

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.

THE DECONSTRUCTION OF MARRIAGE

...understanding human precept, marriage and love, and the real issues

By Pastor 'Tunde Bakare

God's Word Versus Societal Consensus

Certain things have been agreed by men as the norms in society as far as the holy institution of marriage is concerned. The enemy uses those things to alter it from God's intended purpose. Consequently, this holy institution now has its peculiar institutional hazards—divorce, protracted and prolonged separation, cohabiting and premarital sex, and so on. These are forces trying to deconstruct marriage in our day.

The Shift

The changing views on marriage in our culture reflect a fundamental shift in the foundation of our values from being based on God's word to being established by societal consensus. We allow societal values to shape what we believe. But the Bible warns that

we should not allow ourselves to be squeezed into the mould of this world (**Romans 12:1-2, PHILLIPS**).

God's word must be real to you so that the answer you give to anyone who asks you questions regarding the issues of this life will be based on the word of God. Satan tempted Jesus with three different temptations that touched the three realms of life: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh (the carnal system), and the pride of life. Jesus responded to him with the word of God by saying, "It is written..." (**Matthew 4:1-11**).

The word of God is more real than the real world we see because the Word created the world (**Hebrews 11:3**). If you are ever going to live in victory, you must live by the word of God because societal values change in time, but the word of God abides forever (**Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 119:89**).

The Heresy by Modern Theologians

The attempts by modern theologians to reinterpret the Bible with a view to ignoring the divine model for marriage is another issue that is affecting us. For instance, many of them misinterpret **1 Corinthians 7:36-38, KJV**, as a licence to premarital sex, provided that such a relationship will end in marriage. They take it out of context. When you take "text" out of "context", what you have left is "con." So, do not let anyone con you into error. Meanwhile, Paul was addressing a specific scenario: a father's initial reluctance to give out his daughter in marriage, followed by a change of heart. That Scripture has nothing to do with premarital sex.

Real Issues Against Evil

• Fatal Attraction

The first real issue that brings down your resistance against evil is a fatal attraction. In fact, it makes you forget relevant Scriptures that forbid fatal attraction when you are fatally attracted to someone who wants to take advantage of you. It does not only undermine the Scripture but also tries to deaden your conscience.

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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

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



In **2 Corinthians 6:14**, the Bible emphatically says we should not be unequally yoked with the unbelievers, because ungodly people know how to trap whoever they want. But that was what happened between Balak and Balaam when Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel more than three times but failed. But trouble came when Balaam counselled Balak to lure Israel to commit sexual immorality—an act that resulted in the death of three thousand people in one day. This is called the doctrine of Balaam (**Numbers 22-25, Revelation 2:14, 2 Corinthians 6:11-18, Proverbs 5:1-14, Judges 16:1-20**).

• **Multiple Partnerships**

The second real issue is multiple partnerships. I call it eyes full of adultery that cannot cease from sinning and beguiling unstable souls (**James 1:8, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 12-14, Ecclesiastes 7:26**).

• **Modern Alternatives to Godly Marriage**

Here we have friends with benefits and alternative lifestyles. **Friends with benefits** are people who want the benefits of marriage without a lifetime commitment. So, living together has now become mainstream as people view it as an alternative to marriage. They sign prenuptial agreements of all kinds without vows involved. **Alternative lifestyle** mushrooms (flourishes) in the vineyard of Sodom. Do not believe a lie that you can have those tendencies just by your genes. It is a lie from the pit of hell. God would not create you to violate His rule. The anti-Christ is the grandmaster of such a lifestyle. The Bible talks about the vine of Sodom and the true vine (**Deuteronomy 32:15-17, 28-33, John 15:1**).

So, when you encounter a vine, do not just jump at it; you must find out where such vine is located because the anti-Christ spirit does not mean "opposing Christ"; rather, it means "another Christ"

that looks like the true Christ. Those who drink from the vine of Sodom will eat the fruit of Gomorrah. Unfortunately, these are things that have become alternatives to godly marriages (**Daniel 10:18-21; 11:1-4, 36-39**).

What Marriage Is Not and What It Is

If you are going to be part of the vanguard that will protect the institution of marriage, you must understand that marriage is not about making ourselves happy. Unfortunately, that is the lie many people have believed. Marriage is a determination to make the other person happy (**Genesis 24:67**). If the husband is determined to make the wife happy, and the wife is also determined to make the husband happy, they will both be fulfilled. Each party must make a life commitment to make the other person happy.

Love Is Not Enough

Many people erroneously believe that the most important ingredient in marriage is love. This is not true. Although love is vital in marriage, it is not the primary reason for marriage (**Colossians 3:19, Ephesians 5:25, 28**). It is one thing to marry the person you love; it is another thing entirely to love the person you marry. In a long-lasting relationship, love is not the sole reason for going into marriage, just as in the case of Moses and Zipporah, Joseph and Asenath, or Isaac and Rebecca (**Exodus 4:20-27, Genesis 41:45-52; 24:64-67**). They did not marry for love. The only patriarch who married for love was Jacob. He eventually got himself into trouble with God who closed the womb of Rachael when He saw that Leah was unloved (**Genesis 29:20-35**).

Please note that I am not saying it is not necessary to love; I am only saying it is not the primary reason for marriage. That is why God never made it a condition for intended husbands to love the persons they want to marry. Rather, the

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.

command in **Ephesians 5:25-29** is that husbands should love their wives (after marriage, not before). You will miss out on God when you are misled by your emotions.

Between Marriage and Love

Love is vital in marriage, but it is not the reason for marriage. When you make love the sole reason for marriage, you open a Pandora's box of problems (**Leviticus 18, 20**). Marriage is more important than love because it is the normal situation out of which true love arises. Everything God did for mankind was out of love (**Genesis 1:28-31, 1 John 4:16**). The primary assignment for godly people who will be involved in marriage is to birth and raise the next generation, and in the process, love happens (**Genesis 2, Exodus 2**).

The Danger of Human Precept

When you begin to walk by human precept, you will be broken in judgement. That is, you will err in vision and stumble in judgement, and your decision-making process will be porous (**Hosea 5:11**). You would also become like an unturned cake (**Hosea 5:11; 7:8-10; 11:11, 14**). Therefore, you must learn to follow God's standards and embrace His word. The flowers will fade, and the grass will wither, but the word of God abides forever (**Isaiah 40:8**).