

Preparation for Godly Marriage Part 8

We continue in this message to speak about the preparation for Godly marriage:

XV. Family planning and birth control: After marriage the man and his wife need to put family planning about how many children are they going to have. True that children are blessings from God. He gives them according to His will, and as a reward, *“4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.” (Psalm 127:4-5 KJV)* *“3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. 6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.” (Psalm 128:3, 6 KJV)* * True also that more children is better than less children, because when they will grow they will help the parents, they will do more works, they will give support for the ministry and will carry the vision of God to reach the lost. This is supposed to happen by God's hand as He gives and provides the needs when there are enough resources to raise them in the fear of God. Therefore the husband and his wife should follow God's leading and His will about the number of the children the wife is going to bear. * But if there is no means for such then the more children the more will be the burdens on the parents and will cause shortage of resources and at the end they will cause troubles and not blessings. * Children that God give need to be raised in a Godly way because quality is also needed from each and every parents and not only quantity. And such needed resources, which include the followings:

1. Time: Every child need to be raised as a disciple for Jesus and a worker for God. So parents need to dedicate themselves for such purpose of God which will need much of their time.

2. Material things: This includes finances to cover the costs of the accommodation, food, clothes, education, transport, medical and other expenses for each child. Now the income of the family, their saving before marriage and if they have other resources will play a role in determining the number of the children they can take care of. Family planning and birth control will be needed to avoid being troubled by financial and economic constrains.

3. Strength: Body stamina and strength is needed to raise Godly children. Old parents who married late they cannot take care of more children. But young parents can take care of more children.

4. Health: Good health is needed to raise Godly children. If one of the parents is sick then that will bring limitations to the number of the children the family can have. If the wife is sick and if pregnancy can carry more danger because of her sickness then that is another limiting factor which make family planning and birth control is needed in the life of the family.

Discipleship for each and every child is a long process and it need time, strength, good health, and material resources to accomplish that. So the number of children will be determined by how much God will provide. The more of these resources that we discussed then the parents need to go for more children and such is the will of God. But if the resources are less and troubles would be expected then less number of children needed, and not to be exceeded to keep maintaining the quality of the disciples children that the family will raise to God.

Parents should walk in humility before God and fear him and do what He would expect from them to achieve in accordance to the resources that He had given and provided for them. Old parents can take care of few children, perhaps only one. Young parents they can have more, three or four, being strong and in good health. But do they have the resources to spend on them properly, educate them and teach them, and do they have the time to do that. If not then two or three is enough.

We cannot say God will provide, when we don't have money and the resources for that, and go for more children. We need to humble down and accept family planning and decide about the number of the children that we can manage to raise to God as disciples and worker to serve Him. Some they go for more children because they like, but you find them always in need and in financial troubles and question God why they are in poverty, but the fault is in them because they did not follow good stewardship and keep birth control.

Jacob was easily affected by the famine that happened in Canaan because of the large number of the children he got out from four wives, having thirteen children, and they have their families with them which added more burdens on Jacob. His wives, Leah and Rachel, were competing between themselves to have more children to draw Jacob's favor on them, but they were unaware that every new child was a new mouth that Jacob needed to feed, and they were not aware that their children in the future will be threatened of death because of famine. That is why God directed him to send his children to buy food from Egypt, *“1 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? 2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.” (Genesis 42:1-2 KJV)* And that was why God ultimately directed him to go down to Egypt in order to provide for them there during the years of famine, *“1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. 2 And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. 3 And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: 4 I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes. 5 And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him:” (Genesis 46:1-6 KJV)*

While his father Isaac was able to be sustained during the famine in his time with his two children, and God provided for him and did not send him to Egypt but asked him to stay in the land of Canaan, *“1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. 2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;” (Genesis 26:1-4 KJV)* From this example of two families we can discern the value of family planning and the need for birth control in order to avoid the troubles in the future.

You may tell me that God had said to Abram that his seed will be strangers in a foreign land and shall serve that nation and such had happened to Jacob to fulfill what God had said, ***“13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.” (Genesis 15:13-14 KJV)*** But God said that because He knew what Jacob will do with his four marriages and many children, and so deserved to go into such situation and will be in need and his descendents will become slave under the Egyptians and finally when they will cry to God then He will deliver them.

There is some who caught what Onan the son of Judah did: ***“8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother. 9 And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother. 10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also.” (Genesis 38:8-10 KJV)*** Yes I agree what he did is sin because he did not want to give seed to his brother and that was against the command of God and against His will, that is why God killed him. But this cannot be applied against using withdrawal for birth control to a family who cannot afford for more children or to a woman whom her pregnancy is dangerous on her or on a family passing crisis and critical situation that the husband and wife use this method to avoid heavy burden of a new pregnancy.

Some they think and some they say that birth control is sin, and some they say we need to go by faith. But what I can say is this: If we have resources and we withhold of having children then that is not correct. Some who are young and have resources but withhold of having children because they just want to enjoy their lives. That is not correct because it will be better when they are younger in age to raise children as they are healthy and having more strength. It is also not correct when we don't have and continue to reproduce and then we beg for help. There are some people they keep reproducing because they want a boy or a girl. I know a family reproduced four girls just because they wanted a boy but God was not giving them. The same family was always in need and squeezed and they don't know how to fill the mouths of their children. Such families who act in such a way like what the family of Jacob did they give problems to their children; the inheritance that they will give to their children will be for example to shoulder to pay their loans and debts, paying the expenses of the younger siblings, forcing them to work early in age and spend on themselves and their education, paying their expenses in the house for living, etc. ***We should not act in such a way, and after that we cannot manage, we cannot provide and we cannot educate the large number of the children that we reproduce and ultimately we give troubles to our children because we had put aside the basic principle of stewardship. But rather we should know how to have self-control and how to live in the wisdom of God and take right decisions and correct steps that will express our true faith in God.***

It won't be correct to say that when God enables us to reproduce children, we can have them as many as possible. Because ultimately men act and the result are pregnancies and more children that we cannot care, and such bring troubles and poverty on ourselves and on our children and descendents. There won't be any difference between animals and humans if we don't act on the wisdom through faith given by God.

I agree about family planning to have children according to what you can afford in order to avoid unnecessary troubles and putting the family in crisis. I don't prohibit those who are led by God to do birth control when really they cannot go for another pregnancy. For example they are getting old and no more strength, or she has health problem or the risk of abnormalities that cannot be excluded above certain age, or financially they cannot afford for more. There are various methods to apply for birth control, I recommend first the natural methods and the easiest of them is the withdrawal method, other is using contraceptives as using disposable condoms, injections, contraceptive pills, intrauterine devices, etc.

But certain times even with family planning and birth control, the family may get another child that it was not planned for; in such situation it should be considered from God and for a certain purpose in their lives and the child should be accepted as a gift from God.

XVI. God forms the priesthood family: Both the husband and wife being a royal priesthood should agree upon these Biblical principles that were discussed, ***“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)*** It is not a long process, but they need principles to preserve the holiness and keep living away from sin and under God's blessings.

Therefore, a marriage that is built on the principles of God shall stand the test of time, and forever will carry on the priestly lineage of God's chosen people. Such a Godly marriage shall be a house that is built on the Rock, who is Christ and His Word. ***“24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” (Matthew 7:24-27 KJV)*** As we are challenged to build up Godly families, therefore, let us keep these valuable principles and the preparation for Godly marriage. It is a great responsibility laid on the Church and on every parent to keep Biblical principles in building up homes and families following God's plan. The aforementioned principles are to be practiced in building up Godly families who will successfully carry the Word of truth to the next generations, so the blessings of God will flow to our children and our children's children.

Every man and woman who is planning to marry is requested to abide and adapt these Godly principles and implement them in their newly formed Godly family. Let them cooperate and live in harmony and work together remembering His precious and life's changing Word: ***“9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 KJV)***

My Dear and Beloved: Come now to God and review and apply the message in your life:

Consider seriously and apply the principles of family planning and birth control and start to apply them in your life. God called you to be a good steward to all the resources that you had received from Him.

Consider all the principles of preparation for Godly marriage that we discussed in the previous messages of this series and start to apply them in your life, and God shall bless you and prosper you with your family and children.

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 the teaching that I received from you about family planning and birth control, and the rest of the teaching I received about preparation for Godly marriage. Lord thank you for all the resources that you had placed in my hands and thank you for my family.*

Now come to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your pride, you lack of humility and your disobedience to God's Word and commands. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and your lack of using appropriately the resources that God gave to you. Confess and renounce your lack of planning to your family and not heeding the warning you receive from God's Word. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God in your life and in the life of your family. 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 implement the teaching that I received in this message about family planning as well as all the rest of the principles about preparation for Godly marriage. Lord I surrender my plan and my will into your hands, willing to follow you and the good plan that you have for me. Lord give me the good health and the strength that I need to continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to do your will and comply with your Word that we received in this message. Lord give them wisdom and help them to take right decisions and correct steps in following your will. Lord help them in their lives, and as they obey you Lord fulfill your promises to them. Lord make their lives good example to others to follow you.

Lord, bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach your Word and commands. Lead us to continue to lead your people and give them the right advices and help them to take Godly decisions that go along your will and plan. We pray that you will continue to raise people who are willing to obey you and follow your teaching and your plans for them. Lord we pray that you will make more Godly marriages and form more Godly families in our church. Lord prepare us for your second coming. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and lead us to evangelize reaching new people, making new disciples and training new workers to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. 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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