

77 COMMON MISTAKES SINGLES MAKE



DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

77
COMMON
MISTAKES
SINGLES
MAKE



Dr. D. K. Olukoya

This book is a

Gift

From

to

date

*May all your errors and mistakes, be converted to your
testimony, in the name of Jesus.*

77 COMMON MISTAKES SINGLES MAKE

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All scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.
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One

WHEN YOU 'MISS' THE 'TAKE'

*The cheapest education in
life is to benefit from
the mistakes of others.*

*You come across
someone who has made
a mistake and you
begin to understudy
him or her to make sure
you do not fall into the
same errors. It costs you
nothing but rapt
attention at studying to
learn from the
experience someone is
going through or has
gone through; it is only
by mere observation;
hence it's cheapness.*



*If it's good, it's
going to be
wonderful. If it's
bad, it's going to
be an 'experience'.*

*But what we
must not ignore is
the fact that, it's
better never to fall
victim of any
mistake, at all,
whether major or
minor. Your
mindset is to be at
the heart of your
success.*

1

WHEN YOU 'MISS' THE 'TAKE'

aking mistakes is a common phenomenon in human relationships. Nobody can
Msay he or she has not made a mistake before. Everyone makes mistakes
but how the mistake is handled is what makes all the difference. More so,
the extent of the mistake determines the remedy that will be recommended, if
necessary.

There are mistakes one falls into that brings about feelings of guilt which may be difficult to forget. These are nagging feelings that tug at the heart, sometimes making terrible suggestions which just lead the person deeper into the mess. Some mistakes are not even pardonable; they are too expensive to be reversed. I have taken my time to spell out some of these errors so that you will be familiar with them in order to escape them. Truly, in a matter such as this, 'prevention is better than cure'. Even if you eventually get rescued from the grip of the errors, the scars they leave behind remain. Hence, it's better you don't get yourself in the mess. Continuously lamenting over your mistakes is also not ideal as this will negatively affect your emotions. You will then begin to perceive yourself as a bad, inferior, or disfavoured person, and this leads to low self-esteem. If this bad perception of yourself persists in your subconscious long enough, you will begin to behave in ways that agree with it. Thereafter, your actions will lead to more negative decisions which also lead to even more mistakes. You will then become a truly bad, inferior or disfavored person. This is called the downward spiral. It is a big issue when things turn out this way.

Let's search the Scriptures together:

As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.
Prov.26:11

In modern day English, what this simple statement means is that, like a dog that returns to its vomit, is a fool who repeats his or her mistakes. Again;

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4

SOME FACTS ABOUT MISTAKES

1. All men make mistakes but only fools repeat them.

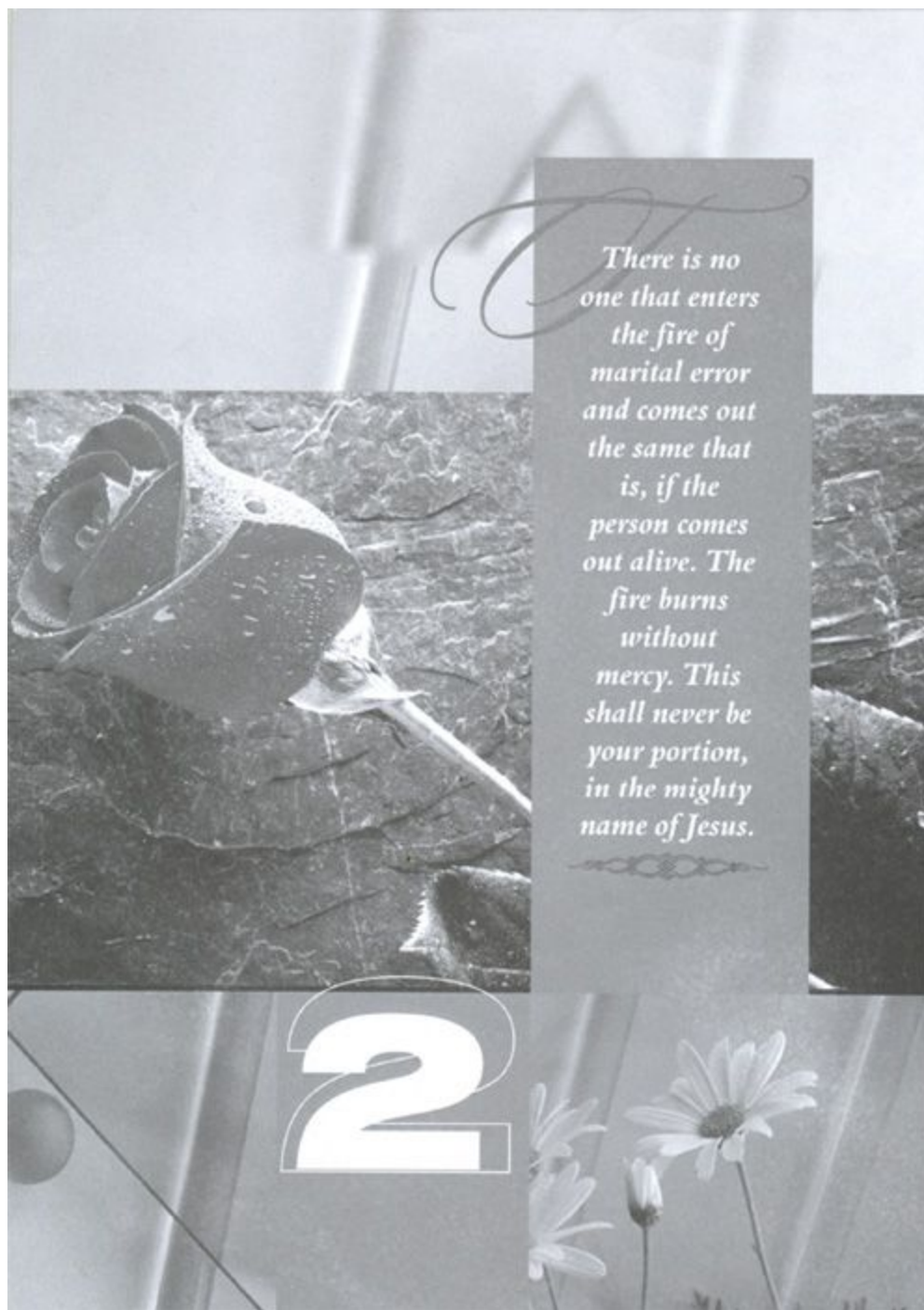
2. The cheapest education in life is to benefit from the mistakes of others. You come across someone who has made a mistake and you study him or her to make sure you do not fall into the same errors. It costs you nothing to learn from the experience someone is going through or has gone through. It is only by mere observation hence it's cheapness. The Chinese have a saying that: "Cheat me once, shame on you; cheat me twice, shame on me". This means, if I allow you to repeat what you first did to me that deprived me, then I am to blame for it.
3. Mistakes are opportunities to learn.
4. It takes successive failures to create success; success doesn't just come out of the blues.
5. Not getting what you want can be a blessing in disguise. Not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful act of divine intervention because it forces you to re-evaluate things thereby opening new doors to opportunities and information you would have otherwise overlooked. Remember, some things in life fall apart so that better things can fall together.
6. Never regret anything because every detail of your life, including your mistakes, is a totality of who you are today.
7. Winston Churchill reminds us that, "Success, is moving from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm". Another writer puts it this way, "Success is inverted failures". That means success is a series of mistakes turned inside out.
8. The ability to learn firsthand from the experience of others will position you to avoid their mistakes. Mistakes are painful when they happen, but years later, when you learn from them, it leads to success. If it's good, it is going to be wonderful. If it is bad, it is going to be an unfortunate 'experience'. But what we must not ignore is the fact that, it's better never to fall victim of any mistake, at all, whether major or minor. You have to take the good with the bad, smile with the sad, love what you have and be thankful to God for being there. After all, you are still alive so you can make corrections. More so, forgive yourself and others; then you are qualified to move on to the next level. Once you have life, there is hope. God is not through with you yet. He will bring His promises in your life to pass. And so shall it be for you, in the mighty name of Jesus.



Two

THE MISTAKES

Do not make your marital choice irrationally. As a Christian single, pray to first know who you are meant to be; Once you have a clear picture of your own life, then you are fit to choose who fits into that role of divine partner; Know your destiny. Know your areas of expertise; what you do with relative ease yet difficult for others to achieve; Identify your gifts, talents and calling in God.



There is no one that enters the fire of marital error and comes out the same that is, if the person comes out alive. The fire burns without mercy. This shall never be your portion, in the mighty name of Jesus.

2

THE MISTAKES

1

Failure to understand that marriage is ultimately about destiny.

Your decision on who to marry is responsible for over ninety percent of your success or failure in life. That is why it is good to do it right the first and only time because it is a destiny decision and not one that should be done based on personal whims and caprices. This is one of the reasons why, on wedding days, some serious injunctions are read to the couples. This implies that the vows they are about committing to are not things to dabble into like brutes without sense. What the priest is saying is that 'I hope you have thought about the decision to marry very carefully before coming to the altar?'

Your destiny is the *reason* why you were born; the ultimate reason why you were brought to life. It is also the *expectation* of heaven for your life; what the Lord has called you to come and *achieve* on this planet. So it is important to note that anybody you marry can either be part of this destiny or against it. Anything anyone does outside his or her destiny is bound for failure no matter how professional he or she handles it. The bottom-line is that, in the region outside your destiny map, the enemy has the right to punish, attack and put you under perpetual bondage. Do not make your marital choice irrationally. As a Christian single, pray first to know who you are meant to be. Once you have a clear picture of your own life, then you are fit to choose who fits into that role of divine partner. Know your destiny. Know your areas of expertise – what you do with relative ease yet difficult for others to achieve. Identify your gifts, talents and calling in God. Most importantly, ask God to show you who He has really made you to be.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3

2

Failure to understand that marriage is not a solution to the problem of promiscuity.

Factually, one of the key things involved in the institution of marriage is the pleasure of sex. God placed sex within the confines of marriage for all legally married couples to enjoy and for procreation. But it is a serious mistake for someone to decide to marry simply because he or she has not been able to overcome sexual looseness. The divine order is to enjoy sex in marriage. The promiscuity issue has to be addressed as a problem on its own. Once you take the disciplined steps to overcome it, marriage could come in as part of the processes that gives no room for turning back to your 'vomit'. So do not marry because you need to satisfy your sexual desires, urges or fantasies. Your spouse may not possess the same libido as you. The end-result would be adultery or a total breakdown of the marriage. More so, your sexual desire, or lust for sex, may be greater than desirable. This is called hyper sexuality, sex addiction or satyriasis and the treatment for this is based on relation therapy. That is, what led to it (the cause) will determine the treatment. This could be medical, behavioral or spiritual. If you are a victim of this, take some time, with discipline and proper counseling, to overcome your excessive sexual urge before getting married. Be in charge of your hormones first! Experts say that overexposure to pornography creates unrealistic expectations of the act of sex and this hurts personal relationships (Taylor Wilder: Emerald). So get rid of all pornographic materials. More so, avoid and get disconnected from all the situations and persons that can stimulate you sexually.

I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable.

3

Being consumed with the desire to be married.

If you fall into the category of people that are so keen to get married that they are oblivious of the ugly situations that may rear its head, you are playing with fire. Due to one factor or the other, some people have decided to make getting married a do-or-die affair. They are so desperate that they decide to go for any available option.

Beloved, marriage does not work in that way; it is deeper than that. There is a spiritual covenant attached to the institution of marriage which must be understood before embarking on it. This same covenant has its dos and don'ts. They must be strictly followed and obeyed. If not, there will be irrecoverable damage. That you are 'getting old', as you think, does not mean you should be so desperate and in the process jump into murky waters.

You have to be extremely careful because marital errors put a person into a state of absolute regret.

There is no one that enters the fire of marital error and comes out the same, that is if the person comes out alive. The fire burns without mercy. This shall never be your portion, in the mighty name of Jesus.

If you are reading this book right now and you have passed through the fire in a way, I want to encourage you that God's mercy still speaks. But my point here is to let you avoid or escape the fire. If you have not entered into it already, determine never to even feel the flame until God settles you maritally. It may sound very casual to say that God has not forgotten you in the area of marriage but it is the truth. If you have identified with Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour, He has the responsibility to fix your marital affairs so wait on Him! In most cases, the desperadoes in the area of marriage get disappointed and become less attractive because they are unconsciously transmitting the desperate message. Their facial expression and posture change as well. Doing this is a way of speaking the language of frustration into their lives and bodies. This is so sad. Beloved, is it not better to wait than to get yourself worn-out while alive? Don't be consumed with this 'I must marry now, no matter what' mentality. Rather, get yourself busy working for the Lord and preparing for the marriage itself while you pray along.

But they that WAIT upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

4

Appearing desperate and not valuing yourself.

Beloved you can actually make yourself available without appearing desperate. Note that it is not only the single ladies that are desperate to marry, there are single men too. The reason you are becoming desperate to marry is because you are approaching your late-twenties, thirties or even forties as a single adult. It seems like everyone around you is getting ushered into the world of love and marriage while you are still wondering if you will ever find the God-given man or lady. You are beginning to wonder whether putting your absolute trust in God to bring you the right partner is enough or you might need to "help yourself" in the world of love and dating. If you don't get things right at this stage of your life, things might go bad (God forbid). You may say you don't mind anything, but the truth is that 'anything' cannot make a good marriage. I want to suggest some ways you can show your availability without being desperate; **exchange your fear for faith, get busy doing the things you love, make new godly friends and don't be shy about singleness.**

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I WAIT all the day. Psalm 25:5

5

Believing that marriage will solve all your problems.

God created love and has placed the desire to be loved unconditionally in each of our hearts. Marriage is a natural overflow of that desire. Yet within this sacred and natural pursuit of marriage, it is easy to fall into the lie that finding a spouse will be the ultimate road to happiness and great satisfaction; that all problems, fears and deficits will fade away in the presence of true love. While this may be true of God's love, let me remind you it isn't true in the world of marriage.

Beloved, I must be sincere enough to let you know that marriage is a great blessing and that those who find a good spouse have truly found a great gift (Proverbs 18:22). Having been married for more than twenty years, I can wholeheartedly say that marriage has enriched my life in so many ways. Yet for all the things that it has done to enhance my life and stretch my love, there are still some things it will never be able to do.

Beloved, permit me to re-emphasise that there is no doubt marriage is a great blessing and that those who find a good spouse have truly found a great gift.

Some people fall into the belief that being married and being loved by another will really teach us how to love ourselves. I don't think so.

That way of thinking has done more harm than good to many a marriage today. No one has the power to deal with our inadequacies and insecurities but us. Putting expectations as these on a spouse will only cause harm because there is a high probability they can't change how we view ourselves. No matter how much encouragement, affection, affirmation and validation you receive from your partner, true security comes when you choose to see yourself through the eyes of God. Relying on your partner to fill your insatiable needs is a recipe for disaster because no human being has the capacity to offer you what is needed for true value and self worth. That can only come from within but true security comes from the intimacy of your relationship with God. Re-adjust your mindset, if necessary, and take it away from the fallacy that your potential partner will be your 'financial saviour' or messiah. Know for sure that marriage cannot solve all your problems. It is only God that can do that.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not on thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt.6: 33

6

Making the firstmove, as a lady.

This is one mistake you should never make because it is neither biblical nor acceptable in our society today. The man is the one that is both naturally and spiritually saddled with the responsibility to look for a wife. This is one of the reasons why most men lose respect for the ladies that run after them for a relationship. They believe any lady that does that is selling herself cheap and may not make a responsible wife. Believe me readers, this is true!

As a lady you must position yourself in such a way that you will command respect from men, including your own father.

There is a virtue God put in all ladies – no matter how physically unattractive she may be, a man will look forward to having her in his arms. What a God we serve! As a *lady you must never* approach the guy, even if you are so sure God is saying 'yes'. It is not biblical. Position yourself in such a way that you will command respect from men and never make suspicious moves to get the man's attention. You may lose his love and respect for doing that.

HE who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favour from the LORD. – Proverbs 22:18 NASB

7

Getting physically involved in a relationship much too soon and going too far before deeply considering what the marriage would look like.

People that fall into this category even fall into sexual immorality, in most cases, before they know it. They allow their feelings and expectations to lead them into being so carried away that the future is given lesser attention.

The truth is that, with time, the excitement fades away, giving room to frustration and regrets.

It is true that having someone of your dream is one of the greatest miracles that could happen to a Christian single person; yet our senses must be subjected to the total control of the Holy Ghost. Think, pray and involve mature Christian brethren before going ahead into any relationship. And more so, only consider courtship at a time in your life when you are ready and mature enough to consider marriage. This is the type of relationship I am referring to.

This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5: 16

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against GOD; for it is not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can be. Romans 8:6-7

8

Misinterpreting the attention of the opposite sex.

Desperation to be married can lead many singles to overreact to attention from the opposite sex, especially if that person is attractive to them. If a man looks at a woman twice, the woman can read all kinds of things into it. If a woman happens to sit by a man at a social or church function, the man begins to think she's sending him come-ons. This misinterpretation of attention is one of the major reasons it is so difficult for a single man and woman to have a good platonic relationship that might possibly go deeper and eventually lead to a romantic or marital one.

Some Christian singles truly enjoy sending signals and then disavowing them. Some brothers even go as far as giving observers the impression that something is going on between them and a sister when there is really nothing. This in turn deprives the sister from proposals from potential suitors. This is not good enough. As a young single Christian man or lady,

refrain from sending wrong signals to the opposite sex if your intention is not pure or genuine. Don't you ever assume someone is in love with you if he or she doesn't say so. Wait for a proposal before you talk about it.

As for you, my son...know the God your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind, for (He) searches all hearts, and understands every INTENTS of the thoughts...If you seek Him, He will let you find Him, if you forsake Him... – 1.Chronicles 28:9

9

Ignoring danger signals in a relationship.

In my book, 34 *Laws of Courtship*, I enumerated and gave brief explanations of some danger signals in courtship or relationship. If at the sight of these signals you still remain passive and move on without a pause for reconsideration and correction then doom is sure. Such signals are brought to your notice, out of grace, so that you don't become a victim. The truth is, most of the time, some singles just do not want to see them. They allow their emotions to get so involved such that they lose focus. Remember that when emotions get involved in a situation, it becomes very easy to lose perspective.

Beloved, you cannot trust your emotions. They fade away when faced by reality.

In any relationship, and especially in courtship, open your physical and spiritual eyes to the things around you. Do not be ruled by emotions but by reasoning. And prayerfully consider your options before taking any step.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but FOOLS despise wisdom and instructions. – Proverbs 1:7

Failure to discover your purpose before looking for a partner.

You must first of all find out who you are. Understand the purpose of your existence on this planet before you consider marriage at all. This sequence must be strictly followed: *purpose before partner*. It is the discovery of your divine purpose that determines who fits in as a divine partner and who does not. But when you do not have a clue about who God has made you to be, there will be problems.

We preach that a believer *can* only marry another believer - a born-again child of God. But you must also understand that it is not every born-again Christian that will suit your purpose in life. There is someone that can perfectly fit the column of your partner in marriage more than others.

If you do not know your purpose and you bring in someone into that purpose, you will get into trouble.

In Christendom today, there is this common issue with some ministers of the gospel who got married before they got born-again or before they answered the call of God. Their spouses become misfits to the divine agenda of heaven for their lives. This is what would happen to you also if you decide to marry before making the attempt to know God's purpose for your life. Something has gone terribly wrong when young Christians believe their sole purpose in life is to find marital love. This belief is naïve and dangerous. It robs us of true joy and real purpose in life. True purpose is eternal and can never be taken away. But as humans, there is a reason why God created you and I. You need to discover yours.

The Bible encourages us to live this life for God's glory, to love Him and to love others in an attempt to leave His fingerprint all over the entire world. Though marriage can be an incredible gift, it is just a means to an end and not the end itself. When we see relationships as the last step on our road of purpose, we find ourselves facing a wall of disappointment with nowhere left to go when we finally arrive. Marriage may be an avenue to fulfill our purpose but it is never the final destination.

We need to seek God's purpose for our lives far beyond finding a spouse. We must allow His will and His plans to be the course that guides our lives and influences our direction. Rather than asking what God can do for us, we need to look to Him and ask what we can do for Him. In this is true purpose.

Do not be fixated on finding a partner to the detriment of seeking God's divine purpose for your life. Your purpose has to come first. Go extra miles to know your purpose in life.

Once you discover your purpose, use the best of your energy towards achieving it. Read books that talk about your purpose. Choose a mentor that you could look up to who is in the same line as what you intend to achieve with your life. Once you have worked on your purpose to a tangible level then you can begin to map out things for your marriage.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13

11

Not seeking for divine direction before stepping out to get who to marry.

If you see someone you like and you desire to marry him or her, or if someone proposes to you, there is nothing wrong in considering the desire or proposal; but you must not leave God out of the equation. In the choice of marriage partner, God must not be left out or else there will be a big problem. God made marriage. He therefore has all it takes to make it perfect. You must consult Him to get the manual on how to make your own marriage a heaven on earth. You have to pray and ask for His opinion about the person.

The truth is that there are people who enjoy their marriage as opposed to popular opinion. In order to fall into this category of people, you need to

play certain roles and also give God the room to play His never-failing role too. Some of the things that must be in place at your end is to be mature physically, materially and spiritually. By spiritual maturity, I mean you must have got to a level where you are able to pray and hear God talk to you *clearly*. This experience is not the type where you talk about dreams, or 'I have peace in my heart'. No, it's more than that. Consider the marital process as a walk in a long dark path where you cannot navigate alone; you need the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. Don't be intimidated when you hear some people saying; 'the Lord spoke to me'. He can speak to you too beloved. Just make sure you are saved and living in righteousness. Maintain a close relationship with Him by studying your Bible daily and keep a strong prayer altar. If you make this (strong prayer altar) your habit, with time you will begin to develop and identify the different ways the Holy Spirit ministers to Christians, and in particular the way He chooses to minister to you. Then await God's opinion on your marital decision to be made clear to you.

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
Proverbs 16:9

For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. Proverbs 24;6

12

**Deciding to marry someone you know you
shouldn't because of the fear of not having
another suitor or the fear of remaining unmarried
and lonely.**

Some people begin to count the number of their younger ones that are married and are thereby seriously overwhelmed with fear of remaining single. If you put yourself into a situation like that, it will be difficult for you to either think straight or hear from God. This fear will disturb your prayers and your faith in God.

Many rush into relationships as a result of the fear of loneliness. If you rush into marriage because you seem to be lagging behind when all members of your family and friends are getting married, your marriage is likely to end in trouble. Loneliness is a feeling, an attitude. We don't get through this life without experiencing it to some degree. But to settle for anything less or inferior, as a substitute for loneliness is a big mistake. There are worse things than loneliness and by God's grace we do not have to be overcome and defeated by loneliness. He can take our loneliness and turn it into a beautiful, fruitful, productive time with Him. While waiting on God for your lovely spouse, do not give in to the ghost of loneliness. Make your quiet times glorious moments in His Presence. Forsake not the assembly of God's children. You must also recognize that being alone doesn't mean you're a social misfit. Don't buy into the lies of the enemy who wants you to feel desperate. When we feel desperate, we act in irrational and unprincipled ways. Whenever we feel an overpowering need to have someone near, we'll settle for anything. Also recognize your need for social interaction and plan good things. But you don't have to have a date to have company. Reach out to others who have similar interests like you and share your time. Enjoy those people for who they are and you'll discover that the loneliness will fade away.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4;6-7

And this shall surely come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God. – Zechariah 6;15b

13

Deciding to manage or cope with someone you do not truly love.

Deciding to 'manage' or 'cope' with a person in a relationship is the worst decision in the choice of a life partner. Marriage is not what you go into

with the conclusion that you will 'manage' or 'cope somehow' with the person, No! It WILL NOT work, no matter how much you try. This is because your mind has been programmed to believe that there's no alternative.

God could lead you to someone you do not love initially, not because anything is wrong with him or her, but because this person does not fit in into your big expectation or mindset. The beautiful thing you must understand here is that God is *ever* in the business of perfect match-making, hence, He can never make mistakes. If He is leading you into a relationship, it means He has searched both of you out before arriving at His conclusion.

Do not settle for anything less than God's best for you. If it will take a whole year to wait till you love him or her before deciding to marry, then, wait you must!

If you have not reached the realm where you love him or her for who he or she is then never you go ahead; the end may never be palatable.

Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. – Proverb: 15:16

Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. – Proverb: 16:8

14

Deciding to go into marriage with someone because of his or her wealth.

Money is good but money is not everything. It can buy you bed but not sleep; money can buy you books but not a brain. There are many valuable things money cannot buy. So don't get carried away because there's money. In most cases, some of those people who run after a man or woman because of money, get into the marriage and are treated shabbily. At this juncture they may begin to wonder where the problem is coming from. But the truth is that they actually initiated and brought the problem upon themselves the

moment they made the decision to go into the marriage because of money. Look for finer qualities and Godly character in a person rather than the size of his or her purse before going into marriage relationship. Check for his or her dreams or goals for the future. It could give you clues to what tomorrow would turn out to be for both of you if you choose to marry each other.

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. Ecc1.5:10 (NIV)

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils. Some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith, and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6: 10(NIV)

It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it. Proverbs 10:22 (NASB)

15

Premarital Sex.

Any sex outside marriage is a serious mistake; a big error indeed. There are lots of ideologies flying around these days misleading many singles on the concept of marriage. Some say the lady must be pregnant before their son can marry her. Others say you need to sleep with him to be sure that he is not impotent or frigid before you can decide to marry him or her.

Beloved, immediately you begin to sleep with each other before marriage, you have automatically blocked your heavens to hearing or getting attention from God, the Author of marriage. There is no holy principle or precept anywhere that can give you these abominations as part of marital precepts; IT IS SINFUL TO ENGAGE IN SEX WITH A PERSON YOU ARE NOT LEGALLY MARRIED TO. Sex is not allowed outside lawful matrimony. Those people who do it live to face the consequences.

The Bible gives specific instructions against premarital sex because it makes those that indulge in the act abominable in the sight of God. Don't think you can hold down a man by having sex with him. On the contrary, it is away of convincing him of how sexually loose you can be. He will

definitely believe you do the same with other men too. If he decides not to marry you because you refuse to gratify him sexually, then let him go, but hold on to your Christian faith. God will never fail you, never!

We Christians have allowed the world system and philosophy to infiltrate our thinking about the physical aspects of a relationship. Romans 12:1-2 says we are 'not to be conformed to this world, but transformed by a renewed mind'.

When we become casual about having sex before marriage, we have allowed ourselves to be cramped into the world's mold.

If you truly want to remain pure in your sexual life and keep yourself for the one person God has ordained for you, or keep yourself for Christ if you remain single, you most certainly can. There is nothing impossible about it.

However, in order to do that, you will need a discipline that I don't see in many singles, a discipline to go the extra mile in keeping physical contact down to a minimum. You simply cannot trust the chemistry of your body. It is very powerful, and once it gets going, finding the discipline to keep it under control is extremely difficult. So the secret is to keep the electricity down to low levels by controlling the physical contacts. It is of necessity to break every relationship that has immorality serving as its foundation. If such relationships lead to marriage, there are fatal consequences. If you are in a relationship where you sleep with each before marriage and both of you still agree to marry, please see your pastor and make sure he or she knows about these sex acts.

Flee from YOUTHFUL LUSTS; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the name of the LORD out of a pure heart. – 2 Timothy 2:22

Many people have made costly mistakes by succumbing to pressure. It could be societal pressure, parental pressure, pressure in the workplace or even pressure in the church. *Don't allow the* opinions of those around you pressurize you into making a mistake that you will live to nurse all the days of your life. To those that constantly ask you whether you are getting married or not, tell them they should get prepared to celebrate with you soonest. Don't allow the vehicle of your life to be controlled by passers-by whose knowledge concerning what God has in store for you is shallow. Or else, if you are not careful, the pressure may push you into making a grave mistake. If possible, stay away from the people that put you under undue pressure to marry, especially parents and so-called loved ones. Always groom yourself well; keep a good demeanor, a calm countenance and a cheerful look always. Continue to pray and wait on the LORD, and very soon your own Boaz will appear.

And Boaz taketh Ruth, and she becometh his wife...Ruth 4;13.YLT

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...a time to love. Eccl:3:1,8

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. Isaiah 28:10

17

Using sex to keep a relationship or a partner.

You cannot use sex to keep a man or a woman. If he or she truly loves you, they will wait till the right time. But if they are aware that you a 'broken pot', you will be a sex object and not a 'marriage material'. If you give in to sex with him or her, you will be used only for sexual pleasure while the search for marriage partner continues.

It is pathetic if you fall victim of such. Keep yourself pure. If he decides to leave because you are not giving in to sexual advances, then let him. The truth is that he would see you for the rest of his life as a real woman of integrity. Many young people have made this mistake and most have paid

dearly for it. Understand that every relationship is a choice and not by force. Also understand that you cannot keep who does not want to stay. If he or she stays physically, there might be emotional absence. The sex thing in the relationship has already defiled it as far as God is concerned. Hence to build a blameless home, stop the relationship, immediately. I suggest you let go after trying your best to sustain your relationship instead of selling yourself cheap by offering sex.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for GOD will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
Hebrew 13;4.NN

18

Deciding to be pregnant for the man in order to make him marry you.

What a silly mistake! The bedrock of a marriage that will be blissful and stand the test of time is *LOVE*. Getting pregnant to tie him down is a way to by-pass all the normal protocols that will allow you build the relationship to yield a lasting marriage. Even if the man marries you because of the pregnancy, he will only be interested in the pregnancy and not you. Do not make this mistake. If you start your home on this wrong foundation you will live to regret it the rest of your days. And the child you are having outside marriage, as far as the Bible is concerned, is a bastard. Keep away from all physical contacts that can lead to sexual immorality. These include kissing, hugging, heavy petting, necking, fondling and such likes. The guy can deny the pregnancy thereby turning the lady into a premature parent-a single mother.

He who is pregnant with evil and conceives trouble gives birth to disillusionment.

Psalms 7:14

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

19

Looking only for material things before deciding who to marry.

That is, if a man comes to make a marriage proposal, and the decision whether to say yes or not is based on what he has, where he works, the type of car he drives, whether he uses designer wears or not. I must be frank with you, if that is what you look forward to in a man, you are in a big mess already. Know today that material things are very good, but they are not strong enough to sustain the weight of a marriage. Even if the man has nothing today, once you have prayed together in agreement, and you have the backings of heaven, the marriage will be full of prosperity tomorrow. Beloved, be contented with what God has provided for you. *Do not covet what is not yours.* Also know that material possessions does not guaranty that a marriage will be successful.

Understand that God does not create failures or non-achievers, so wait and pray for His choice for you.

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven. – Proverb: 23: 5

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. – Ex:20:17

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. – 1 John:2:15-16

20

Receiving gifts without knowing the giver very well.

You do not know a man very well or a lady and yet you are taking his or her gifts; this is dangerous because the gifts may be your undoing later. Some ladies have received such gifts and later found it difficult to disconnect the giver who has directly or indirectly bought their will power with the gifts.

In a marriage proposal, it is not the gift that should come first but the person with whom you are deciding to spend the rest of your life with.

He or she has to be assessed beyond any Greek gift. Don't get trapped and lose your right senses through the gifts. Even when the givers are married, be careful. Sometimes, such gifts come with hidden motives. First determine the intention of the giver. More so, desist from accepting gifts from anyone you have not established a relationship with because reciprocation might be demanded.

Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a GIFT destroyeth the heart. – Ecclesiastes 7:7

And thou shalt take no GIFT: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous. – Exodus 23:8

A wicked man taketh a GIFT out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment. – Proverbs 17:23

21

Following someone you do not know well to a place you do not know as well.

I have seen so many examples of this particular situation that I had to ask whether their brains were taken out of their skulls when they chose to go. How can you be meeting someone for the first time, and you are following

him or her home? You get yourself into trouble because this fellow is still a stranger to you, no matter how many hours you have discussed. This is why some singles disappear without trace and you never hear about them again. The fellow you are following might have an intention that is totally different from yours.

Presently, I have two people I am praying for who followed strangers and were hypnotized, and thereby lost their right senses. Avoid making this self-induced mistake that may give you a scar that remains unhealed all the days of your life. Even those that eventually escape from such trap never fully recover. Beware and be warned. Make sure you prayerfully consider any relationship before committing yourself into it. You might need a chaperon or go with another friend for a date you are not too certain about.

Do not follow anyone into any ungodly places such as bars, clubs, brothels, shrines, groves or a forest in the name of 'catching fun'. It is equally dangerous for ladies to accept lift from total strangers or for guys to pick up women of easy virtues.

And Jesus answered and said to them, 'See to it that no man misleads you... Matthew 24:4

Matthew 15:14b And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

22

Not taking your spiritual life seriously.

The truth is this, the more spiritual you are, the better things become. The reverse is also true, the less spiritual you are the worse things become. Take your spiritual life seriously: Pray well, read your Bible well, do your witnessing and follow God's guidance for your life. Don't allow the enemy to make you a lazy person in the house of God. You must do something consistently for the Lord.

If you are reading this book and you do not have a good relationship with your Maker, working in His vineyard, then the message contained in this manual is not for you. Its principles can only work for you if you have acknowledged Jesus as your Lord and personal Savior and you live your life to glorify Him. By doing this, you benefit from His unending grace which will also be available for you, in all aspects of your life, including making the right choice for your marriage. Get busy for God. This is only applicable to you after you have consciously given your life to Jesus, if not, yours is a different ball game entirely. Carry out regular spiritual checkup. 2 Cor.13:5. Observe and maintain a daily quiet time with the Lord. Also seek to be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Jude 1:20. Build a personal spiritual order by developing the habit of prayer (Luke21:36) and pay good attention to your dream life.

Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart, and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all this things, God will bring you to judgment. Ecclesiastes 11:9.NIV

23

Using singleness as an excuse not to go on living your life well.

You base your excuses for not doing what is expected of you on not being married yet. Some people even abandon a lot of things they should do which will end up adding value to their lives.

You do not have to give your life any unnecessary pause while waiting to be married. You may not get the chance or time to achieve those things again. Hence, forge ahead.

Acquire the skills you need. In due season things will fall in their right place. Never you stop living; live your life to the full and the Most High will answer you in due season, in Jesus' name. Your period of youth should be used to acquire the skills and the knowledge necessary for marital success and breakthrough. Take up a service in the vineyard of your Creator

and seek His face while waiting. Pray to the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you into your reason for existence (destiny).

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say; I have no pleasure in them. Ecd: 12:1

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. Lam: 3:27

24

Giving up on marriage.

Some singles have completely narrowed their minds concerning getting married due to their previous experience. Beloved, marriage is one of the greatest gifts bestowed to humanity by Divinity. Don't ever allow the devil to steal yours from you. You may not be married yet and you think you are too old to do so.

No one is too old to marry. If you give up marriage, it will never come and in a nutshell, it means you have chosen defeat instead. I must let you know that the God of Elijah is still on duty. The God of possibilities is still on seat.

At the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, we have recorded several testimonies where old couples give birth to their first child at advanced ages, the most recent one involve a couple of 60 and 56 years respectively. There is nothing the Almighty cannot do, and with the great testimonies the Lord is giving us in our Singles' Forum today, there is no point in giving up. Marriage is your *kingdom right* as a believer; you must partake and see that the Lord is good indeed. Don't give up, neither should you give in. Check up your family history if there is any pedigree of marital failure or breakups. Go for counseling sessions with Christian counselors. Try to let go of past unfavorable experience. Trust God to heal you psychologically and spiritually.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Hebrews: 10:36-39

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James: 1:2-4

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. Proverb.24:10

25

Holding unto the past.

A lot of single persons hold on so tightly to the past, and as such, allow the past failed relationships or rejections to ruin the present or future relationships. It is a great mistake to do this, what has happened in the past is gone, it is over, let it go and let your life continue.

If you keep crying over the jilts of the past, it will not bring any relief whatsoever; worse still, hatred for the opposite sex might develop.

I therefore beseech you to let the past go and strengthen yourself to face the future which is more promising in Christ Jesus.

Have you observed that anyone who drives a vehicle and keeps looking at the rear-view mirror will definitely have a crash? In driving, you should look at your front windscreen to avoid any accident. This is also applicable to life as a whole. If you allow yourself to be distracted by your past unpleasant experiences, things will get worse and degenerate so much that if you are not careful, you might lose interest in getting married. This is a

dangerous mistake and the devil's lie, don't give in to it. You must realize that there is no way to change the past; what has happened has happened. When we get hurt or disappointed, God is not ignorant about it. He desires we learn from events of the past so that we can become better. No wonder God did not allow the past event to kill you; He has a better agenda for your life! Holding unto the past could be taken advantage over by the devil to torment, derail, delay and destroy your glorious destiny; so don't allow him beloved.

When you still live in your past, it is a sign that you have not forgiven yourself and anyone involved in the event. By so doing, you have entered a spiritual contract of closed heaven.

Make up your mind to continue the journey and with God on your side, you shall become victorious.

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isaiah: 43: 18-19

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. Philippians 3:13

26

Dating married men or women.

If you are looking for a relationship that will definitely end in marriage, it should not be with a married man. Going out with a married man is adultery which is a wrong foundation for any matrimony. All married men that are busy running after single ladies are wicked and heartless. Good men or women don't behave like that. If you allow them to pollute your life, the period you spend with them, no matter how short, may require years to payback.

As a single lady, when you give in to the advances of a married man, know for sure that he is just in your life to fill the gap his wife left opened in his life. And sincerely what they need you for is to quench the thirst of the sexual urge with your body. This is very unfortunate. Even if the man decides to make you have babies for him, it does not change the situation; you are simply a *bond concubine* that can never experience the beauty of true marriage. Because the man has to keep you away from his siblings or friends in order to avoid a fight with the legal wife at home. If you allow yourself to enter into this mess, you have simply *chosen* to be a second-class wife and a degraded human being. You should know however, that God has a better plan for you; an original plan of blissful matrimony, if you can only be focused and patient.

Some unfortunate ladies go to the extent of competing with the married man's wife who is fetish, thereby inviting spiritual and diabolic battles they should not have had anything with.

Some allow themselves to be handled anyhow by their senior officers, while some even sleep with their bosses *in* the office. This kind of life does not help your destiny at all, so never consent to a married man or woman.

Dating a married person is a sign that you are not ready to settle down in marriage, hence stop if you plan to marry blissfully. It also means you are not ready to find your own partner, since you have attached yourself to another person's partner. You have to break up urgently. No matter the boast of your married partner, he or she does not truly love you. If he or she did, they would let you go find your own spouse. Dating a married person makes you the 'other' person in the relationship: the home-wrecker. If you share another person's spouse, be ready to share yours also. This act makes you a breaker of divine law, an enemy of God and a defiler of the divine institute called marriage.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal: 6:7

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Proverbs 1:10

Thou shalt not commit adultery. Exodus 20: 14

27

Random sampling! Being too easy.

Guys are the ones involved in the random sampling syndrome while the ladies who are seen as cheap-to-catch fish. As a lady, note that we men like a bit of being 'challenged' and if they end up in bed with you after the first date, they are unlikely to have any respect for you. Make the man work for your love, but don't overdo it.

And as a guy, jumping from one lady to another in the name of dating or in search of the most compatible bedmate is a great mistake. It is both spiritually and physically unsafe (Sexually Transmitted Diseases).

Spiritually, when you sleep with this person today, the Bible says you have become one flesh. So becoming one flesh with all the people you have sampled round shows how fragmented your life or soul would be. To be successful in any venture after series of sexual escapades might be difficult. This is because the person is no longer a complete human being: sex has fragmented his or her life and distributed it among sex partners. What a tragedy!

Pray to be led by God for a good partner; don't be moved by the facial appearance. Dating has never helped choosing marriage partner; it's a trial and error method that could put you into an irrecoverable error. Stop it. As a lady, give yourself some self-worth before the man who would seek your hand in marriage.

Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. Proverb: 31:3

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. Proverb:31:10-11

28

Wasting too much time on unavailable men or women.

That is, this person not interested in you, whether in person or in marriage, and you are wasting your time and life waiting for him or her to have a change of mind. If you are a guy, waiting is part of the process to get what you really want, but as a lady, it is sheer wastage.

If you fall into the category of such ladies or men that refuse to consider any other proposal, or make other proposal simply because the person you have an eye on has not proposed, you are a joker. In a way, you have belittled yourself before that person; he will never consider you as a spouse because you have given him a whole episode of who you really are. This is very sad.

Waiting without something tangible for a whole year or more is a great mistake. This is not proper in any love relationship: avoid it. To you guys, even if the lady has taken much time before giving you some attention, you had better forge ahead after involving a Christian marriage counselor or pastor. While the waiting process is on, avoid buying your way through his or her heart with gifts. If you do, it will take more gifts to sustain the relationship and marriage. **Exo.23:8.**

To you ladies, don't waste your precious time for a man who does not want you; if you force yourself on him, he might maltreat you later on.

Will you set your heart on that which is not...? Proverbs 23:5

29

Giving an intended spouse unfettered access to your money or possession.

There is a huge difference between a marriage and a courtship. During courtship, you are intending to get married, not married yet. Do you know that anything can still happen that will make the marriage not to hold? I am not praying failure for you beloved, just sounding a note of warning on how to go about things before marriage. The truth is that it's not every courtship that actually leads into marriage, hence giving a guy or a lady the full access to your money or property might be unsafe for you. It is foolhardy and you could be taken advantage of.

Some financially stable ladies lose their senses immediately they find a man that says, 'I love you'. They will be ready to spend their last penny on him. This is a serious mistake and one of its dangers is that the money may become what drives the man in the relationship and not his *real* love for you. If you are in a relationship with a man or a lady who always asks you for gifts, money and material possession, be rest assured that you are already trapped, because this is abnormal. In order to avoid being heart-broken, please avoid this silly mistake.

A fool and his money are soon parted. (English proverb). Since you are not married yet, don't open up your finances, no matter your trust level for your partner. If you withhold your finances from him or her, it is another way you could train and build trust and love for each other, without any material influence.

Do not even combine your bank account yet until you are married. Do not allow his or her lack to change your decision; don't give your partner an unfettered access to your money.

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and loving favor rather silver and gold. – Proverbs 22: 1

Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. – Proverb: 31:3

A picky person is **hard to please and has** inflexible likes and dislikes and, therefore, being hard to please or satisfy. As a lady, if you have this character, you will miss some good men as you will avoid getting close to them to really know them. But if you allow common sense to prevail and you move closer to such guys, you'll realize they have some good qualities that can make a marriage work. So know that no one is perfect. Stop complaining over everything and almost everybody. In most cases, it is those that have one complaint or the other against people that usually have problems. This is a character disorder that needs to be addressed.

Respect individuals for who they are. Remind yourself daily that no one is perfect, including you and know for sure too that he or she has the natural ability to be better, most especially as a believer. More importantly too, be reminded that being judgmental could make you lose your partner's attention in the relationship, thereby exposing you to the risk of losing the relationship entirely.

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Matthew :7:1

31

Telling lies to your partner.

A relationship based on lies will never survive, no matter how you try to cover up. It may sound awful but if you already have children, you have to tell your partner because the day he or she discovers on his or her own, it will almost be impossible to mend the crack that will be created.

When you tell lies, and it backfires later, it becomes a huge problem. I have so many examples of this situation and the relationships involved will really take divine intervention to survive. The problem is that once your partner finds out that you have not been truthful, faith in his or her ability to trust the safety of your responses has been shaken. After all, if he or she can't

trust you to say how **it really** is, who can he or she trust? And, can he or she believe lots of other things you have said?

Some tell themselves (and sometimes other people as well) that they are really lying to protect their partner. But is this true? Or are they really lying because they want to protect themselves from having a fight, from their own anxiety about disappointing their partner, or from some other potentially unpleasant consequence that might result from telling the truth? There are kind and respectful ways to communicate the truth. It doesn't have to be abrasive, harsh or mean. People say they tell lie in order to avoid conflict but you must also count the cost by the time your lie is detected. If there is anything you are doing and you think your partner must not know about it, you better stop it because, it could cause a problem you cannot handle. Lying to your partner could cost you the relationship you cherish so much. Please stop it beloved.

For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good. Psalms: 36:2-3

32

Double-dating or flirting with others.

I am aware so many people get themselves involved in having more than one relationship, holding the opinion that if one fails, the other should work. Some singles keep more than one partner because they are simply unserious and they are not yet sure of what to do with their lives.

Apart from the fact that this is sinful, it is a way to put your integrity and destiny at risk. If your multiple partners find out about your 'games', they will strategize on how to really use you or get back at you since they know you might not marry them. This is even beyond an ordinary mistake, it is very dangerous too.

More so, I need to sound this note of warning to anyone reading this book. If you are in a relationship with someone you have discovered keeps other relationships, you better sit him or her down and reach conclusions. If you continue in the relationship, believing that he will change or dump other partners for you, you might be day-dreaming.

There is no good marriage that begins on such polluted foundation. Be sure you know what you are doing in your relationship. In the first instance, you should not even start any relationship without being ready to marry. So, avoid this fatal mistake.

One of the main reasons why you must stop this is because it is a great sin in the sight of God. Stop it because it is not safe for your health and because your integrity is seriously at stake. If you don't stop, you might fall victim and have a battered image that would discourage any potential spouse.

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

For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Proverb: 5:3

33

Starting a focusless relationship.

In marriage counseling, what we advise singles is never to go into any relationship with anyone, except they have decided to marry each other. The importance of a relationship is to get to know each other better since both of you will be spending the rest of your lives together and this is supposed to be courtship. If you are not planning to marry someone, why will you ask them out? For what beloved?

As a lady, if a guy asks you out, make sure he lets you know why or the reason for the relationship. Sincerely, there is no need to go into any

relationship which is not meant to lead to marriage.

Don't live a trial-and-error lifestyle in your marital journey, it is very unsafe, unclean and a big mistake. Only consider courtship at a time in your life when you are ready to consider marriage.

Write down your expectations in your newly found relationship and strictly pursue them with prayers. Make sure you and your partner reach agreements and goals for the relationship before going deep into it.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Luke: 14: 28-30

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air 1Co:9:26:

34

Being overbearing.

Being overbearing in a relationship means one of you tries to be highly domineering. It is a danger signal that there might be communication problem in the marriage. Marriage relationship should be a mutual thing whereby each of you is supposed to learn from each other. Even as the man, it is wrong for you to try to dominate your partner. Allow her contributions and reason together.

Remember you can't know it all and two good heads are better than one. So be informed today that this is a grand mistake you must correct or not make at all.

You must learn to listen-to each other and take pieces of advice from each other. Never try to dominate any decision-making discourse between both of you. You will even get the best out of your partner if you make him or

her feel how important his or her opinions are on any issue. And whenever you are to reach an agreement, take your profession or qualification out of it. Forget about any thing that might bring out your bossy nature.

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Eph:5:21

35

Trying too hard to impress.

No matter the situation surrounding your life or relationship, you must always be yourself. It is deceptive to give a person a different picture of who you are; even in your imperfection, be real. The truth is that no matter how you hide who you really are, one day the traces will unfold, thereby making both of you chronic enemies.

Don't ever pretend in order to lure someone into a relationship or even marriage; the end could be too sad to bear. Be a sincere and truthful Christian.

Seek to be proud of what God has made you. By doing so, you will boost your personal self-esteem. If you have tried your best to get someone's attention (which may go beyond marriage relationship) and it appears difficult, you better look elsewhere. Don't try to say or act what you are not but by the, time you get what you want be sure that your real self will eventually show up.

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1: 10 (ESV)

36

Being ignorant of the mystery of spiritual marriage.

You must accept the fact that spirit husband and spirit wife exist. You must know that their activities are real in people's lives which include delay in marriage and so many others. If you are ignorant of this fact and you do not address it, it may be what is responsible for some marital challenges you and many other singles are facing today.

Spiritual marriage is orchestrated by the satanic kingdom to counter the physical one. Right from the beginning the devil competes with God in so many ways. He tries to deform His beautiful creation, by attacking the first marriage and actually succeeded. At a time also, there was an unpleasant hybrid that came in between the physical and the spiritual beings in Genesis 6:1-2. God disapproved it.

Marriage was instituted by God as a covenant relationship between a human male and a human female and he enacted some principles to go with it; it's supposed to be a union between a man and a woman. But you need to know today that the devil has *counterfeited* this system too. Hence marriage now exists between the physical and spiritual beings. This is what I mean when I talk about spiritual marriage. There are signs victims of this system see: having sex in the dream, constant disappointment in marital relationships, etc. These spiritual spouses are delicately jealous. They never allow rivalry, and that is why they make sure the earthly marriage of their victims are battled or never exist, at all. You must understand this phenomenon and break free if you are affected.

Check your dream life; if you have sex in your dreams, you need to pray against any existing spirit spouse.

If you have been having marital challenges, pray enquiry prayers to know what is wrong because most marital problems are sponsored by the spirit spouses.

Then I strictly advise you go for deliverance from the grip of spirit husband or wife.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor: 2: 14

37

Going out with someone who never Makes you a priority.

If you are not a priority in his or her life, you are not valued. If you are still going about with this person; it is a mistake. In case you have not prayed properly, you can go back and pray again. If you choose to stick with someone who does not value you or respect you for whom you are, then you are in a very wrong relationship. So many singles put up with their partners, despite the way he or she mishandles them, because they are afraid of not getting stranded. Consider this carefully: marriage is not what you should see as a sort of experiment; it could land you in perpetual pain throughout your life time if you do.

I advice you sit down and re-evaluate what you are doing, re-evaluate your life and the decision you have taken in case you might need to pray more to be sure whether God is involved or not. Then seek for spiritual counsel in a Bible-believing church. I tell you that it is better to remain unmarried rather than being married and wallowing in a serious mess.

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Proverb: 18:24

38

Going into a marriage because a prophet says so.

I must tell you this that your best prophet is you. You should develop yourself to the level where you have to personally hear God clearly or else you won't be far from being deceived. The prophet you are consulting is not the one who will be in that marriage; it is you and you alone. Several people have come to me wanting me to prophetically choose the ideal man for them from their prepared list. I don't do such things; you are actually in the best position to know the best man God has for you. Even if a prophet must be involved in your marital choice-making, he or she must only play a confirmatory role and not a major one. Know for sure that marriage is

personal; never rely solely on what a prophet says, you must also pray for personal conviction. Also know that a prophet can only give you a marriage and never a home, so be careful.

1 Kings:13:11-34

39

Looking for a partner in order to hurt your parents.

If your parents have been harassing you, and causing you some embarrassing moment over marital issue, getting back at them by marrying someone they don't approve is a big mistake. This will land you in a serious error. To recover from such error might be almost impossible, so it is better you avoid such things. You may discover that you will remain sad after you have achieved your vengeful goal. Don't do it beloved, marriage is too delicate to be used as a weapon of revenge.

No matter what your parent/guardian did to you in the past, it could be difficult, but you must let it go if you must blissfully move on in life. Ask for forgiveness from God, forgive your parents/guardian and also forgive yourself. Act.17:30. Make sure you settle all conflict with your parents/guardian before stepping out to marry. Visit them and kneel to tell them how sorry you are, even if they are guilty, by so doing you will lift unnecessary embargo away from your head and ways to all-round breakthroughs. Exodus 20:12. If your parents do not want to see you, call the adults they would honour in the family to go with you to beg. You can also involve the church (I mean your pastor). Avoid being arrogant, you might never be able to bear the cost of your action.

In case you are currently having problem with your parents, go extra miles to get it settled and avoid attracting any negative words from them over your life.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Exo:20:12

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart. Proverb:3:1-3

40

Lack of preparation for marriage.

If you want to marry and marry rightly, you must prayerfully prepare with the word of God being very active in your life. Normally, anything you want to do in this life, there must be some level of preparation, and marriage is one of those things that demand our totality before you go ahead with it.

There is this popular saying which I quote that, 'if you fail to prepare then you are simply preparing to fail'. A man of God once said that 'if you don't prepare now, there will be so many things for you to repair later'. These are hard facts beloved; you must not joke with them at all.

Don't just rush into marriage, prepare hard for it. Read books about marriage, get attached to people that have good marital testimonies and learn from them; all these are part of preparation.

Also in preparing for marriage, make sure you already have your goals penned down; financial goal, material goal, number of children you intend to have, how to raise your kids, etc. When you plan, a lot of things will move on smoothly for you; you would be able to speculate demands ahead and make provisions for them.

First identify the reasons why you want to get married; they might point out your preparation or readiness level. Even if you are not engaged yet,

identify whom you can marry (someone who shares the same belief with you about God, perspectives of life or someone who has promising features to improve on your destiny) or who you cannot; then map out your preparation strategies. Invest in your marriage with serious and fervent prayers asking God how your marriage should look like; within His perfect will. Carry out spiritual and physical enquiries about marriage in your father and mother's lineage and that of your partner; the facts gathered give you clues to proper preparation. You must be biologically, emotionally, financially and spiritually matured.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Luke: 14:28,31

Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds... Nahum:3:14

41

Trying to change the other partner.

It is common mistakes made by lots of women who often have the erroneous believe that they can change their men; some men do the same too. Treating your new partner like a project that you need to work on, like something to 'improve', is disrespectful and can make the person feel like you don't appreciate them for who they are or even know them at all.

Trying to get someone to wear more trendy clothes, go for the jobs you recommend, act how you think they should, or modeling him or her into someone you admire so much but cannot catch up with to be a partner, is totally wrong. In our own ways we are all unique persons with different personalities. Imposing a way of life or character on a person can cause frictions that you might never be able to get over, hence it should be stopped. It can make you lose him or her forever.

This is simply because if things don't work out the way you mapped it, you will definitely always see one reason or the other to quarrel. You will always see the picture of an imperfect, incompetent and unpolished person as your future partner. And anytime you remember he or she is not 'blending' to your unrealistic 'therapy', you become sad and down.

Learn to appreciate your partner for who he or she is, and then be kind and humble enough to grow together. You should try to build up your character to the level of becoming an instrument of great influence.

In other words, if you think your partner is misbehaving in one thing then you can consciously behave rightly to pass the message across to him or her. Don't you ever become rigid and adamant at making the other person behave exactly the way you want. Correct with respect and in love with prayer, then allow God to do the finishing and furnishing job on your partner.

And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. 1 Samuel 10:6

42

Providing too much information too early.

Keep the mystery alive by not revealing everything all at once. The problem with opening up everything at once is that if you later discern that you are not called to marriage you could have many regrets over having shared those intimate thoughts and secrets with someone who will not be your husband or wife.

Give yourselves time to learn about each other and do not open up all your intimate secrets, desires and longings to each other immediately, just because you are courting. Allow your relationship to grow naturally.

You need to be honest with each other, but that does not mean you have to reveal everything right away. As the relationship grows, you will discover a natural pace for sharing those emotional intimacies.

Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. Micah: 7:5

43

Feeling insecure.

Hacking into emails or phones looking for suspicious messages show you do not trust him or her; then why continue in such relationship?

Give your partner some space. Even if you feel insecure, acting too insecure too soon can switch off the relationship before it starts. Resist the temptation to be constantly checking where he or she is and what he or she is doing and/or thinking and feeling. If you really love your partner, it's natural to be thinking about him or her a lot; but remember he or she had his or her own life before you came along and the life is still there. You must admit the danger you are sowing and you should understand that you might accidentally 'break' something you feel is precious, especially in the early 'fragile' stages;

but remember that a flower seed, once planted, needs to be left a bit to the elements rather than being constantly picked and scratched at.

Insecurity drains up the joys in relationships. Insecurity drives people to become too emotionally dependent or needy and this creates problems; you will begin to see problems where none exist. When we become anxious about anything, we start looking for signs of things going wrong. And, of course, we usually find what we are looking for, even if it isn't really there at all. To actually have a smooth relationship by properly handling insecurity, you have to stop confusing weird imagination with reality. There is need to become less domineering. You will know if you are guilty of this feature when you insist your relationship must be exactly as you think it

should be, without putting the other person's feeling into consideration is a form of control. A sign of insecurity in relationships is when the desire for certainty becomes too strong. Avoid this, it's a serious mistake!

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matt: 6:27

Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Matt: 10:31

44

Getting married out of pity.

You must never get married out of pity. Your destiny is too glorious for you to convert it to a mere compensation package.

It is wrong for you to think marrying someone is a way of consoling him or her, perhaps because of some terrible misfortune he or she may have experienced.

Find some other way to console him or her. Make sure what is attracting you to him or her is nothing that has to do with his or her painful past. Avoid being overwhelmed by the 'pity story' of anyone to the extent that you don't mind entering his or her life as spouse to fill in the seemingly missing joy. Be careful beloved.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Proverb:4:23

45

Unplanned pregnancy.

Because you got pregnant accidentally is not enough reason for you to marry the person responsible. Of course having a child outside marriage is wrong, but it doesn't mean that you must bury your destiny with that person. The

marriage was not properly planned but was entered into as an emergency response measure. Most of such marriages end up in failure.

You must first accept the fact that you have both made a serious mistake to impregnate someone before marriage or to allow yourself to be impregnated. If both of you have agreed to marry each other before the pregnancy, there should be a pause on the marriage plan immediately. The baby should be born first and with the intervention of the Church, a correction marriage can be done. But if both of you never planned to marry each other before the incident, both of you will have to reach a mutual agreement on what to do. That is, how the baby is to be taken care of and what happens after the birth with both of you and marital relationship. The point here is that, it is not automatic to marry each other because of the pregnancy; such decisions could make things worse, instead of better.

He who is pregnant with evil and conceives trouble gives birth to disillusionment. Psalms 7: 14

And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman. Judges: 11:2

46

A good sex life is all that is needed for a good marriage.

This is a blatant lie. It takes more than good sex life to have a good and happy married life. It takes trust, understanding, love, thoughtfulness and compatibility to build a strong and virile home.

Do not base your marital choice on sexual factors; life is more than that. Allowing sex in the relationship may paint a wrong picture of motives or feelings.

A man may seem to love or appreciate you for the moment because you are satisfying his sexual desires, but that is not real

love.

Another ugly experience this carries along is that it does not last before you will get the clearer picture that this is not love, but physical lust. The guy will move on very soon as a butterfly leaves the flower after sucking the juicy nectar.

The first thing you must know is that marriage is not only a physical thing but spiritual as well! Know also that a good sex can only give you pleasure but not a home. Remove this misconception from your brain, it is not true.

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Rev:2:14-16

47

Intentionally losing her virginity before marriage with the wrong impression that men hate virgins.

The fact is, every man dreams of marrying a virgin. Do not let anybody deceive you that men hate getting married to virgins. The truth is that your husband, among other people, will congratulate you, if you remain a virgin till your wedding night. Your virginity is your glory, please keep and guard it jealously. Even if you have lost it already, abstain henceforth and go no further into self-destruction.

Maybe you should ask a few numbers of men that are your friends or siblings to hear their opinions. The ones that will be sincere with you will tell you that they prefer a lady that has not been used or touched by other men before.

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. – Proverb 31:10

Then Amnon hated her exceedingly so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!". – 2 Samuel 13;15NKJV

48

Patterning your marriage after those of celebrities.

A lot of ladies today sit in front of televisions looking for the hottest female celebrity lifestyle and fashion to copy. They often do these to the detriment of their personal character and career development. At the end of this futile exercise, their lives are only glossy on the outside and rotten on the inside. This type of lifestyle can hardly attract nor retain a good man who came with a good intention for a marriage proposal.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord... 2 Cor. :6: 14-17

And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves. Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel...Judges:3:5-8

49

Stringing him along for too long.

Most ladies know that being too easy is a mistake, so they make the man work for his reward. This is all well and good but don't take it too far. It may backfire and lead to a disastrous mistake if you do so.

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. Proverb: 13:12

50

Spending the better part of the youthful life pursuing career and education.

Spend the best of your years pursuing education and career goals not realizing that the strongest assets such as looks, fertility and virility decrease with age. While it is good and desirable to have good career goals and pursue them, it is detrimental to physical, physiological and psychological makeup if this takes too long, especially for ladies. This is because all human assets which help to attract a mate like beauty, vigour, virility and vitality depreciate with time. Beloved, as you pursue your career, pray and prepare for marriage also and don't wait till you get to the highest rung on the ladder of your career before you start considering marriage; plan along side by side.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...a time to search...a time to love. Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8(NIV)

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Ecc:12:12

51

Ignoring unbroken covenants.

The very first description of the nature of marriage in the Bible, as consisting of leaving, cleaving and becoming one flesh (Gen 2:24), reveals the Biblical understanding of marriage as a covenant relationship. However, for the marriage covenant to subsist and to be devoid of satanic attacks and manipulations, all existing covenants must be broken. These include blood covenants with current and past partner, satanic covenants with the marine world, and all forms of witchcraft covenants. Most importantly, the covenants that are entered into consciously and you pray for God to reveal other covenants that you entered into unconsciously. Any unbroken covenant can attract unspeakable turbulence to any home, including Christians', hence don't ignore such. Unbroken covenants are doors opened to demonic forces to oppress lives.

If you are reading this book and you remember you have entered to some covenants, whether major or minor, you have to voice out by seeking spiritual help from a minister of God, particular in the line of deliverance ministry.

Get prayer points of yoke or covenant-breaking and begin the deliverance right in your own room while a minister whom you could easily reach for better spiritual assistance is informed. Under the monitoring of a servant of God, depending on the covenant entered into, you might need to also involve the second party involved in the covenant: but make sure you don't do this alone.

Renounce all the covenants using all Scriptures that concern the matter. Master positive daily confessions that counter the covenant.

And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it assunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people. And it was broken in that day... Zech. 11:10-11

The Biblical injunction on dressing is modesty and I dearly encourage you to strictly adhere to this. As a Christian, your lifestyle, including your dressing should say a lot about who you are. If anyone sees you and still needs to be convinced whether you are a believer or not, by your dressing, then something is wrong. Remember that you will always be addressed by the way you are dressed.

With your dressing, make sure you give people a good impression about who you are. Since your style of dressing will definitely attract a partner of like mind; don't ignore the way you dress.

Above all, dress well. Look pretty and handsome, neat and smell well. Your facial expression is part of your total personality in dressing, smile and always wear an attractive look.

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 1 Tm:2:9-10

53

Without a formal proposal, because of your closeness, you just assume both of you are in a relationship or courtship.

A lot of youth of nowadays, formed immoral relationships with the opposite sex and the devil deceives them to the extent that a lot of things are taken for granted. Presumption and assumptions are made. The guy hedges and prevaricates from making a formal proposal. And the lady, being carried away by the boon of the relationship, assumes that all is well, until a day comes when she sees the guy with a different lady. Now in a new light, it then dawn on her that she has been living in a fools' paradise all along, and she is rendered heartbroken.

Avoid any form of presumption and assumption. Unless you get a formal proposal, as a lady, don't relate with anyone as if you are already engaged; it could send away a potential suitor. Hello guys, don't get emotionally attached to anyone you don't have the plan to marry; it could make your search for your dream partner cloudy. Even if you have so much invested in a relationship but without a formal marriage proposal, you better make your proposal if you are still interested in the fellow.

And as a lady you better call the man and have an open discussion, in order to make things clear, lest you keep wasting your time.

Gen 38:1-End

54

Co-habiting without being legally married.

The Bible makes it categorically clear that the marriage bed is to remain undefiled. Cohabitation of all kinds with unmarried mates of both sexes is ungodly relations which God disapproves. He said in the Book 2 Corinthians that: *'adulterers and fornicators, I will judge.'* Many today scorn the idea of developing a close dependent relationship between husband and wife. They claim that it restricts their freedom and stifles their personal growth. What they advocate can be characterized as a "married singles" lifestyle where both partners continue to follow their independent lives while sharing the same roof and bed. It is not surprising that such relationships often fail, since there is no willingness to leave selfish considerations in order to cleave to each other "for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health."

You need to stop staying together; you are not married yet. Incase you have even had children in this condition; you must do correction marriage, thereby legalizing your union.

Please carry your church along for proper directives. Above all, make sure the Lord is glorified in your marriage. If you being convinced to this and

you have not done it yet, I beseech you not to do it. If your partner threatens to leave, take you stand that you have chosen to do things rightly to please your Maker; God will never allow shame in your life.

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death. Revelation:2: 21-23

55

Staying in a relationship for years without knowing each other's relatives.

The Bible says in the book of Genesis, how Abraham sent his servant with many gifts to his relatives in another part of the country to seek a wife for his son. We also read the account of how Jacob worked for his father-in-law for seven years each for each of his wives (Leah and Rachael). This shows that staying in a relationship without knowing or acknowledging each others' relatives is unbiblical. Hence, any marriage relationship you found yourself in which your partner feels reluctant to meet your relations is a questionable one. I am sure there is something he or she is not telling you yet.

If you are taking the relationship seriously, insist to meet his or her parents. Engage him or her in an open communication over the matter incase you might need to rub minds for the solution. If he or she is still reluctant about meeting his or her relations, you have to make up your mind whether the relationship is worth waiting for or whether you should move on with your life. Make sure you do not go ahead to marry without meeting each other's parents. If this is difficult, involve your marriage counselors. **Genesis 24:1-67**

56

Expecting what you cannot give or willing to give.

A marriage relationship is not a relational prison locking a man and a woman into a permanent relationship. It is rather, to quote a writer, "an elastic link between two hearts." To make this link strong and durable, the partners must be willing to give and give mutually. A partner e.g the man, must not be expecting to receive what he cannot give from the lady.

You need to make up your mind beloved; don't expect your partner or anyone to give you what you cannot give out. Learn to be contented with what you have and avoid being self-centered and excessively demanding. Make your marriage a mutually beneficial relationship.

57

Going about with someone who loves you behind closed doors but is very distant when with friends or family.

One of the first signs that a man loves a lady or vice versa is that he or she is comfortable in the presence of his or her friends or relatives and accepts them as if they were his relatives. If you are presently going out with someone who claims to love you but is distant or cold towards your relatives, you might want to take a second thought about such relationship, because it is a prerequisite to future disaster.

This is one of the danger signals in courtship you must watch out for, don't ignore it. Ask him or her why he or she behaves that way in case he or she is being misunderstood.

Make communication in the relationship very active; it will handle a lot of issues. Make sure you settle this before marriage.

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
Proverb:17:17

Open rebuke is better than secret love. Proverb:27:5

58

Love at first sight.

Every love at first sight experience should be subject to serious prayer so that it does not become destruction at first touch. To us mortal beings, the physical stature easily overawes us; even the prophet Samuel made the same mistake when God asked him to go and anoint His servant, and he was carried away by the stature and physique of men. God rebuked him and said; "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16;7. We should go ahead and do likewise in making marital vows and commitments.

You must accept the truth that you have been shaded away from the things that matter most in marriage; you better wake up from your slumber and face reality.

You cannot know all about a person within the first contact with him or her, hence falling in love has contracted into the risk of marital failure, therefore have a re-think.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 1 Co:2:11

59

Neglecting career and personal goals.

Though it is not desirable to overemphasize the issue of career and personal goals to the detriment of marital goals and plans, on the converse, it is also despicable to neglect it altogether. Doing this will put the future of the intending couple in jeopardy.

Some ladies refuse to add values to their lives but sit down in a place waiting for Mr Right; it is not wise at all.

In your waiting period, get prepared and upgrade yourself to the point of becoming a helpmeet for your spouse and emerging as a parent that are role models in all facets.

It is very important to identify your purpose before going after a partner. Partners are meant to support each other and it is easier to provide this support when each has an idea of his or her personal goals. Pursuing the fulfillment of your career and personal goals facilitate your ability to earn a good living.

But if any provide not for his own and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1Tim:5:8

60

Tribal connection.

It is wrong to base your choice in marriage on sentiments, especially tribal sentiments. The fact that someone comes from your village or place of birth does not make him or her a good marriage partner. The LORD does not look at the face nor tribe of a man, but the heart. Correct the mindset that a familiar person by same tribe would make a better spouse. Understand that you can marry from any tribe, once God is called to the matter.

If you are under pressure from your parents (basically their opinion matters a lot here because they seek that you have a good marriage) you need to prayerfully consider the matter.

Avoid any fight or argument with them till you are able to convince them otherwise, in case you are not going for their option.

Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee. Proverb:25: 17

61

Thinking that the only necessary requirement for a relationship is being a churchy person.

In the book of Job, we read the account of how Satan joined 'the Sons of God' when they came to worship in the house of God. This should show us that a mere churchy front should not be the only basis for going into a relationship or committing to someone; the reason being that so many fake Christians are in the world today. Like God said in the book of Isaiah, there are those who draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me." So never believe all of those in the church today are true Christians; I mean born-again.

God forbid, we have had cases of people that picked up their spouse from the church and yet regret the act. It takes God to know who is good and faithful, beloved.

Know for sure that, as a believer, the only person you are supposed to marry should also be a child of God, nothing less. You also note here that every child of God may have different degrees in their compatibility to you; hence you need the gift of discernment to actually get the best for yourself. Avoid basing your judgment on a person's spiritual status by placing too much emphasis on his or her spiritual engagement or activities.

"... And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.
Luke 10:38-42

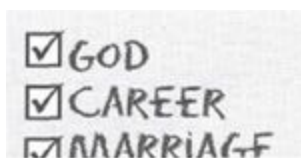
62

Thinking you can never do Without a person.

Another grave mistake singles commonly make is to think that a mate is indispensable. This is usually the case with the ladies; anytime the guy starts showing some signs of unseriousness, they start to break down and beat themselves over the head. But the fact is that no partner is indispensable in

a Christian relationship; if the two are destined to be together and the relationship has been sanctioned by God, then they surely will consummate the relationship.

First change your thinking and mindset. Ph'p:4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Focus on developing yourself in all ramifications. Prioritize your life:



Manage your emotions by subjecting it under total control of yourself and the Holy Spirit.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt:6:33

63

Making the opposite sex your best friends, even while in a relationship.

It should be borne in mind that the marriage relationship is a covenant one between the wife and the husband, and the bible teaches that the man will LEAVE his father and his mother and CLEAVE to his wife and the two shall become ONE flesh. God designed the woman to be man's suitable helper, or literally, "a helper agreeing to him." Eve was created to be Adam's *other half* approximating him in every point and making the marriage union a complete whole. The woman was also created to be man's counterpart, agreeing with him mentally, physically and spiritually, making him a larger person than he would have been alone, bringing into his life a new feminine perspective he would not have known otherwise. This is the divine pattern and has to be imbibed right from the courtship level.

There are certain characters that would counter this divine placement. Anything that could create suspicion in your relation is a threat to it. Parading yourself with an opposite sex you are not engaged to is not wise.

It could give wrong impressions about both of you. In other words, your potential marital relationship would be exposed to worry, anxiety, suspicion, envy or rumours from people which could distort your healthy relationship.

Place your courtship in preference to any extraneous relationship. Learn to trust your partner. But if he or she has been found unfaithful previously, you will need to make up your mind whether you are taking him or her by the promise to change or not.

But it is better to get best friends of the same sex to avoid comparing your partner with best friends of opposite sex. Note that any relationship outside your rightful courtship can lure your heart away.

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

1 King: 11:1-2

64

You meet there have probably been drinking and will not be on their best behavior. If you want to meet good men, go to where they are: at work, at study, or at play and in the gathering of the children of God. Spend time in places where the type of man you're looking for is likely to be. This may involve joining a group, doing a class, or starting a job in a particular field of interest.

Matthew 6:21: *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

65

Believing that women are interested in that macho nonsense.

Women like a man to be manly, there's no doubt about that. But they are not impressed by all the nonsense some men use to 'prove' themselves to one another. If you think spitting, swearing and fighting are going to get you anywhere with women who are wife materials, you are wrong. They may put up with such behaviour, but they are unlikely to approve of it deep down. If the behaviour persists longer than necessary, the relationship may be heading for the rocks.

66

Boasting.

Women hate braggarts. Besides, they would rather hear and talk about themselves. If a woman is impressed by boasting, this may be because she has a low self-esteem which will lead to other problems soon enough. The reason why ladies do not like boastful guys may not be far-fetched. The general belief is that guys who boast have an attitudinal problem or an inferiority complex and this results in the desire for attention to themselves every opportunity they have. It may be alright if a man mentions or speaks of his achievements once in a while, but when it becomes a recurring decimal, it can become highly irritating.

67

Reliance on friend's recommendation instead of praying for God's contribution.

Many believers still have the naïve believe that marriage is all about connection, especially monetary ones.

68

Marriage based on trial and error.

There should be a defined focus in every relationship. If your relationship can be described as a sort of hit-and-miss relationship, you must be ready to accept whatever is the outcome, marriage is so crucial that it's either you follow the right approach or you accept the consequences of going into it blindfolded. Marriage is not gambling or a Russian roulette. It is a divine institution that requires clear divine guidance and meticulous attention to spiritual details.

69

Forced marriage.

When a person is forced to marry a particular person because of family ties or friendship, trouble will soon come knocking on their matrimonial door. This is rampant among parents, especially the rich types who forced their children on each other in order to 'keep the money in the family' and expand their business empires and conglomerates.

The end result of these forced marriages is divorce and long term bitterness and acrimony between the couple.

70

I can be getting money from a man or woman without allowing him or her to sleep with me.

FALSE! In as much as you are collecting money from a man, you cannot but give yourself to him in return. In other words, you are a certified 'prostitute'. You do not need to collect money from any man. Be content

with what you have and trust God for your dream spouse. As a believer, you should know that there is a universal law known as the Law of Exchange. This law has both physical and spiritual implications. There is no vacuum in life. Nothing goes for nothing. If you have been collecting money or gifts from a man or a lady, a day will come when she will demand or ask for a favor in return, and justifiably so too. This will definitely not be to your advantage if the demand is made in kind!

*Galatians: 6:7-8: **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.***

71

Marriage as an escape route from parental influence or domination

A lot of teenagers and young adults, especially young ladies, enter into premature marriages in order to escape from strong and 'negative' parental influence: so they say. The tendency for this is even higher when the parents are not financially well-off. Several cases have been reported of young ladies being enticed with gifts and foods by young men in their neighbourhood, or so-called sugar daddies. It is a sad reality to know that most of these young ladies end up as single parents as they are often used and dumped by their amoral lovers.

As Christian singles, beloved, you must obey the Lord's injunction to obey your parents at all times and do not listen to the devil's lies about their 'harshness' or 'wickedness'. As your parents, they have authority, both physical and spiritual, over you. You should revere and submit to their authority, until the right time God appoints for you to start your own family.

*Genesis:16:6-10: **But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face. And the angel of the LORD found***

her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

72

Matchmaking

This can come from friends, colleagues and very often, parents. Although these set of people may have good intention, and may mean well, you should realize that they cannot and should not determine your destiny. The only person who can do that is YOU, and the only being who can help you is GOD. You are the only one who can captain the ship of your destiny, and also who can be the architect of your future. God knows you more intimately than anyone does. He knows your temperament, your weaknesses, your strength, your capabilities and your potentials. He also knows the best candidate that will suit and complement these traits. The beauty of it is that He has created this person when He fashioned you at creation. He knows this person, and it is only Him that can order his step to meet with yours. Do not give anybody the opportunity of ruining your life by making a wrong marital choice for you. Ask God in prayers, and wait on Him; He will make the best choice for you.

Gen:2: 21-23: 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; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 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.

73

Thinking they will be in their twenties forever

Enjoy being spoilt with attention in your twenties, but realize that this wonderful season of your life will come to an end sooner than you think. You should realize as a single that your youth and vigour will not last forever. Do not let the old moneybags that are taking you to eateries and pampering you with present now deceive you into thinking you will be young forever. Get all the tools necessary to develop yourself now and train yourself by engaging in a trade or in education. Remember the English proverb which says, 'time and tide wait for no man'.

Eccl:12:1-2: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

74

Relationship after demonic consultations

There are many instances of these nowadays. This happens when the name, image or photograph of a person is taken to the witchdoctor or a diviner for consultation, by an intending spouse, on the 'destiny' or the virtuous state of the person whose name or image is brought for the consultation. As a Christian single, this is a very dangerous mistake to make, as any consultation made unto any medium outside the body of Christ is demonic in nature and it will backfire on the individual sooner or later in the future.

Please note that Satan and his cohorts have no free meal. They operate a primitive trade-by-barter system.

They might give you the information you seek quite alright, but they also have access to manipulate and control your life, through the 'legal ground' you ceded to them by the evil consultation.

2 Kings:1:3-4: *But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.*

75

Becoming an internet or social network addict in search of a spouse.

A very large percentage of singles worldwide, have recently developed a crazy kind of habit, where they spend hours on social networks in quest for new friends to date. What a huge mistake! Our social networks have done more harm than good to communication between lovers and married couples, and the earlier we realize the harm, the better it will be for us all. I recently came across a story of a young lady, who met, chatted with, and made arrangement to meet with some fellows on the internet. After these evil men met with her in a hotel room, they not only raped her, but also drugged her and cut parts of her body organs for money rituals. This is a pathetic story of a victim of the social network and I will like you to read it to see the terrible cost of this menace.

"My name is Chinwe, I am 26 years old, I never graduated from the university, simply because I was stupid and careless. On my 24th birthday, I received a nice gift. It was a Blackberry phone. I always wanted one. It was like a rite of passage. My ex-boyfriend got it for me. He was a student like me, didn't have a job and I really never cared to ask as he could afford it. My concern at that point was, "Yes, I have finally arrived. Other girls in my hostel had blackberries and I would always get pissed when I heard sounds of pings and messages coming into their phones at all hours and I would stare at my Nokia phone and wish I could throw it away, but half bread they say is better than none. So I hoped and even fasted to get a blackberry phone. Looking back now, if I had the opportunity, I'd have a landline with

no internet activity what so ever. Anyway I got the blackberry phone and even got free BIS subscription. At that moment, my life was complete. No more going to the cyber cafes to check my emails, facebook or twitter. I had it all at my finger tips. Life indeed was complete, or so I thought.

Anyway, I became addicted to my blackberry and also my social media applications, and since I had constant access, I quickly gained many followers, especially guys, because I had a lot of erotic pictures on my timeline. I was popular finally. I felt I was the main girl, everyone wanted to follow me. I didn't care if it was virtual, it felt good, checking out my profile and having well over 8,000 followers, more than half of which were guys, but one particular guy caught my attention. Till this day I don't know what made him stand out, but we got chatty. He sent me direct messages and I replied. He was quite a gentleman and I can't remember him ever asking for a nude picture unlike the rest of them, so this made me comfortable with him. His name was Tobi. He said he was a doctor. I didn't have any cause to doubt him. He had extensive knowledge and even gave me medical advice from time to time. We eventually moved from twitter to Blackberry chat. We chatted all the time. I got so comfortable with him that I gave him my number and that would come to be the biggest mistake I ever made.

Tobi called me every day, some days he called more than once. At night he would call and I would lay on my bed and have phone sex with him. His voice was so soothing. He made me do things I never thought possible. He had gained so much access into my head, I realized later I had done some very sick and twisted things just to please him. I would take nude pictures of myself, I would send him videos of me touching myself in private, and send him voice notes of me making moaning sounds and stimulating orgasms, and all this while we had not met, not face to face at least. Eventually I played into his hands. I began pestering to meet him in person. At this point I had lost my mind. I assumed I was in-love with him and when my boyfriend at the time broke up with me, I really welcomed it. For me, it meant no more sneaking around.

Tobi eventually agreed to come to Lagos to meet me, all this while he had made me to believe he was in Calabar, and would take time off work to

spend a weekend with me in Lagos. When I heard this I was excited, he told me to book a reservation for him, stating he would pay me back as soon as he arrived and also he said it would make him more committed to the visit and would convince him of my seriousness. I bought it all. He was smart and cunning. I was stupid, oh how stupid I was. The funny thing was I had sent him tons of pictures and all I had was just one picture of him, and whenever I asked he would claim he wanted to be sure I loved him for him, and not for his looks, and sheepishly I would try to convince him of my undying love, and would try to appease him with nude pictures of my body. He eventually made it to Lagos. I met him at the hotel. He was tall, handsome and had a wonderful smile. He made love to me over and over and convinced me to spend the night with him. I told him I couldn't because I had a test the next morning.

Now at this point I don't know what triggered his anger. I don't know if it was because I couldn't spend the night, or maybe I said something else I can't remember saying, but whatever it was brought out a very ugly side of him. He called me foul names, and kept going on and on about how he always knew I was cheap and he knew I was sleeping with other men. The same man whom had swept me away, slammed me on the floor. He told me of how he had shown his friends all my nude pictures and how they had watched the videos and listened to the voice notes. He told me he had made a bet with his friends that I would actually pay for him to have sex with me, just to prove how stupid I was.

Well you can imagine how I felt. I was confused and shocked, but I attempted to regain any little dignity I had left, and so I tried to mouth off at him. Suddenly he punched me in the face and I tripped over, and hit my head on a stool. The next thing I remember was waking up on the bed, I was tied up, and he was staring at me. His eyes were dark and he had a sinister smile on his lips. He stood up and walked towards me. I tried to scream and realized my mouth was taped. My head was racing. The unfortunate part was that no one knew where I was. He turned me over and told me he was going to teach me a lesson. At this point I was naked. He raped me from behind and I mean my anus. The pain was mind blowing. I struggled and he hit me.

When he was done, he brought out a small blade and looked at me for a minute and said, this scar is going to always serve as a reminder for girls like you, always trying to be more than what you are; for stupid fools like you. He put the blade to my nipple and cut it off and anytime I think of it, I still feel the pain. It was like nothing I had ever felt before. He was calm like he had done it a million times. I could feel the warm blood dripping down my mutilated breast, tears of fear and pain running down my face and suddenly he turned around again. This time all I saw was a flash.

I don't know how I survived it but I woke up in a hospital days after. Well I was awake, but my eyes were swollen shut. It took a couple of days for me to open my one good eye, and realize the damage he had done. He had plucked out my eye and cut my face. He had cut my breasts up real bad. They had to take it out like I had cancer or something. There was no record of who I was because he had taken everything. He had taken my bag containing everything I had. I was able to tell the nurses about what I could remember and also give them my mum's phone number. The hospital felt so much pity, they treated me for free. Hard to believe right?

Anyway I was taken home after weeks at the hospital to recuperate. It was tough. I was blind in one eye. I had one breast and a hideous scar of my face. Talk about signage, he did a number on me. How dumb I was. Sometimes, I wish he had killed me but there are fates worse than death and I guess this is one of them. He was gone without a trace. The receipt from the hotel was in my name so yes he had played me from the start.

I didn't dare go back to school, I was sure everyone would have heard, and I was not going to become a statistic so I decided to stay home and mind my business. Besides what do I need an education for? I'd rather stay home because there is no rising from this. There is no happy ending to this story. This is the simple ending. I was a victim of a sexual predator and I let him into my life, period. I take full responsibility for that. I was driven by greed and lack of morals. I allowed myself fall into an abyss but saying all these doesn't change anything. It's a memory I will have to live with for the rest of my life. Well, not a memory, because I look at myself in the mirror every day. Who would want to see a nude picture of a woman with one breast, one eye, and a stub?

I have decided to publish my story because with the rise of social media atrocities being committed, every story can go a long way in saving a life. So while you read, SHARE and help someone back on the right path – these internet predators are real.

76

Giving A False Impression About Your Relationship Status.

Some singles try to cover up, in order to prove that 'all is well', hence they tell people 'I am getting married soon' meanwhile, they are not even engaged. Some do this in the name of faith, saying 'it's what you confess that comes'. Yes you are right, what you confess manifests but not in this case. Even if you must make your daily confessions, not to people; this has the tendency of blocking your way with some potential partners. Let people know your current status so those that are interested in you will not pass you by, just like that. It's of no use being ashamed to say you are not in any relationship since you are seriously expecting your dream spouse. As a guy, if you say you are engaged in order to discourage the cloud of ladies running after you, you have still not done well. Take your stand and let them know you are not interested in them though not engaged. It's good to be truthful, most especially as a Christian.

77

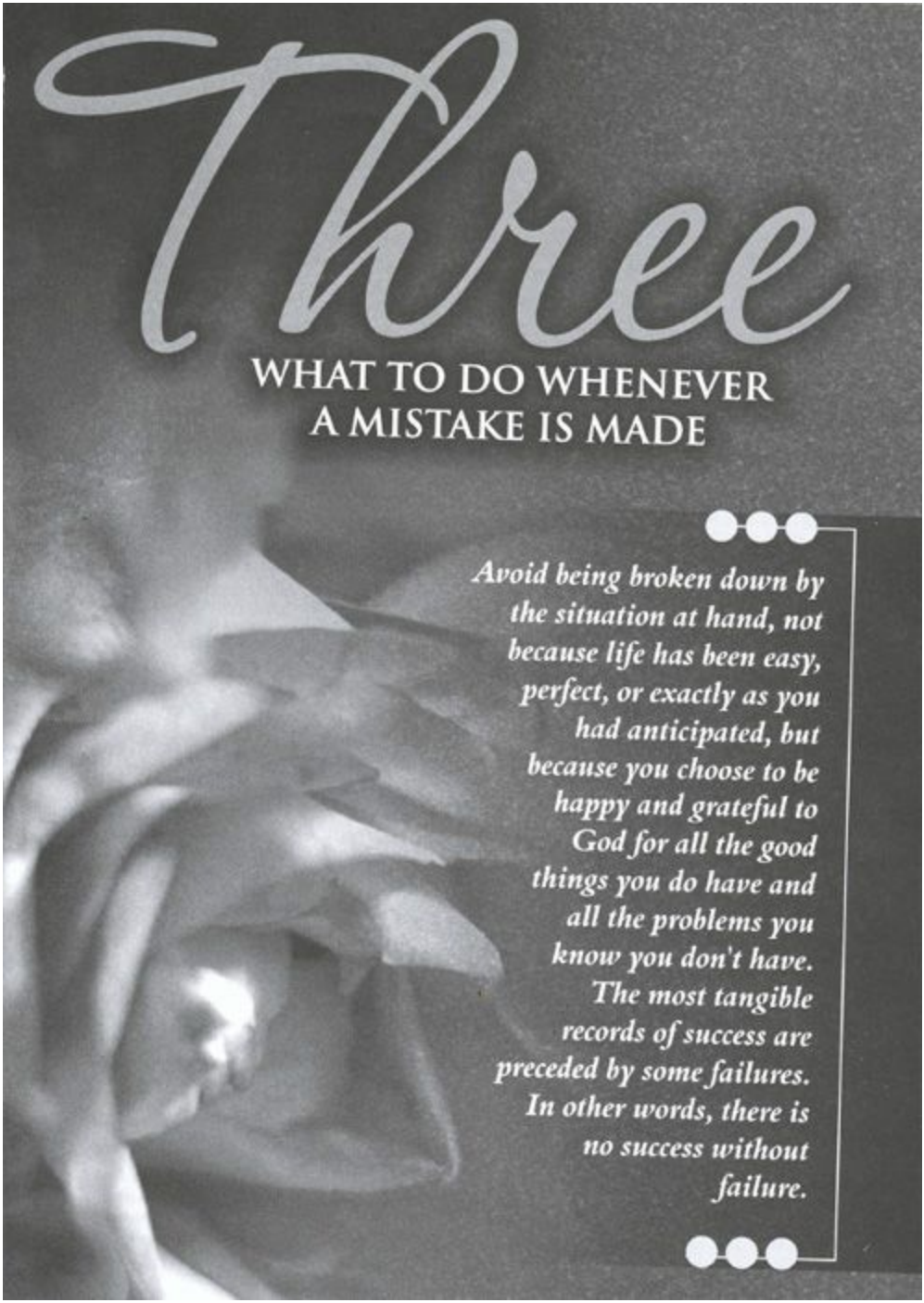
Merging Your Savings Accounts While Unmarried.

From so many stories I have gathered from experienced people, I strongly advise that if you are in a relationship, don't merge your bank accounts yet until you are finally married. Even if you have a project you are saving towards for the future home, I suggest you still do that using a separate bank account. This is because wisdom demands that you should not mis-assume reality with sincerity. You might be trying to prove how sincere you

are with your partner but the truth is that, you not married yet. The combined savings alone could even become a great cause of fissure between you. We have had cases of some people who eventually did not marry each other and the combined savings became a great issue. Some people even pretend to play on the other person's intelligence. Please avoid it beloved; it is my sincere counsel.

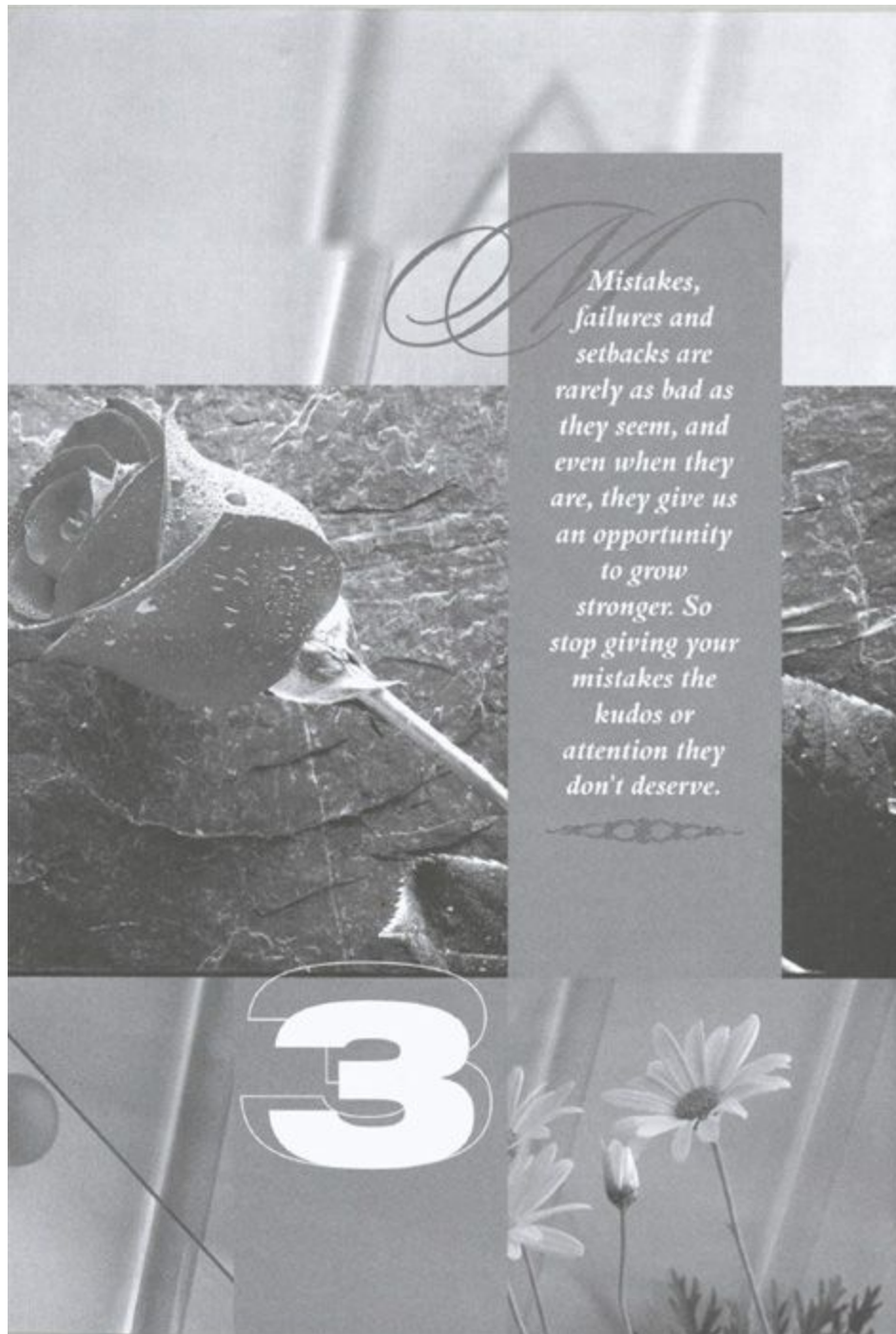
Three

WHAT TO DO WHENEVER
A MISTAKE IS MADE



Avoid being broken down by
the situation at hand, not
because life has been easy,
perfect, or exactly as you
had anticipated, but
because you choose to be
happy and grateful to
God for all the good
things you do have and
all the problems you
know you don't have.

The most tangible
records of success are
preceded by some failures.
In other words, there is
no success without
failure.



Mistakes, failures and setbacks are rarely as bad as they seem, and even when they are, they give us an opportunity to grow stronger. So stop giving your mistakes the kudos or attention they don't deserve.

3

WHAT TO DO WHENEVER A MISTAKE IS MADE

- 1. When you make a mistake, admit it.** Whether it is a big mistake or a small one, sincerely admit it to yourself.
- 2. Ask God for forgiveness and Mercy.** I personally encourage you to start again even if you were down before. And to do this you sincere need the grace of the Almighty. Just make sure you ask for it, He will do beyond your request.
- 3. Take Your Time.** After any mistake, take your time and don't rush into further decisions over the matter. Take a break in order to put some missing I things in place. You need to investigate the missing things, the vacuum, and the 'error'. By so doing, you are somehow taking all the time you need to heal emotionally. This is so essential. If you take further steps forward while you still nurse bitterness, regret, etc, there is a great possibility of making worse mistakes. Moving on doesn't take a day; it takes lots of little steps to be able to break free. Never let a bad day make you feel like you have led a bad life. Just because today is painful doesn't mean tomorrow won't be great. The most important thing is to get to your glorious destination. *God is still on the throne.*
- 4. Choose to Be Happy.** Another important thing you need to do is to choose to be happy. Avoid being broken down by the situation at hand, not because life has been easy, perfect, or exactly as you had anticipated, but because you choose to be happy and grateful to God for all the good things you do have and all the problems you know you don't have.

The most tangible records of success are preceded by some failures. In other words, there is no success without failure.

If someone claims he or she doesn't make mistakes, he or she is unlikely to make anything substantial out of life, because life itself is built out of the failure-success factor. It is better to have a life full of small failures that you learned from, rather than a lifetime filled with the regrets of never trying. So get out of your seat and push all errors to the level of passiveness so that you can become active again.

5. Be positive in your thinking. Your thought pattern determines a lot about your total success. Positive thinking creates positive results. If a situation around you seems static, change the situation or change the way you think about it. Being hurt is something you can't avoid especially after a serious mistake, but being miserable is what you should avoid -it's always a choice. Negative thinking creates negative results. Positive thinking creates positive results. Things always turn out best for people who make the best out of the way things turn out.

6. Your mistakes and failures should be your motivation, not your excuse. Learn to work despite your mistakes and failures by placing them under your feet and use them as stepping stones. Take mistakes and failures in stride. They should become your building blocks for your success mansions. Mistakes teach you important lessons in life. Every time you make one, it means you are one step closer to your goal, if you react the right way. The only mistake that can truly hurt you is choosing to do nothing simply because you are too scared to make a mistake. Failure is not falling down; Failure is staying down when you have the choice to get backup.

7. Mistakes are rarely as bad as they seem, so stop giving your mistakes the kudos they don't deserve. Mistakes, failures and setbacks are rarely as bad as they seem, and even when they are, they give us an opportunity to grow stronger. So stop giving your mistakes the kudos or attention they don't deserve. You should never let one dark cloud cover the entire sky. The sun is always shining on some part of your life.

Sometimes you just have to forget how you feel, remember what you deserve, and keep pushing forward. God is always nearby to help. Just call Him into the matter.

8. Make sure you are making progress. If you pick yourself up, brush yourself off and keep pressing forward, you will learn something and you will earn another chance to get it right. Remember, no matter how many mistakes you have made or how slow your progress seems to be, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn't trying. Don't waste your time being upset about things you cannot change. Start over right now. Implement

the lessons you have learned from your past mistakes, and do it better this time. May God perfect your joy, in the name of Jesus.

9. Go beyond just admitting your errors. You must also determine to do things differently next time. This enables you to rebuild trust and confidence within yourself when you make sure your actions follow through. Imperatively, keep agreements with yourself, as they are just as important as the ones with others. Sincerely beloved, it is how you handle your biggest mistake that truly defines who you really are.

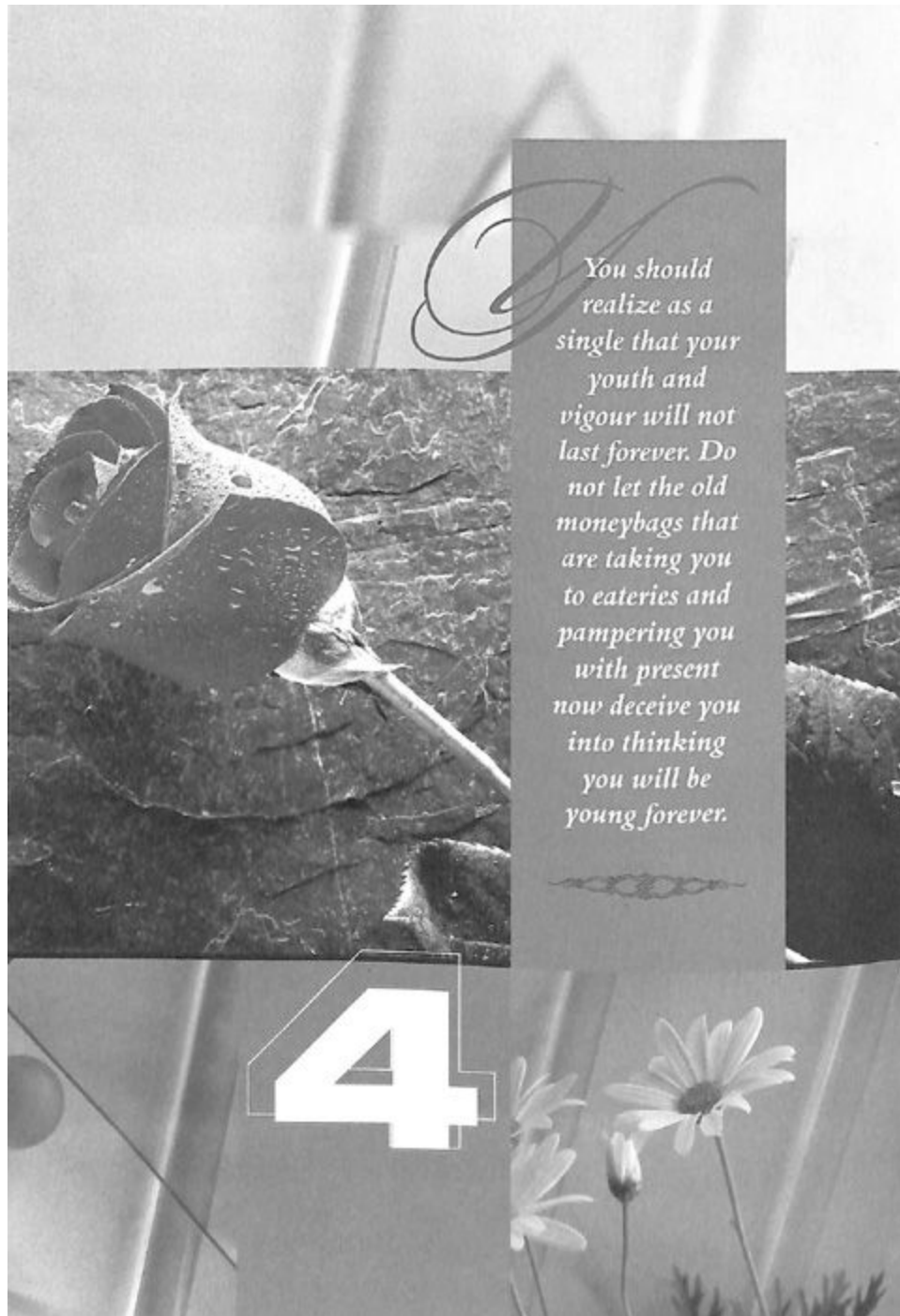
The bottom line is that you need to become a prophet by yourself and you need to be able to hear from God on what He wants you to do. There's need for you to begin to think aright in making marriage decision. You need to stop seeing men the way men see men and as a lady too, you need to stop seeing ladies as ladies see themselves but as what they really stand for. You need to also begin to understand that human beings are different and there's need to handle each person individually. The real person is the spirit inside the man or woman; it is not the countenance or the physical image you see. Another thing you should hold unto in this book is that, if the Almighty God is interested in you and you are also interested in God, He will never allow you to fall victim of any of these unpardonable mistakes.

There are some families in which nobody has ever done any proper marriage among them. What they do is to get pregnant or impregnate someone and nothing more. If you as a believer now choose to be different, you should know for sure that the devil will fight hard to make sure you repeat the same family mistake. So if you fall into this category, you have a battle to fight but the good news is that the Lord is available to help you.

Four

"I SHALL NOT FALL INTO
MISTAKE AND ERROR"

*The mistake that
destroyed my
paternal and
maternal marriage,
hunting for my
relationship now you
shall not prosper;
break, in the name of
Jesus.*



You should realize as a single that your youth and vigour will not last forever. Do not let the old moneybags that are taking you to eateries and pampering you with present now deceive you into thinking you will be young forever.

4

PRAYER POINTS

1. Foundational mistake affecting my marital life, break, in the name of Jesus.
2. Past mistakes, competing with my marital joy, receive the finger of God and be corrected, in the name of Jesus.
3. Mistake of the past threatening my marital relationship, loose your hold over my life, in the name of Jesus.
4. Arrow of marital failure fired into my life, backfire, in the name of Jesus.
5. The mistake that destroyed my paternal and maternal marriage, hunting for my relationship now you shall not prosper; break, in the name of Jesus.
6. Power of marital failure of my father's house, assigned against my marital success, cash fire, in the name of Jesus.
7. My error, my mistake, be converted to my testimony, in the name of Jesus.
8. Oh Lord my father, turn my mistakes to miracles, in the name of Jesus.
9. Every mistake at the edge of my breakthrough, working against my marital destiny, loose your hold, in the name of Jesus.
10. My marital glory swallowed up by any past mistakes and error, be vomited by power in the blood of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.
11. Whatever my mistake has stolen away from me, I receive back in multiple folds, in the name of Jesus.
12. Oh Lord arise, and repair my any broken aspect of my life which is also affecting my marital life, in the name of Jesus.
13. Any satanic programming into my life in order to destroy my marital testimonies, come out, in the name of Jesus.
14. Ancestral covenant assigned against my marital destiny, break, by the blood of Jesus.
15. Every evil covenant I made with my former boyfriends/ girl friends, affecting my present relationship, I wipe you off with the blood of Jesus.
16. Inherited mistake in my blood, be flushed out, by the blood of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.

17. My marital glory, on the altar of darkness of my father's house, be loosed and come back to me, in the name of Jesus.
18. My heavenly ordain spouse that has left me as a result of my past mistake and error, come back to me because Jesus has redeem me, in Jesus' name.
19. Fire of God consume from my life every habit that means to destroy my marital fulfillment, in the name of Jesus.
20. Power of the wasters of my father's house, running after my destiny, your time is up, die, in the name of Jesus.
21. I bind and I render to nothing all the strongmen that are currently troubling my life, in the name of Jesus.
22. Let the backbone of the stubborn pursuer and strongman break, in the name of Jesus
23. Every satanic clothe of non-achievement, you are not my portion, I reject you, catch fire, in Jesus' name.
24. Every gathering where my downfall is being discussed, arrow of fire, scatter them, in the name of Jesus.
25. Every satanic verdict of demotion for my life, be cancelled by the blood of Jesus.
26. All the blessings the Lord has given unto me shall remain with me for life, in the name of Jesus.
27. In every area of life, I shall not be demoted, in the name of Jesus.
28. This year, shame shall not know my life and my habitation, in the name of Jesus.
29. Every spiritual poison in my body, I eject by the blood of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.
30. I use the blood of Jesus to insulate my spirit and soul from all demonic influences, in the name of Jesus.
31. Every power of darkness using my dreams to manipulate my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
32. Let the angels of God gather heavenly resources to fight all my adversaries, in the name of Jesus.
33. Every evil spirit that has attacked me in the dream, die, in the name of Jesus.

34. Any evil covenant strengthening the foundation of any bondage, be broken, in the name of Jesus.
35. Every soul tie covenant between me and familiar spirit, break and loose your hold, in the name of Jesus.
36. Every soul tie covenant between me and spiritual night caterers, break and loose your hold, in Jesus' name.
37. Every soul tie covenant between me and any territorial spirit, break and loose your hold, in Jesus' name.
38. I decree every authority assigned to torment me to expire, in the name of Jesus.
39. Every programme of affliction for my body and destiny, expire, in the name of Jesus.
40. Every internal chain, suffocating my life, break, in the name of Jesus.
41. By the power that breaks the gates of brass and cuts the bars of iron asunder, let all my spiritual chains break, in the name of Jesus.
42. Any power organized to disorganise me, I bury you alive, in the name of Jesus.

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