

Welcome to The Citadel Global Community Church where stars are born and great futures are created.
 Welcome to the home of consummate and conscientious nation builders whose hearts are open to the plans of the Holy Spirit, and in whose lives all things godly are possible because we choose to win by righteousness.

GOD'S ORDER FOR MARRIAGE

...Marriage is not a battlefield of rights, but a covenant of duties

By Pastor Tunde Bakare

The Two Faces of Marriage

Marriage embodies a dual nature. It can either be heaven on earth (an earthly representation of heaven, filled with love and harmony) or a reflection of hell (marked by strife and discord). Whether a marriage is heaven on earth or a reflection of hell totally depends on the couples' relationship. In Christendom today, many couples live under the same roof as enemies! The difference does not lie in chance but in the determination of those in a marital relationship to align with God's original purpose.

I was married on November 24, 1984, and the first three years were turbulent—our home was more of a boxing ring than a sanctuary of worship. However, in 1988, after much prayer and intercession, God revealed His design for marriage to us. As we aligned ourselves with His will, our marriage was transformed. Remarkably, our children noted and testified to the difference.

Why Marriages Become Hell

● Ignorance of God's Design

Marriage is not man's idea; it is God's. Yet, most couples marry for reasons that ignore His intent. Some marry for children, forgetting that God first said, *"Be fruitful and multiply"* (**Genesis 1:28**) before declaring, *"It is not good for man to be alone"* (**Genesis 2:18**). When foundations are wrong, storms will expose the cracks (**Psalms 11:3**). The answer is not divorce but rebuilding on God's word. You can break down the old altar and build a new one using the same venue and material.

● The Lie of Modern Culture

Society glorifies singleness and normalises divorce as freedom! God does not want you to be a respected single parent, except your spouse is dead. And even as a single parent, there is still provision for you to remarry. Scripture says, *"God sets the solitary in families"* (**Psalms 68:6**). His design is companionship, covenant, and unity—not isolation or rivalry.

● Wrong Motivations for Marriage

Many marriages fail at the root because of flawed motivations:

- Some sisters marry degrees, cars, or bank accounts.
- Some brothers marry beauty, complexion, or status.

Proverbs 31:30 warns: *"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."*

If external factors are your foundation, trouble will come sooner or later. Marriage is sustained not by attraction but by covenant love and character.

Reflection Questions: Can I live with this person for the next fifty years? Can I do without him or her?

Five Flaws That Make Marriage Hell

1. Trying to Change Your Spouse

For years, I prayed for my wife to change while she prayed the same about me, but nothing changed. True reconciliation begins when one party dies to self, just as Christ died for us while we were yet sinners (**Romans 5:8**). Ask your spouse exactly what you are doing wrong, and then make up your mind to "right" the "wrong." Be ready to go the extra mile. That was the first thing I saw in my marriage. Stop demanding change in your spouse; become the change yourself.

(Cont'd on page 2)

WHO WE ARE

"We are a people sent to the nations, governments and powers of the earth as the voice of reason, possibilities and hope. We are the instrumentality of catalysing change and centralising God in the governance of nations. Our mandate is to enforce the Kingdom of God over the kingdoms of this world that have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. We are men and women, boys and girls who love God and love people and who serve God and serve people. We always seek to give hope and to be at the forefront of driving change both spiritually and governmentally. We exist, primarily, as a fully functional church and conceptually as a governmental force for change, good governance and leadership."

THE CGCC CREDO

- ➔ Love God, Love People
- ➔ Serve God, Serve People
- * By doing the above, we glorify God individually and corporately.

OUR COMMITMENTS

- ➔ Wholehearted Worship of God
- ➔ Prayer
- ➔ Ministry of the Word
- ➔ Evangelism
- ➔ Seeing People Grow Deeper (Discipleship)
- ➔ Helping People Build Vital Relationships with
- ➔ Other Believers

OUR CORE LEADERSHIP VALUES

- ➔ Compassion
- ➔ Intelligence
- ➔ Responsibility
- ➔ Judgement
- ➔ Influence



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(Cont'd from page 1)

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL OPERATIONAL DYNAMICS

- ➔ Church-in-the-House
- ➔ Church-in-the-Community
- ➔ Church-in-the-City
- ➔ Church-in-the-Cloud.

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL GROWTH DYNAMICS

- ➔ To grow up.
- ➔ To grow big.
- ➔ To grow very rich.
- ➔ To grow together.

2. Not Loving the One You Married

The obvious problem in marriage is best described as “I married the woman I loved, but I stopped loving the woman I married.” You must marry the man or woman you love, and love the man or woman you married. Marriage requires that you marry the person you love, and continue to love the person you married, regardless of situations. Love must be a daily decision, not a fading feeling.

3. Misidentifying the Enemy

Many couples see their spouses as the enemy. I once did! That is how the devil succeeds in fooling a lot of couples. He blindfolds their eyes to let them see their spouses, mothers-in-law, or fathers-in-law as their enemy. Your spouse or in-laws cannot be your enemy. In fact, they are not the real enemies. Yes, they can yield to the devil, but they are not the real enemy. The real enemy is the devil. The Scripture says: “*We wrestle not against flesh and blood*” (**Ephesians 6:12**). Your spouse is not your adversary; the devil is.

4. Using the Wrong Weapons

When the enemy is misidentified, the weapons are misused. Men may use money as control, women may use sex, and others may use words as daggers. Abuse does not have to be physical because words can wound just as deeply. Abuse could be damaging words that could destroy people, especially when one begins to call the other person names. Only spiritual weapons—truth, prayer, and forgiveness—can bring victory.

5. Neglecting Forgiveness

Unforgiveness kills marriages! My wife and I once battled with it until I learnt **Colossians 3:13**: “*Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*” Forgiveness is not willpower; it is done in the person of Christ.

God's Order for Family Life

Ephesians 5 lays out three essential walks for life before and within marriage:

- **The walk of love:** Loving as Christ loved sacrificially (**Ephesians 5:2**).
- **The walk of light:** Living by the revealed Word (**Psalms 119:130**).
- **The walk of wisdom:** Making choices with discernment, not fantasy (**Ephesians 5:14-17**).

Marriage is patterned after Christ and the church. Husbands must love their wives as Christ loves the church, while wives must submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ. This is not a bill of rights but a bill of duties!

Duties of the Husband

- **Sacrifice in love:** Provide, protect, and give as Christ gave Himself (**Ephesians 5:25**).
- **Listen with care:** Be attentive to her needs and concerns.
- **Celebrate her beauty:** Honour and delight in her, and do not suppress her dignity.
- **Lead with responsibility:** Make decisions prayerfully and humbly, as head under God.

Duties of the Wife

- **Respect and submission:** Honour your husband's headship (**Ephesians 5:22-24**).
- **Support in prayer:** Intercede for his decisions rather than resist him.
- **Praise and affirmation:** Just as the church praises Christ, wives should appreciate their husbands. Gratitude multiplies love.
- **Unity of purpose:** “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” (**Amos 3:3**). Walk in agreement, not competition.

Living in Christ

No one can fulfil these duties by human strength. They are only possible in the person of Christ (**Colossians 3:16**). Marriage thrives when both partners pray, watch, and give thanks. Strife hinders prayer; unity invites heaven. For my wife and me, our turning point came during a trip from Onitsha to Port Harcourt. My wife grabbed my hand and said, “*GB (meaning, Gbolahan), forgive me for all my past wrongs.*” That was the day heaven broke into our marriage. Since then, it has been forward ever, backward never.

The Way Forward

If your marriage feels like hell today, the solution is not escape, but surrender—surrender to Christ, surrender to your duties, and surrender to love. Always remember that marriage is a covenant of duties, not a battlefield of rights. When both husband and wife align with God's order, peace displaces chaos.

Prayer Points

1. Lord, I repent before You for neglecting my duties.
2. Father, give me the grace to walk in love, light, and wisdom.
3. I receive strength to forgive in the person of Christ.
4. Thank You, God, in advance for the restoration of my home.

Conclusion

If you succeed at home, you can wage an effective warfare against the devil. But if your marriage fails, your prayers will be hindered (**1 Peter 3:7**). Guard your home fiercely. Fight for it in Christ. Then your marriage will no longer resemble hell but will taste like heaven on earth.