands and submit to them so that their families will be a good example to others to follow Christ, otherwise, the Word of God will be blasphemed and people will disobey God's Word when they see the wives of the believers are not obeying their husbands who are giving them the Word of God, **"4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."** (Titus 2:4-5 KJV)

My Dear and Beloved: Come now to God and reflect on the message that we received today and start to apply in your life, in pertain to preparation for Godly marriages if you are still single and in pertain to family life if you are married and having a family. 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 your Word that teaches me the preparation for Godly marriage and how to live a family life pleasant to you. Lord thank you for the good plan that you have for me, and 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 in spite of that you went for marriage. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and your lack of saving. Confess and renounce your lack of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to keep love and peace inside the atmosphere of the family. Confess and renounce your non willingness to stand for God and do your responsibility well that God gave you as man to lead your family and children. 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. 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 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 to live my life according to your plan and will for me and according to the teaching that I received in this message. Lord I thank you for your love and care for me.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, humbled themselves and committed to live according to your will and follow your plan for them and the teaching that we received in this message. Lord bless them and reward 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 the preparation for Godly marriage and to prepare your people to do your will and your plan in their lives in accordance to the teaching 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 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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