

FAMILY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DYNAMICS

A  
BEGINNERS  
GUIDE

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## DEDICATION

To my beloved wife Alice for all her wonderful support. She is a model for the world to copy.

## Chapter 1

### WHAT IS A FAMILY?

A family is the smallest unit of human existence. It is the base foundation of a simple harmonious relationship between a man and a woman. It is the smallest nation on earth where God manifest his glory. An amalgamation of families makes up the church and nation.

Sometimes God even view a nation as a single family. Amos 3:2. A family is basically made up of first the man, who moves to cleave to a woman that will later be called his wife and their interaction, may or may not bring forth children. Gen 2:18.

The concept of the family is a product of God's thinking and initiative. He is the only one that can moderate and direct what is obtainable in it. Man is only to key in and follow His instructions in full details.

The first impression of God when He formed the first family was companionship. “¶ And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone;” Gen 2:18. So both man and woman are to be companion for each other in a family following the directives of God.

Procreation is a blessing arising from effective companionship. So, if God chooses to bless a family with children, we give Him all the glory. If He chooses not is at His discretion.

Sociologist has attempted to define the family as a small unit of human existence made up of the man and woman as foundation block and children as visitors to that union.

### TYPES OF FAMILIES

Basically there are four types of families

**NUCLEAR FAMILY** – It is basically made up of mum, dad and the kids. It expends according to the procreation power of the couples

**EXTENDED FAMILY** – A conglomerate of two or more nuclear families from one stock makes up an extended family. Here aunties, uncles and cousins appear in the list.

**SINGLE PARENT FAMILY** This type of family is generally becoming a norm even amongst Christians. It involves mum and children or Dad and children or Mum and child caused by fornication, divorce or death of a partner.

**CHILDLESS FAMILY** – This type of family is characterized by the absence of a child. Several factors are responsible for this status. It could be as a result of the lifestyle of the couples before marriage. It may be caused by a force beyond our eyes and knowledge (Rachael's barrenness was divinely arranged). It could also be as a result of poor understanding of mating rule or poor genotype matching before marriage.

From the eyes of sociology, the following are manifestations of families today

**TRADITIONAL FAMILY** – Here the man is the head of the family. He exerts pressure and leadership in his house. He is the main man and the only one whose voice is heard. His wife is viewed and treated as a property and the children are closer to their mum than him. His secrets are known by his friends and relative. His wife is not carried along. She is seen as stubborn and not submissive. The distance between him and his wife is so far that the woman now marry the children and stays in the marriage because of his children.

**COMPANIONSHIP FAMILY** – Here the woman is the bread winner. She directs the affairs of the family and is even the one that motivated the man to marry her. The man is a messenger of the woman. He handles all her projects and pay loyalty to the wife. His empowerment comes from the woman. The children here shift respect to their mum and sees their dad as a parasite. Some families degenerate into this family type when the man loses his job and is sustained by his wife and if he was a tyrant when he had a job.

**EGALITARIAN FAMILY** – This model of family portrays both husband and wife as equal. Both are working class and earn a salary. All their expenditures are jointly financed. Everybody faces their extended family needs and sometimes the main

family suffers need because of the unhealthy competition going on. The children here chose who takes care of them the most to obey. Their obedience is situational and drift as several events within the family evolves. There is also the possibility of collecting money from the two parents for one item by “sharp” children who benefit from the status quo.

**GOD FEARING FAMILY** – Here the man is the head of the family and the woman is his help meet. Gen 2: 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.*

She is a partner to help build the family. Prov 22:6 ¶ *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

The children are obedient and listen to the whistle of the father. Eph 6: 4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

This type of family follow the pattern that God has approved for mankind. Any family that does not fit into the mould of God is already a tool in the hands of the devil. No wonder Joshua declared;

Josh 24:15 ¶ *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

## **STAGES OF A FAMILY**

A family is a simple unit of individuals living together linked by blood through marriage. A family is formed when a man takes a wife inline with biblical injunction and cultural tone of the people.

From the bible we learn in Ge 2:24 *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

Culturally we learn too that Men who go to take women as wives pay some form of royalties and respect to their parent in laws for the head of their wife.

Some families have children as products of the relationship, while some families are not fortunate to have children. But that does not rob them of the title of being a

family. Today we want to look at the various stages that a family pass through in its life cycle.

### **STAGE 1**

**THE TWO ALONE:** This is the stage when only the man and woman are members of the family. It usually is the shortest period in the life cycle of the family. Nine months is the minimum period from the marriage date. At this stage the major challenge of the family is purely interpersonal and can be easily resolved granted that both parties are faithful Christians.

### **STAGE 2**

**THE TWO PLUS CHILDREN:** The arrival of children in a family announces the arrival of additional problems. Some of these challenges include

1. The sex of the babies
2. The up bringing of the babies Eph 6:4
3. School fees and other needs of the children 1Tim 5:8
4. The spiritual needs of the children Prov 22:6

This stage is usually the longest in the life cycle of the family. It can span for over 40 years and most of the challenges here are tempting and have the capability of either positive or negative impact on the family. These problems usually disappear once the children start leaving the home to start theirs.

### **STAGE 3**

**THE TWO ALONE:** After several years of sequential child up bringing, the children mature and stand on their own. They form their own families and most often live far away from their parents. So the parents return to their first position. Common challenges here include: loneliness, poke nosing into the affairs of the families of their children, and worries etc.

### **SUMMARY**

The family is the model setting of a big church. The church is made up small families coming together to form a big family. The health of the church is measured by the health of the individual families.

The shape a family takes depends on how well the foundation was laid and how well the various stages of the family were managed.

May God help us to grow our family the way he expects us.



## Chapter 2

### THE MAN AS A HEAD/ LEADER OF HIS FAMILY

A marriage based on godly principles is the key to a strong family.

Much weight is placed upon the shoulders of the husband to make sure that his family follows God's pattern.

As a leader, a husband, and a father the man in the family has great responsibility. Many families fall apart because men do not step up and take the lead or they do not lead with the kind of love and care that they should.

In this lesson we are going to discuss the role of the man in the family according to God's plan so that men may know how to be the kind of leaders Christ would have them be. We want to look at a man from the perspective of being the head and leader of his family.

#### **A man ought to lead his family like Christ: Eph. 5:23**

Whether a man fulfills his responsibility or not, it still remains that the success or failure of the home rests upon his shoulders. He ought to

1. Lead by example: John 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:21
2. Provide loving leadership: Eph. 5:28-29
3. Practice sacrificial leadership: Eph. 5:25
4. Practice tender, and caring leadership: 1 Pet. 3:7

#### **It is the responsibility of a man to take initiative: Josh. 24:15**

It lies squarely on the shoulders of the man as the leader of his family to initiate programmes and policies that will spiritually enrich and nourish his family. He is to give a policy guideline just like Joshua did "*As for me and my house, we will serve the lord...*"

Men, need to be leaders in spiritual matters, guiding the families in the counsel of the Lord.

We need to make sure our family is serving the Lord, that children are learning of the Lord, and the woman is also being edified.

We need to set the example in prayer, both personal and public, in Bible study, in serving others etc.

The church is not a house of representative where delegates are sent. It is a full family assembly where every single member of the family must be counted. So it rest on the shoulders of the man to mobilize his family to meet that goal.

The man must wake up if he is sleeping. He must shine his eyes if he is awake. After all he is the leader of the house. Whether a man fulfills his responsibility or not, it still remains that the success or failure of the home rests upon his shoulders.

## Chapter 3

### THE MAN AS A HUSBAND

The man becomes a husband upon taking a woman into his house as a wife. It is the presence of a woman in the house that qualifies a man to be called a husband. If no woman is in the house, he loses his husband status. Eph. 5:23

So, being a husband places upon the shoulders of a man some open and hidden responsibilities. The security, physical and spiritual wellbeing of the wife rests squarely upon the shoulders of the husband.

He should be able to provide accommodation

He should be able to place food on the table

He should be able to dress up his wife to his own taste.

He should be able to take his wife to God always.

He should not forget his “night” responsibilities.

As the head of the body reacts to take care of those parts of the body that need care, so it is the responsibility of the Husband to make sure all needs are being met.

As a husband it is his responsibility to forego selfish desires in order to ensure that the wife is cared for in physical and spiritual matters.

The husband is to lead by example; gives his life for those whom he leads.

He is to cherish, and nurture her; Eph. 5:28–29

He is to honor her: 1 Pet. 3:7

He is to submit to her needs: Eph. 5:21

All men should know that the success of the devotional life depends on their relationship with their wives.

*1Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

So if you treat your wife disrespectfully and abuse her, you are only using your hand to turn God’s face from your direction.

## Chapter 4

### THE MAN AS THE FATHER AND BREAD WINNER

Once a family enlarges to accommodate children and wards, the status of a man changes from not only being a husband and head of the house, but to a father. He is now to take full oversight of his family by providing for their needs. The children under him require adequate moral, spiritual and physical training. Eph. 6:4: puts training as the responsibility of the man. Mothers may spend the most time with the children than the men, but it is the main duty of a man to set the tone of his house. Too many fathers are not around. Their work and other activities pre occupies them and as such SHIFT the work to the woman to do as if it is her work. Some may be at home, but dont spend time with the children. Some don't have an observation eye to notice the changes in the lifestyles of their children. Some fathers simply lack the voice of a father. When this happens, the children FEAR their mum far above their dad. Fathers originally ought to teach the children how to work, how to serve others, how to be devoted to the Lord. Duet 6:5-8 is a distinct passage that cant be avoided once a man is a father. Heb. 12:9 places correction as another duty of the man as a father. Too many fathers are afraid of correction. You will hear them say "I don't want to drive them off." I don't want the children to see me as a mad and wicked man. Maybe the man need to be carefully reminded of what God said in Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15. Col. 3:21 encourages training but not provocation Eph. 6:4 encourages training supported with admonition. Some of us over concentrate on the academic well being of our children and neglect the spiritual aspect of life. Providing the needs of the family will provoke listening ears from the children. May the good lord make us have real men who will hold our homes as fathers so that the family will have the needed spiritual direction.

## Chapter 5

### TECHNICAL SUMMARY FOR ALL MEN

After looking at the man as a father, husband and leader of his family, we want to make a quick summary of the main points.

1. Know you are the man and act the man at all times.
2. Take pains to balance your time outside and inside your family. Know your children and make them feel you.
3. As a husband your principal duty is to love your wife like the way you did when you first met her.
4. As the head of department, you are expected to cater for the needs of the family and above all provide spiritual direction for the overall good of the family
5. As the bread winner, don't complain if all eyes focus on you to provide. After all, it was you who moved to the domain of the woman to woo her with sweet words and loads of promises. The children you have were invited by you the moment you engaged your wife sexually. So it is your cup of tea. Drink it with joy and ask God to empower you to carry out your responsibilities.
6. Let 1Tim 5:8 constantly ring in your head. God has prepared you to face that challenge.
7. The failure and success of your family greatly rest on your shoulders. The day you drop it for your wife to carry is the day you have lost your manliness. It is all in your hands. It is God that made it so. Your position is very attractive and too often challenging.
8. Set up a small family so that you can meet up with the demands and challenges of leading your family to God.

9. It is your responsibility to lead your family to heaven, let this be a constant reminder.
10. Pray for your family always.

## Chapter 6

### THE WOMAN AS THE HELP MEET OF THE MAN

*Genesis 2:18 ¶ And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 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.*

Soon after God created everything including man, he gave man a huge task of naming all the animals. While carrying out this assignment, Adam noticed that they were made male and female. He was the only exception. Unknown to him that God had a plan, he was made to sleep extra deep and a surgery was made on him and a rib bone was taken and a woman was formed and handed over to him.

God called the woman a help meet for the man.

- She is a man with a womb designed to carry to carry a child which a man will give.
- She is the neck upon which the head rest
- She is the divinely approved helper for the man in all things
- She is designed to be loved and cherished by man
- Her arrival signals the time for the attraction of God's favour.

1Cor 11:8-9; Eph 5:28-30, Pr 18:22;

Being a helpmeet does not mean

- She is inferior to the man
- She is a house property or personal effect
- She is a house help

A peep into God's word reveal that man have severally attempted to distort the original formular of God.

- Today some families are headed by the woman and the man turns a help meet.
- Today some women are now even providing for the family more than the man

- Today some men are not satisfied with ONLY ONE HELP MEET. Extra marital affairs is rampant.

Mtt 19:5; Mrk 10:6-8; Eph 5:31; 1Tim 5:8

A God fearing help meet will

- Always listen to the head of the family for direction and guidance
- Respect and submit to the will of the one she is helping
- Always be ready to support his man to be successful and
- Always seek the good of the man.

We pray that our women are indeed help meets and that we men treat them truly as God will want us to handle them knowing they are joint heirs with us in the things of the kingdom.

## Chapter 7

### THE WOMAN AS THE WIFE

The woman becomes a wife upon being married to a man. This change of status now changes her name from woman to wife.

As a wife she has the following responsibilities

She is to constantly remember that love brought her here and the price of love is submission in all ramifications. Today, we see partial submission and copy it from our peers thinking God is happy. Read *Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

She is the neck of the family and as such must coordinate the resources that the man will provide. The bread brought by the winner must be processed to the level it can be consumed by the family.

She is to provide the necessary emotional comfort to settle the taste of the husband so that he will not be tempted to look outside. 1Cor 7:1-6. This is even the principal reason why the man married you. Denials always make you loose your title as wife and very honestly expose your husband to external aggressors desiring to come in and take over your functions.

She is the needed companion to help the man think and act well. Any man without a woman is incomplete because it is God who say so Gen 2:18

She is to know that her basic responsibility is to take care of the husband. She is to obey him and even call him the lord of her life. 1Pet 3:5-6

She is supposed to pray for him to succeed and discharge his responsibilities well within and outside his family.

A wife holding her husband well is usually accused of using love portion to close the eyes of the man.

As a wife a woman main focus is the husband. She loses the title of a wife once the husband no longer exist.

May God help us to be husbands and wives that meet the standard set by God in his word.

## Chapter 8

### THE WOMAN AS A MOTHER

A woman is a very complex creature of God and must be cherished by all men. She is a carefully made creature not from dust but from man. She is the man with a womb. That explains why she is called woman. Because she has a womb, the outcome of that womb is children.

Once a child arrives, her role as a help meet and wife expand to accommodate the arrival of a powerful but fragile visitor to the house.

The child spends most of the time with the mother and so she is the first teacher of the child. *Pr 29:15 ¶ The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

She is the assistant headmaster of the family and the major executor of the policy direction of the head of the house. *Pr 6:20 ¶ My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*

She starts early to train and nurture the child or children to follow the pathway of the lord. It is indeed wonderful if she is grounded in the word of the lord. Failure here spells doom for the entire family. *Pr 31:1 ¶ The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him. Pr 10:1 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.*

She ought to constantly brief the head of the family on the progress the family is making in the home front. This is one area mothers fail. Some events in the house take most fathers by surprise, even when the mother of the child is in the know.

*Pr 19:18 ¶ Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.*

As a mother, your major role is the upbringing of your ward. Your husband is the attacker while you are both the goal keeper, defender and midfielder.

Try your best to make the children respect your husband their father. It is in your hands. Great men today were moulded by their mothers and grand mothers. 2  
*Tim1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also*

## Chapter 9

### TECHNICAL SUMMARY FOR WOMEN

1. Know you are the woman and act the woman at all times.
2. Take pains to balance your time outside and inside your family. Know your children and make them feel you especially if you are the working class.
3. As a wife your principal duty is to be submissive your husband like the way you did when you first met him. You owe your husband 100 percent submission. See Sarah submitted so much that she called her husband lord.
4. Realize that as a mother, you have a strong role to play in shaping the future of the children.
5. As a help meet, you are to settle his emotional desires always. Many who hoard this God given possession may not be familiar with 1Cor 7:1-6, thus exposing their husband to grave danger. Note that without you he is incomplete.
6. As a wife, know when to speak to your husband and when to present a request before him. Take time to study the book of Esther and you will know the power and importance of proper timing.
7. As a wife don't join the club of women who neglect their conjugal obligation and claim they are in marriage because of their children. Remember, your husband comes first.
8. Help your husband realize his dreams in life.
9. Help your husband enter heaven.
10. Pray for your husband and family always.

## Chapter 10

### MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE FAMILY

Any right thinking human will agree that as the family moves from the status of being two to three, the economic model of that family will certainly be altered to accommodate that expansion.

The needs of the family will definitely increase. So today we want to critically examine how these needs can be met propelled by an honest disposition.

The family needs could be financial, emotional, sexual and psychological.

The basic points to note is that based on Gen 3:16 (V 16 ¶ *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee*) and 1Tim 5:8, it is the full responsibility of the man to meet the needs of his family. It rest squarely on his shoulders.

The woman as a help meet is to HELP the man realize this objective. She is to play the supportive role with all she has to make the home well. She is given a model in Prov 31: 10 down

*10 ¶ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.*

*11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

*12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

*13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.*

*14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.*

*15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.*

*16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard*

In meeting these needs of the family, the man must always cross check his strength.

He will be foolish to bite more than he can chew.

He must work on his family size.

He must work on his lifestyle.

He must discipline his expenditure style

He must be prayerful and thus demonstrate a strong faith and conviction that God will help him succeed. Heb 11:6

He must not compel the wife to support him. The support should come naturally.

A Christian man must balance his supplies to meet the needs of the family. Meeting the emotional and financial needs of the family without supplying the sexual needs will lead the woman astray. Also being interested in mostly meeting the sexual need of the family without a corresponding fire power in meeting the financial demands of the family is looking for trouble.

All members of the family should be carried along. The all in all of the needs of the family lies in the hands of the man to provide. After all he is the head of the family

## Chapter 11

### COMMON AREAS OF CONFLICTS IN A FAMILY

The family is a creation of God. He is the model director and man is the site engineer. Since the execution lies in the hands of man, there is need to immediately identify common areas where conflicts can occur in the family. This is done with the spirit of Prov 22:3 in mind. It is important to state first and foremost that conflict is not all that bad as in some cases, it becomes an eye opener that will help others not to venture through that road at all.

#### INEFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Most family run into trouble once communication is destroyed. The husband, wife and children can't share their vision together and therefore each will be working at cross purposes. Sometimes this even leads to double buying of the same item and sometimes being duped by the children who collect the same item from both parents.

#### FINANCIAL HANDLING

Some families are faced with financial management problems. Either both husband and wife are not open to each other or one of them is hiding his financial details from the other. The woman in most cases are usually the ones not carried along. Surprisingly too some women execute projects without the knowledge of the husband yet living in one house. This ought not to be so.

#### LACK OF SEXUAL INTIMACY

The rule set by Paul in 1Cor 7:3-7 is grossly violated in most families. The man may not be there to provide his emotional investment or the woman has refuse to submit. Sometimes, the women even use it as a demand tool to put pressure or vent her anger on the man.

#### MARRIED FOR THE WRONG REASONS

Some people were married for some reasons and once those reasons fade the family will experience crisis.

#### NO JOINT DISCIPLINE

Most often some parent take sides with their children and discipline is rubbished. Most women cover their children with the idea that they carried the child for 9 months and as such the man should not kill their baby for them. This makes the children love the one protecting them and hate the one disciplining them.

#### INFIDELITY

Most families are made to suffer once one of the party in the marriage is unfaithful. Either some of the family funds are diverted to empower the outside extra marital activity. This in some cases lead to "outside children" and the fire of this act is felt

when the assets of the man is about to be shared at his death. The ‘resident children’ regard the ‘visiting child’ as an intruder

### **UNFORGIVING HEART**

Once the spirit of forgiveness is lost in a family, that family is bound to fail. Since the pencil was made with eraser, all married people should create room for forgiving their spouse or forget about success in marriage.

### **ONE SIDED FOCUS**

This plays out when the man or woman over concentrate on taking care of his “people” or vice versa. Some men have a good calendar of all social events of their family people and pay little attention to those of their wife’s. This happens too with the women will feed her family members but there is no food for her husband’s people.

### **HOUSE HELP ISSUES**

The choice of a house help today is posing a big family challenge. For peace to reign, it is getting clear that the house help most likely “ought” to come from the wife’s family. While this will go well with the woman, most men who don’t have self control end up having a second wife from within their house. However, if the house help comes from the family of the man, interpersonal conflict between the woman of the house and the househelp will arise always and peace will be sent far away. Some house helps too are now viewed with the eye of being initiated in a cult and capable of destroying the entire family in the “night”.

### **BARENESS AND INFERTILITY**

Because the African man believes much in procreation, any family without a child is heading for big trouble. No amount of bible teaching on companionship will make the couple calm down. This desperation is also fuelled by friends and in-laws who either accuse the man or woman of infertility. Sometimes this leads to extra marital affairs by the man or the woman to test their potency. Some have gone into wild activities of even pretending to be pregnant and then buy a baby from the now fashionable baby factories springing up in some parts of the country.

### **SEX OF THE BABY**

Most families are torn apart by the sex of the baby given to them by God. Because of high biological illiteracy, most men blame their wife for producing a certain sex of the child. A close analysis shows it is what the man gives the woman that is kept and nursed by the woman and delivered as a baby after 9 months.

This single challenge has led so many to go outside their marriage window in search of their choice sex and the result of such expedition is emotional devastating.

Christians must be reminded that God loves us all John 3:16 and his plan towards us is excellent.

Let us pray that God make us jump and pass some of these challenges and live as he expects us.

## Chapter 12

### COMMON CAUSES OF QUARRELS

A quarrel is simple exchange of words in an unpleasant manner which usually leads to so many un-planned events

Two or more persons are required for a quarrel to be activated.

Jam 4:1-2, Prov 27:15; Prov 21:19, IPet3:8-10;

### COMMON CAUSES OF QUARRELS AMONGS FAMILIES

#### POOR UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER

When couples don't have a good understanding of each other's intent and motives in doing things, the end result is quarrelling.

#### POOR UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S BACKGROUND

Since our backgrounds are different, failure to take one's background into consideration in doing things, will ultimately land the couple in a quarrel

#### POOR LISTENING SKILLS

Some instructions require adequate listening skills. Failure to listen to the information well may lead one to doing the thing differently and a quarrel is close by.

#### POOR METHOD IN SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER

Shouting and harsh words can spark off a quarrel.

#### POOR METHOD OF RESPONDING TO EACH OTHER

Harsh response to a soft word can spark off a quarrel.

#### ONE SIDED BENEVOLENCE

Over focusing benevolence to one side of the family may spark off a quarrel.

#### PURSUING DIFFERENT GOALS

When a family is moving at opposite direction, the tendency of interest clash will set in, leading to a quarrel.

#### POOR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE POSITION ON THE SUBJECT MATTER IN CONTENTION

Refusing to seek the position of God on an issue can spark of a quarrel.

#### DENYING EACH OTHER OF SEXUAL EXCITEMENT

When one party withholds the dividends of marriage, a quarrel is very close and can explode.

#### MAKING REFERENCE TO ONE'S FAULTS ALWAYS

Commenting on one's fault each time a misunderstanding crops up can spark up a quarrel.

#### NEGLECTING THE YEARNING OF A PARTNER

Sometimes men tend to overlook the complaint of their wives and vise versa and this could trigger a quarrel.

## OVERLOADING A PARTNER WITH RESPONSIBILITIES

Being overwhelmed with much responsibilities could breed a ground to be easily provoked, thus quarreling is brought forward.

## THE EFFECTS OF HAVING A QUARRELING SPIRIT

1. Quarreling is not a fruit of the spirit.
2. Quarreling too often is referred as nagging and a very good tool of scattering an already molded family.
3. Quarreling makes the Christian family sick of evangelizing their neighbourhood.
4. Quarreling shows to a large extent, the poor conflict resolution skills of the couples.
5. It leads to a shaky family and words exchanged may be difficult to extract.

## THE WAY FORWARD

Listen well and think well before reacting to an issue

Study and know each other's likes and dislikes

Know that your neighbours and Christ are watching you keenly and marks are awarded.

Develop very serious shock absorbers and learn to swallow something for the sake of peace.

Work on how you answer your spouse. Learn and adjust your answer pattern.

## Chapter 13

### SEVEN REASONS WHY MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS EXISTS AND IS IN THE INCREASE

1. **GREED.** Most men are greedy and want to eat all the food available in a party instead of sticking to the only one choice they made when the list was given to them. James 1:14 captures it all; 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.
2. **DENIAL AT HOME:** most women due to so many factors, some known some unknown, deny their man of sex contrary to 1Cor 7:2-6. So many men are sent astray by this single act. The reason behind this position is that the male react to sex and sexuality differently from the female.
3. **LACK OF SELF CONTROL:** some Christian simply lack a basic ingredient required of all of God's children. Once the self control of a man or woman is weaken, he is open to any sin at any time. Prov 25:28 ¶ He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. It is so bad that some males can go into anything in skirts.
4. **PRE MARITAL LIFESTYLE:** research has shown that a young man who was a disciplined fornicator will likely be a discipline and faithful man in marriage. On the contrary, anyone who was not well disciplined even as a fornicator will likely be wayward and unfaithful in his marital life.
5. **LACK OF SELF EVALUATION:** most Christian are not aware of several warnings found in the scriptures especially in Heb 12;1-2. A good self appraisal will show a man his area of weakness. This single knowledge ought to guide the man on his actions and inactions. Some brethren ignore their weakness and walk as if they are strong enough to withstand the pressure from the opposite sex. Several heavy men of God fall just because of this point. No wonder Paul said in 1Cor 10:11, he who thinks he is standing should take heed lest he fall.

Before we wake up to heap blames on the devil, let us examine this passage again. James 1: 13 ¶ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Sexual immorality is devastating and can destroy the entire physical and spiritual life of a Christian. No wonder Paul said we should flee from all youthful; lust and all appearances of evil.

6. **BARRENNESS:** The pressure put up by infertility and bareness is a huge mountain difficult for those involved to overcome. Extra marital affairs is then seen as normal. Parents openly advise their sons to go and get children from another woman since “this one is a man” apparently referring to the wife of their son. Some women are advised too by mostly their peers to go outside of marriage and get a child for their supposed impotent husband. Even some unfaithful members of the church show approval with their body language when a family without a child is found to be involved in extra marital affair.
7. **CORRESPONDENCE MARRIAGE:** the injunction by Paul in 1Cor 7:3-5 is one of the greatest abused passages found in the scriptures by those engaged in correspondence marriages. Correspondence marriage here refers to a marriage where the man lives very far from the wife and occasionally visits with the family. Because of the high rate of unemployment, it is the job first before the family. So even if the job keeps the man in Jos and the wife in Ogoja, both will agree to manage the situation. This management method is strang to God and not even contemplated in the entire scriptures. Peter gave us a perfect example. He was seen traveling always with his wife for his missionary trips. 1Cor 9:5. Marital unfaithfulness sets in when the man far from his wife decides to ‘cool off’ with a strange woman. Also the woman not being a “firewood” may be lured to submit to a strange man.

Let us hear the warning from God

Heb 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

### DEALING WITH CONFLICTS IN A FAMILY

The quality of a family is measured by how well it is able to deal with the crisis that befalls it. Today we will look at possible biblical ways in which we will employ to handle conflicts within a family.

1. *Pray and be willing the conflict should be resolved* – the prayers may be individually or both can come together to pray. This coming together is the first step that the parties are willing to have the crisis ended. 2Thes 5:17.
2. *Identify the root cause of the conflict with a humble spirit* – all conflicts have their immediate and remote causes. Christian must avoid burying deep seated hatred which can explode. Matt 12:34 So in looking for the root cause, we need everyone to open up. God hates murmurings 1Cor 10:10
3. *Admit fault when found guilty* – a true Christian is quick to admit his fault. David did not argue when Nathan told him his fault. 2Sam12:13
4. *Don't look outside the conflict* – some people look beyond the conflict and remember old wounds and past experiences. These only aggravate the situation and make resolution difficult.
5. return to the normal mood soon or allow the devil control you –Eph 4:26, V31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:
6. *Work out what suits your family best knowing that God is watching you.* Every family is unique. Some prefer to resolve it alone, others can call a third party. While others will want it solved early in the morning, others prefer late in the night before sleeping.
7. *Pray for forgiveness and healing of wounds arising from that crisis.* Each Christian should be ready to accommodate each other and by extension forgive each other. Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
8. *Don't be selective in forgiving those involved in a conflict.* Some are in the attitude of forgiving maybe only their spouse but all those who contributed in one way or the others are marked asterisk and kept unforgiven until Christ return. This is a negative spirit and should not be once names amongst us.

Please it is important all know that unless we properly identify the root cause of the conflicts, we will be wasting our time attempting to resolve it.

You are responsible to resolve all your conflicts in your home alone. No one will build your home for you. It is in our hands. May the good lord help us resolve our conflicts before the devil takes control. Amen.

## CHAPTER 15

### DEVELOPING MY FAMILY

God expects that we grow our family to maturity. Because when it grows to maturity, the constituents of the family will not depart from the foundation laid in the times afore.

Our lesson today shall be focused on three fundamental ways of developing our families.

### DEVELOPING MY FAMILY SPIRITUALLY

The first true priority of any Christian man who owns a family should be to develop them spiritually.

1. Teach them to know God and all the principles of life.
2. Teach them to grow depending on God for all their supplies. Psm 121:1-2
3. Teaching them to study God's word as a foundation to help them grow their faith. Rom 10:17, 2 Tim 2:15, Psm 1:1-3
4. Teach them to create time in their life for personal devotion to God so that they will draw near God Jam 4:8
5. The training of children by parents is a time based event. Prov 19:18. Once you miss the time, you miss it all.

### DEVELOPING MY FAMILY MORALLY

The lifestyle of members of the family clearly explains the quality and quantity of training received in that family.

- Members of the family should be taught to be truth tellers at all times Eph 4:25
- Teach them to dress appropriately with all modesty 1Tim 2:9-10
- Teach them to live for Christ even amidst challenges like Daniel Dan 1:8
- Teach them to be shining examples to their peers and contemporaries 1Tim 4:12
- The training of children by parents is a time based event. Prov 19:18. Once you miss the time, you miss it all.

### DEVELOPING MY FAMILY ECONOMICALLY

The family must realize that it is the first school for economic success of the members of that family.

- Members should be taught the trade of the head or wife. Jesus learnt carpentry from his father.
- Educating them should be a great priority of the head of the family.
- Empowering them to take off in life is a vital component of growth and development.

- The training of children by parents is a time based event. Prov 19:18. Once you miss the time, you miss it all.

God expects the family to live in peace one with another and to radiate the love of God to the world to see. 2Cor 3:2

One sided focus alone will lead to disaster.

All parents must as a matter of urgency adopt the style of Job in Job 1:3-8 who regularly pray and fast for the well being of his children because as we sow into them instructions from the lord, the devil is equally uprooting it out, or makes the instruction look unreliable and obsolete in the heart of the children.

May the good lord empower us to develop our families to his standard. Amen.

## CHAPTER 16

### BASIC FOUNDATION IN PARENTING

#### Training strategy

*Pr 22:6 ¶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

*Pr 22:15 ¶ Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.*

*Pr 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.*

*Pr 29:15 ¶ The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*

#### Training has a time frame of success

*Pr 19:18 ¶ Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying*

#### The method is specified

*Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

#### The training course outline is specified

*De 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;*

*De 11:19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

*Ps 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

#### Some good examples

##### 1. ABRAHAM

*Ge 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

##### 2. JOSHUA

*Jos 24:15 ¶ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*

**2 great men fumbled and were not happy with the result**

**ELI** 1Sam 2:22-25 and **SAMUEL** 1Sam 8:1-3 greatly worked for the lord but did not pay great attention to the development of their family and the result was a great disaster that fell upon their families.

**The end result will show a great family**

*Pr 23:24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.*

## Chapter 17 JOINT DISCIPLINE

The training of children is a joint responsibility of both the mother and father in any home. Fathers are specifically charged to train and nurture the children in the way of the Lord Eph 6:3-4. However in Prov. 22:6, the charge is to both parents. The same is with the charge in Deut 6:6-7, Deut 4:9, Deut 11:19. Providing discipline starts with the formulation of rules and principles that govern the home. The man as the head sets out the rules and boundary/limit of the children's activities for the entire family to follow. He too should spell out what punishment is meted out to those who default.

Pr 20:11 “ Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.”

Pr 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Pr 22:15 ¶ Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Pr 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Pr 23:24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

Pr 29:15 ¶ The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Pr 29:21 ¶ He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.

### **WHY THE CORRECTION MUST BE JOINT BUSINESS OF FATHER AND MOTHER**

- It makes the family strong
- The children cannot take sides and plan coups
- Obedience is quietly instilled
- The head is respected by all

### **WHEN CORRECTION IS ONE-SIDED (DONE BY ONE PARTY ALONE)**

- The family shall be sick
- The children shall favour the quiet partner and relate well with them
- It creates an enabling environment for coup plots within the family
- Makes the family wear a polygamous shirt in outlook
- Disobedience reigns supreme

### **THE WAY FORWARD**

- Know what your children are doing and how well they are doing it

- Know where there are and what they are doing at any particular time
- Ask plenty questions especially those still living under your roof
- Watch out for changes in behaviors and act immediately
- Alert your spouse of any information you have concerning any child
- Pray consistently for your children to make them what God expects from them
  - Remember the church is not a house of representatives where delegates are sent. ALL must be a part of the blessing.

## Chapter 18

### FAMILY DEVOTION

Devotion is a time to draw to God– to praise him for his goodness, thank him for his protection, listen to him to speak to us through his words and present our requests before him.

Family devotion now is defined as a time set aside by the leader of the family to sing, learn and pray to God.

Family devotion is the most vital ingredient in church growth and healthy family development.

#### REASONS FOR FAMILY DEVOTION

1. To worship God. The family learns how to worship God in their devotion and places a platform for future spiritual assignment.
2. Showing leadership in giving respect to the creator from whom all power and blessing flow. When the children grow to know that their father wants them to honour God each day in their life, it will be very difficult to erase it in their minds.
3. To honour God.
4. To develop the family in the culture of God. God speaks, we listen. Family devotion therefore creates this singular opportunity to listen to the lord.
5. To deepen the faith of the family in the things of God. We need to hear and do Jam 1:22, Matt 4:4, Rom 10:17, Heb 11:6
6. To teach the family the whole counsel of God. Duet 6:6–7, II Tim 2:15, Prov 22:6
7. To learn how to conduct oneself in the whole assembly
8. To present our request before the throne of grace
9. To demonstrate our total dependency on God for providence, guidance and protection.
10. To praise him for his majesty and wonderful work.
11. A channel of capacity development for the church.
12. To emphasize the teachings of the whole assembly.

## CHALLENGES TO FAMILY DEVOTION

1. Some parents have not even stated it at all.
2. Human factor of sleep and waking late
3. Misunderstanding between the head and the neck of the family which has not been resolved.
4. The time frame too long and unattractive
5. Distant marriages; daddy in Enugu, mum in Calabar
6. Children in boarding houses with a porous and shallow devotion line

## SOME USEFUL TIPS

1. Choose a chapter per day and divide it into verses for your family members to read.
2. Appoint a song leader for the week
3. Introduce memory verse for the week
4. Give room for prayer request
5. Appoint one person to pray and then the leader summarizes the prayer.

### HANDLING FAMILY FINANCES

The family is made up principally of the husband and wife. The children are visitors of the house that God blesses the family with. As the family needs increases and becomes wide, there is need for us as Christians to critically study how the finances of the family are managed.

We will look at it from three perspectives;

- Man alone is working
- Both husband and wife are working
- Woman alone is working

#### MAN ALONE IS WORKING

It is the responsibility of the man to provide leadership, and the basic necessities for the entire family 1Tim 5:8.

The wife as his partner and friend should have a good knowledge of the monthly take home.

His vision and plans must be made known to the entire family.

The wife ought to be carried along in the execution of the plans as some of the family contracts can be handled by the wife who shall give account at the end of the day. 1Cor 4:2

The husband should not look down on the wife at all.

Research has shown that there is no need for the man to hide his take home from the wife

*The money is our money, not my money and we are friends forever.*

#### BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE WORKING

The husband is still the main provider of the family Gen 3:16.

God has empowered the woman to be a helper, supporter and a friend of the man. Prov 31:13

So both of them ought to pull their resources together in the spirit love and understanding and move the family forward.

In some cases, some women extend submission to even their take home and let their husbands have control over it and directs how it shall be applied.

Others give maximum support in the area they see the family having a need and the husband is handicap financially.

In some families, the entire family needs are put together and the resources applied in each area.

In some family too, the man becomes more interested in the woman's take home alone and the woman resist such interest and declare that her take home is hers. I recommend that each family apply what formular suits them but transparency and accountability must be the watch word. Luke 16:1-2

*The money is our money, not my money and we are friends forever.*

## WOMAN ALONE WORKING

The man may be temporary out of Job or incapacitated.

He is still the head of the house and should command a lot of respect.

The woman should carry him along in the planning and execution of family projects bearing in mind that the man may bounce back soon.

The family should be strong in prayers for the head to get a job and reclaim his responsibilities fully.

It is here that the humility profile and submissive level of the woman of the woman is known.

*The money is our money, not my money and we are friends forever.*

Technically, after a short while in the marriage, a man should know the best model to adopt to make the family move forward.

Some men think it is pride not to be interested in what the woman earns and they carry all the burdens alone. The woman is independent and operates so. While at the surface this model brings peace to the family, the after effect of this model is usually a shock to the man. The family is a team. The man is the main provider and the woman his main backbone supporter.

Research has shown that any marriage that only one side is providing may likely collapse. The man can one wake up and ask the woman to go. After all, none of her inputs is in the house. No right thinking man can honestly send his supportive wife away knowing the vacuum that will be created by her absence.

A man must know that God fearing women are always very supportive of their husband. Sometimes they even do a thing in the name of the husband for the husband.

Care must equally be taken in the name reflected on the purchase receipt or major agreement document of the family. I have seen a family thorn apart because of the name written on the purchase receipt of the deep freezer. Both husband and wife should agree on what should be reflecting on their receipt.

It is important to state that very serious minded Christians don't even care about this issue because separation is not contemplated in their mind. Marriage is everlasting.



## Chapter 20

### IF JESUS WERE TO VISIT YOUR HOME TODAY

Perhaps you were not informed of his coming

Will he find the home the way he expected it to be?

Supposing he came before 6 am, will he find a functional devotional service to participate?

Supposing he came in the middle of the morning, will he find you absent from your home and in worship?

How will the home look like?

Supposing he met you in a quarrelling mode?

Suppose he came and the words he heard coming out of your mouth had no salt and cant even edify your spouse?

Just imagine him in your home and the movie the family is watching is the type that can even corrupt him, or the music vibrating from the player is such that is filled with immoral lyrics.

Supposing he decided to search your home very seriously, will he find evidence that you are a Christian indeed?

Will a dusty hymn book and an unused bible for weeks not spoil your record?

Supposing he needed your neighbor to testify about your Christian life, will you get a good report?

How will you feel if the master visit your home and met you with a hidden grudge and an unforgiving heart?

Are peace, love, unity and harmony permanent members of the family or occasional visitors?

Brethren, let us clean up our homes of filthy stuff that may likely disqualify us in case Jesus visits our home in the physical.

Our homes are a front of the church in our community. A good home portray the church in good light.

He sees us every minute of our lives.

Matt 26:41

Mark 13:33

Mark 12:30

The time to make adjustment is now. Turn and take a critical overview of your family and see if it is in line with the expectations of the lord.

## Chapter 21

### WHY ARE WE LOOSING OUR CHILDREN TO THE DEVIL?

Today our children right, under our nose are, gradually drifting from the faith we have given to them.

Once our children leave home to school, we may not get them back the same.

What is really the problem?

I have outlined here three basic points that I think are responsible for us losing our children to the devil even when they are right under our roofs.

The goal of this lesson is to awake the consciousness in us to take up the full training of our children in the way of the lord.

We are losing our children because of

1. Lack of knowledge:
2. Lack of preparation for combat
3. Lack of protection of the mind of our children.

### LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

*Ho 4:6 ¶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

Most of our children are not equipped with knowledge. Their knowledge bank account is too minimal to be able to provide an answer for their faith.

*1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*

If our children don't have sufficient knowledge of God's word, how can they defend their faith in times of need?

Maybe they may use mummy's faith

Maybe they may use daddy's faith

No, that's not possible. It is now 'ONE MAN ONE FAITH'

Lack of knowledge in the word of God, allow the sins of doubt to germinate and grow.

The children will be with us in church and are just "hibernating". No wonder when they leave us, hurray it is all over.

Solution

*Pr 22:6 ¶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

*Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

*2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

## LACK OF PREPARATION FOR COMBAT

Most of us parents see this world as a very nice place. We know there is evil everywhere, but we most often failed in the preparation of our children to face the challenges of this world.

If you see the world as a battle ground, then you will take the house and the church as a military base. Take a look at this passage:

*Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

*15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

*16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

Today 98% of parents here prepare their children to school. Fees are paid, books bought, pocket money given, bus/bike fee paid, and children are set for school. Just imagine for one minute:

*Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

In our world today, sin is cheered and righteousness is laughed at.

Having a boyfriend in those days was a taboo for students. In fact any student caught was either first laughed at by those who don't have and called 'corrupt'. But today the reverse is the case.

If we see the world as a battle field, we will be forced to prepare our children well to face it. The band wagon effect can easily sweep a poorly prepared child.

## SOLUTION

*Pr 22:6 ¶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

*Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

*2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

## LACK OF ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF OUR CHILDREN

On daily basis, the devil has arranged a programme of event for our children. If we don't help to protect their minds and hearts now that it is still tender, it will be difficult when it has been moulded by the devil.

We sometimes even help supervise or assist the devil in his work.

A man once hired a gardener to take care of his compound. Every day, the gardener brings the children close to himself and start injecting several worldly beliefs and concepts into the minds of the kids. One day it was noticed by the father who immediately rebuked him. Nothing happened after then. All of us here will condemn that man and wonder why he did not even drive the man away or worse still hand him over to the police for coming to corrupt our children.

Today we all have that gardener. His name is TELEVISION. We pay subscription, and unknown to us that 25% of the channels there are mouthpiece of the devil. The devil sermon is brought right into our homes and our children are fed with the devils junk which can even affect how they look at us. Our children question in their hearts when they watch some MIRACLE INFESTED channels. It may not be too long even their prayer points will be HOLYGHOST FIRE.

Lot is a classical example: his daughters were virgins in a corrupt land, but their minds were infested with evil. One day, the opportunity came and they immediately went to their mind bank and withdrew what was deposited by the devil and used it for that rainy day.

What is your TV bringing to your home?

What is your computer bringing to your home?

What is your powerful handset or blackberry?

Have you taken time to analyse to the lyrics of music your children hear?

Have you analyse the type and quality of the friends your children

*Pr 27:17 ¶ As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*

## Conclusion

Let us go back and start all over if heaven is our goal.

My goal is to go to heaven and I encourage my kids to have that goal equally.



## Chapter 21

### BASIC PRINCIPLE OF BUILDING A HEALTHY MARRIAGE

1. Pray daily together. The form is optional, but some brethren argue that praying holding hands make the bond of marriage last long.
2. Don't be fast to conclude on any issue. There is more to know when you ask that conclude on what you see.
3. Develop the attitude of listening to the opinion of the other partner before taking a major family decision.
4. Learn to be very appreciative of anything you receive from your spouse.
5. Avoid open criticism of your spouse especially before those younger than your spouse.
6. Open praise of your spouse is welcome.
7. Use the nights and quiet periods to resolve your disagreements.
8. Take time out daily to mention your spouse to God for his blessing and empowerment.
9. Learn to take a walk with your spouse at least once in a while.
10. Surprise gifts help to oil the wheel of marriage.

## FAMILY PRAYERS

### MAN AND HUSBAND

Dear lord in heaven. I am confident in your ability to help me grow my family the way you desired it to be.

At this moment, I hand over my wife to you. Please lord; help me mould her for your service. Give her the intellect to manage the home in my absence. Teach me to first love her sufficiently to motivate her submission.

Bless her enough to bless me. Give her a large heart to accommodate my mistakes and above all help us both to train the children you have blessed us with.

My humble request is in Jesus name, Amen.

### WOMAN AND WIFE

Our most merciful lord, the maker of mankind. We give you all the glory, honour and power.

Thank you for blessing me with a wonderful husband. I desire above all things that you empower him to be able to meet up with his responsibilities as the head of the family.

Make him know you well. This will be good for me and the family.

Bless him for me and me only.

Teach him to love me and his family. Guide and protect him as he runs about in search of the family bread.

I know you will do it for me in Jesus name, Amen.

## SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM OF MARRIAGE

1. Your spouse can not think exactly like you. So don't expect her or him to accept all your proposals 100 percent.
2. Write your spouse a love letter or send him or her a powerful text message of love once every month.
3. Make sure you bath together regularly.
4. Eat together at least once a day.
5. Play game like ludo or chess or scrabble together once in a while.
6. Create room for discussing issues and don't go to bed with any issue unresolved.
7. Make tourism and outing a regular feature of your family.
8. There is power in a surprise gift.
9. Don't ever create an enabling environment to be suspected by your spouse.
10. Just trust your spouse for life. It keeps the soul of the marriage alive.
11. Pray together always.