

# Christian Marriage

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## Introduction

The following story was posted in the news a few years ago.

A MOZAMBICAN MAN ABANDONS THE WOMAN HE LIVED WITH FOR 12 YEARS TO MARRY ANOTHER.

The article showed a picture of the abandoned mother holding a baby in her arms. The man had lived with this woman for twelve years and they had three children.

One day he just left her.

On the day of the wedding this man set the alarm on his wife's cell phone. She woke up at 6:00 am. His wife heated water for him to take a bath. He got dressed and lied to her saying, "I am going to work." A few hours later, friends told her that her husband was getting married to another woman.

When the mother heard this, she decided to go with her parents, other relatives and friends to the wedding ceremony held at a place called the Wedding Palace. When they arrived, they confronted the husband. He claimed that he was not legally married to the mother of his children and that he wanted to continue the marriage ceremony!

Chaos broke out between the families.

The man had three children with this woman and lived with her for twelve years, calling her his wife. After they had two children, the wife introduced her husband to her parents at her anelamento. Later the man paid a lobolo to the parents.

What amazed everyone was that the solicitor sided with the man in this case. She said that under the law all non-civil ceremonies should be transcribed into the civil books.

Traditional ceremonies such as the *lobolo* should be witnessed and sanctioned by the local leader, to be recognized as official. Her inability to produce a document that could prove her claims meant that there was no legal impediment for the man to be wedded to the other woman. The solicitor said,

*At this time, what I can tell you is that 'having lived together and had children' does not constitute impediment [for the civil wedding to be carried out with another spouse].'*

Because of all of the chaos and arguing that went on at the Wedding Palace, the marriage did not take place that day. However, a few days later the man married his new wife in a ceremony at the uncle's house.

Man has strayed so far from what God intended for the family! God's desire is that a man and woman would love one another! They would be committed until one of them dies. God tells us in the Bible, "*I hate divorce (Malachi 2:16).*"

## **LESSON ONE: WHAT IS MARRIAGE?**

Marriage is a union of one man and one woman who make a permanent and exclusive commitment to each other until they are separated by death. As a Christian, this is a commitment made before God and others.

This exclusive commitment means that sex and sexual fulfillment will only be found with your spouse AND NO ONE ELSE until you are separated by death. This was and is God's perfect plan.

*4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason*

*a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." 7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." (Matthew 19:4-9 NIV)."*

### **This is God's perfect plan!**

1. One man and one woman holding fast to one another in unity.
2. Through sexual union they become one flesh
3. The husband and wife separate from parents to start a new family – they do not continue to live with their parents.
4. God has made this happen and has joined them together – and what God has joined together no man should separate.

5. People separate because they are hard of heart.

6. Anyone who leaves his or her spouse for another commits adultery

### **What do we learn from Matthew 19:4-9?**

God's plan was never for a man to have more than one wife! He did not punish people who did this in the Old Testament, but it was always against God plan!

We cannot let anyone interfere with marriage! Everyone in the church must work together to encourage couples to stay together.

It is not good to continue to living with the husband's or wife's family. They should start a new family in their own home.

### **Marriage is good and should be honored!**

*Proverbs 18:22 says, "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord (NIV).*

Marriage is good and considered a blessing from God!

*Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (NIV)."*

Everyone should respect marriage and encourage all married couples to be faithful to one another. God says that people who have sex with anyone but their own spouse will be judged. "God will judge the adulterer and all sexually immoral (Hebrews 13:4 NIV)."

**IMPORTANT 1: Marriages should be recognized by the church, the community, and by the extended family. Husbands should always ask permission of the bride's parents before they are married. A marriage ceremony should be carried out in the church. Everyone in the community should know of your commitment to one another! Marriage is not something done in secret!**

**IMPORTANT 2: As soon as you move in together and live in sexual union with your partner, you are committed to them in God's sight.** This is the meaning behind the words, "one flesh" in I Corinthians 6:16, "*Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body. For it is said, 'The two will become one*

*flesh.” Mark 10:7,8 says, 7 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh (NIV).”*

## **LESSON TWO: GOD’S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS**

*Isaiah 55:8-9, “8For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways”, declares the Lord. 9 As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (NIV).”*

God has given us his Word to help us know how to live. We must understand that God does not do things the way human beings do things!

### **Examples of human ways of thinking**

Human beings go to the witch-doctor to help them get a wife or husband – but God says we must pray and wait upon him to get a spouse. Matt. 6:33

In this world husbands hit their wives – but God says husbands should love their wives as Christ loves the church. Eph. 5:25

In the world, people who do not know God follow their own ways and do not follow the Bible! As Christians, we have to repent of our evil ways and follow God and His ways. Acts 17:30

Godless people say, “If my wife cannot bare children, I must divorce her.” But the Bible tells us, “What God has joined together, let not man separate!” Mark 10:9

God’s desire for all of us is to do things His way, not our own way.

### **God tells us that everything we do must be done in love!**

1. We must love God – we do this by obeying his commands, talking to Him (prayer), and listening to Him (by reading His Word and listening to His Spirit).  
John 14:15

2. We must love our families. We do this by providing for them, doing acts of kindness and service for them. We must never hit our wife! And we must speak kindly to them. Eph. 4:32
3. We must show love to others. It is important to minister to others, but first we love God and love our families!

*1 Timothy 5:8, "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (NIV)."*

### **Fathers must provide for their families!**

This means each man must work hard to make sure his wife and children have enough food and clothing. They must also train their children to understand the Word of God!

*1 Timothy 3:5, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church (NIV)?"*

*1 Peter 3:7, "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers (NIV)."*

*Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (NIV)."*

### **We can see from these Scriptures how important our families are!**

If a man does not treat his wife well, his prayers will not be answered. If he cannot manage his family, he cannot be in ministry. If a man does not provide for his family, he is worse than an unbeliever.

### **Ministry and a Good Marriage**

Anyone who has any kind of ministry in the church, for example the worship leader, the elder, deacon, evangelist, pastor, secretary, or treasurer, they **must have a good family**. If they do not, they cannot serve in the church.

*1 Timothy 3:2, "Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach (NIV)"*



*1 Timothy 3:12, "A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well (NIV)."*

*Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (NIV)."*

### **LESSON THREE: HUSBANDS**

Read these verses in Ephesians. As you read them, pray that God would help you understand and apply them to your lives.

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church (Ephesians 5:25-29 NIV)."*

#### **What do these verses teach?**

1. Husbands are to love their wives as much as Jesus loved the church.
2. Jesus loved the Church so much, He died for her. Husbands, we must therefore give our lives for our wife's.
3. Jesus was willing to sacrifice heaven in order to die for the church.
4. Jesus gave his time, his teachings, his energy, his prayers, and finally his life for the church.

#### **What does this mean to me?**

1. I must sacrifice my life for my wife.
2. I must give of my time.
3. I must teach my family.
4. I must give of my physical energy.
5. I must pray for my family.
6. I must never abuse my wife or children. Anyone who does, may not serve in the church.

#### **What are specific ways I can do this?**

1. Learn the Bible and teach it to your wife and children.
2. I must give of my time by working hard to provide for my family. I must work hard in the field or at my work. I must work hard keeping my home fixed well and maintained.

3. If my wife is sick I must help carry water and do those things that she might normally do.

4. I must pray regularly for my family. Pray that your wife and kids would follow Jesus. Pray that they would be blessed and stay close to the Lord.

### How to Show Love

*“28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church (Ephesians 5:28-29 NIV).”*

Men, we are told to have two kinds of love for our wife. First, we need to have the same kind of love that Jesus had for the church. Second, we need to love our wife as we love ourselves.

Too often people only think of themselves. It is this selfishness that destroys marriages. Often people think, “What do I want?” “What would be good for me?” “What do I need?”

God tells us we need to think, “What does my wife want?” “What could I do to make her happy?” “What would be good for my wife?” “What does she need?”

This is how we show love!

*Philippians 2:3-4, “3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others (NIV).”*

The Bible says, “Husbands love your wives...” This is not a suggestion, but a commandment. The word love in the Bible is a very strong word. The word is defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

*4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails (NIV)*

*Love is patient.* That means that someone who loves his wife is patient with her. Even when she does things that are hurtful or unpleasant, a husband is to patiently love her. We need to *bear with one another in love and forgive one another* as we are told in Col. 3:13.

Love is kind. This means that as husbands we are to use kind words when talking to our wives. It also means that we are to do acts of kindness. You should think about what type of acts of kindness you can do for your wife.

**Note:** Any man who beats his wife may not lead in the church! He may not serve as pastor, elder, evangelist, deacon, secretary, treasurer, he may not lead worship songs, nor any other leadership position.

## LESSON FOUR: WIVES

Read these verses in Ephesians. As you read them, pray that God would help you to understand and apply them to your lives.

*"Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. 4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight (1 Peter 3:1-4 NIV)."*

### Submissive?

The word, "submissive" used in verse one means that you listen to your husband and show him respect. This idea of respect is so important in marriage. We need to listen to one another and have a mutual respect for one another. This is something that men really desire. Ephesians 5:21 says, "*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*" But wives are told specifically here in 1 Peter 3:1 to "*be submissive to their own husbands.*" Out of reverence for Christ, wives are to voluntarily show respect to their husbands. It is important to know that this is a voluntary choice that godly wives need to make on their own. This is NEVER to be enforced in any way by the husband or by the church!

Men need to be spiritual leaders in their homes. They need to pray and lead the family in prayer. They need to know the Bible and obey it. They need to teach the Word of God to their family. Wives need to respect what their husbands say. They need to follow their spiritual leading. They also need to speak well of their husbands.

Outward clothing and braiding of the hair is not as important as the type of person we are. We are told that a gentle and quiet spirit is very precious in the sight of God. God is not saying, "Don't think about your outward appearance or clothing." He is just saying that who we are on the inside is more important. How kind we are is more important than the type of clothing we wear. Make yourself look good by showing gentleness, humility, self-control and a quiet spirit.

### **How can I have a gentle and quiet spirit?**

1. Don't boss your husband around.
2. Don't yell at your husband.
3. Don't continually complain about all the things he is not doing.
4. Do not shame your husband
  
5. Speak well of your husband.
6. Tell him and others only the good things he does. If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.

A big mistake is when a wife says, "Yes, I will respect and listen to my husband as soon as he starts being a better person and loves me more." But God wants us to obey him no matter what others may do! The idea here is that men will behave differently if, with a gentle and quiet spirit, wives listen to their husbands and show them respect. But even if the wife doesn't see change in her husband, she still needs to obey God by showing him respect.

Look carefully at this verse, "Be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word..." I Peter 3:1. This is very important, because many wives think, "I don't have to be submissive or listen to my husband if he does not treat me nicely." But the Bible says, even if my husband is disobedient, I must still show him respect.

### **LESSON FIVE: LET'S TALK**

In order to show love and respect for one another, husbands and wives must talk. As we talk and listen, we develop a stronger relationship. Husbands and wives should be good friends who enjoy talking to one another.

Principles to help us have loving conversations with our spouses.

### Good Communication Principle One

1. Be a good listener and do not talk until your spouse has finished talking. For some of us this is difficult because we have developed the habit of interrupting our spouse. Practice listening. Listening is an act of love. Jesus was a good listener. He also asked many questions and listened to the answers given. Remember God has given us two ears and one mouth so that we might listen twice as much as we talk.

*"To answer before listening that is folly and shame (Proverbs 18:13 NIV)."*

*"My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry (James 1:19 NIV)."*

### Good Communication Principle Two

Be slow to speak. Think first. Don't be hasty in your words. Speak in such a way that the other person can understand and accept what you say.

*"A person finds joy in giving an apt reply and how good is a timely word (Proverbs 15:23 NIV)!"*

*"The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil (Proverbs 15:28 NIV)."*

*"Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity (Proverbs 21:23 NIV)."*

*"Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them (Proverbs 29:20 NIV)."*

### Good Communication Principle Three

3. Speak the truth always but do it in love. When we talk our words must be full of grace, forgiveness, and love. Make sure your words are full of love.

*"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ (Ephesians 4:15 NIV)."*

*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body (Ephesians 4:25 NIV)."*

*"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices (Colossians 3:9, NIV)."*

#### **Good Communication Principle Four**

4. Do not become involved in quarrels. It is possible to disagree without quarrelling. At times we can be frustrated or upset and take out our feelings on the ones we love. Other times, we feel that our loved one has the problem and we need to help them see it. Some just like to quarrel. We need to guard our own hearts.

*"Evil will never leave the house of one who pays back evil for good (Proverbs 17:14 NIV)."*

*"It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel (Proverbs 20:3 NIV)."*

*"Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy (Romans 13:13 NIV)."*

*"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice (Ephesians 4:31 NIV)."*

Part of not fighting is to be careful not to respond in anger. Use a soft and kind response. Control the volume of your voice. It is not a sin to be angry. Just control what you do with your anger.

*"Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick tempered displays folly (Proverbs 14:29 NIV)."*

*"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1 NIV)."*

*"Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone (Proverbs 25:15 NIV)."*

#### **Good Communication Principle Five**

5. When you are wrong, admit and ask for forgiveness. *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16 NIV)."*

When someone confesses to you, tell him or her you forgive them. Be sure it is forgotten and not brought up again. Unforgiveness is a sin. God has forgiven you and you are commanded to forgive others. *"14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15 NIV)."*

*"Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends (Proverbs 17:9 NIV)."*

*"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)."*

*"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:13 NIV)."*  
*"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8 NIV)."*

## **LESSON SIX – Our Flesh: the First Enemy of our Marriage**

*Galatians 5:16-18, "16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law (NIV)."*

God tells us that we can live by the Spirit or we can live by the flesh. What does this mean?

The flesh is our physical body. When Adam sinned against God and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, something happened that would affect us all.

Our physical bodies now desire things that are contrary to God's will. We desire sexual immorality. Our physical bodies want whatever we see, so we steal, lie, cheat, insult, and even kill. We are jealous and never satisfied. Our flesh always wants more of everything.

Our spirits on the other hand are totally different. Because we are born again, God says that we are "new creatures in Christ Jesus". Our spirits desire what is good and right. The Bible tells us that there is a battle going on within all believers. Our flesh is fighting against our spirits.

Read Galatians 5:16-18 again.

Our physical bodies have lusts. These lusts for evil things will never end until our physical bodies die. Now, in this life we are commanded to walk in the spirit and say no to the sinful desires of our flesh.

### **When we live to fulfill our sinful desires, we destroy our marriages.**

People who live by their sinful desires have adulterous relationships. They lust after other people. People who live according to their flesh are selfish. They don't care about others, and they say mean things. Following the desires of the flesh destroys marriages.

We make marriages strong when we repent of these things and live by the spirit!

### **How do we live by the spirit?**

1. First, don't spend your time thinking about sin (Phil. 4:8)
2. When you do sin we repent of it immediately.
3. Always confess to God our sinfulness and we ask him for strength to overcome our flesh (1 John 1:9).
4. We read his word, which is powerful and able to defeat our flesh (Heb. 4:12).
5. We must walk in the spirit. We do this by talking to God and asking for his help (Eph. 6:18).
6. We do this by being obedient to God's word (Luke 11:28).
7. We walk in the spirit by knowing and memorizing God's word (Psalm 1:2).
8. We can also walk in the spirit as we worship and sing to God (Col. 3:16).

A young man from Beira saved his money for many years in order to buy a Lifan motorcycle. He finally had enough to buy it. Once he was on it, he road it very fast. Within a short time the engine stopped working.

In the owner's manual that came with the bike, it said to take it very easy for the first several hundred kilometers. The young man never read the instruction manual. He therefore destroyed the bike.

God gave us an instruction manual called the Bible. As Jesus' disciples, we need to follow His instructions for our lives. We need to follow the Word of God in every area of our lives.



When the religious leaders asked Jesus about marriage and divorce, He replied with another question: *“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female (Matthew 19:4 NIV).”* Jesus was saying in principle, “If you want to understand marriage, you must go back to the beginning and study marriage as God intended it to be.”

## **Lesson Seven – The World: the Second Enemy of Marriage**

God tells us to not love the world, nor the things of the world. When God says the world, he means the sinful ways of the people in this world. Human beings have rebelled against God and do not follow his ways. We must forsake the ways of this world and follow God!

*“15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever (1 John 2:15-17 NIV).”*

Because the world opposes the ways of God, the world is an enemy of Christian marriage and family!

### **Lies of the World**

So we hear people in the world say, “Have many sexual partners!” “Enjoy yourself.” “Everyone is doing it!”

If your husband does not make you happy, get rid of him!

If your wife does not have children, get a new one!

We need to guard against the thinking, advice, example, and values of people in the world who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior!

*“17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever (1 John 2:17 NIV).”*

We need to think about God.

We need to think about his will for our lives.

We need to think about heaven and all of eternity.

We need to think about how to love our spouse.  
We need to think about training our children about God and his Word.

All of these things are eternal! They will last forever. The world and all of its desires are going to pass away.

*“1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:1-2 NIV).”*

People in the world think about things like money, sex, position, power, and temporary physical pleasures. All of these things can destroy marriages and families. Don't behave like others! Be different. Be a man or woman of God.

The man of God must teach his children about the Word of God!

*Deut. 11:18 -21, “18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth (NIV).”*

*Ephesians 6:4, “4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (NIV),”*

Ask God to help you learn the Bible and then teach it to your children so they can turn away from the world and follow God. Ask God to help you resist the ways of the world.

**Renew your mind by reading the word of God or listening to it when it is preached.**

*Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (NIV).”*

We renew our minds by praying and reading the Word of God!

*Colossians 3:16 describes how we should live, “16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts (NIV).”*

## Lesson Eight – third enemy of marriages: the devil

*“8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8 NIV).*

Satan wants to destroy marriages. The Bible tells us that Satan is a robber. As a robber he desires to rob, to kill, and destroy people (John 10:10). He wants to destroy the church, and Satan wants to destroy marriages and families.

*John 10:10-11, “10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (NIV),”*

We must understand that Satan is a real enemy. God told us to be on our guard. Don't open the door for Satan to work in your life!

A young man named Martins was very interested in a woman he met at school. She was very attractive. He felt he needed help so he went to the witch doctor. Once there, he gave some of his hair from his underarms, head, and private area. The witch doctor cut up his hair and made a magical concoction. He was told to put this substance into the food of the woman he was attracted to.

Love spells are common things, but all of this is contrary to the Word of God. God tells us it is a great sin to be involved with this kind of witchcraft. The only power we are to seek is the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament people who practiced these kinds of things were to be put to death! Deut. 18:11,12.

### Seek First God's Kingdom

God tells us that we should all, *“33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33 NIV).”*

But look at the foundation that this man Martins is laying for his family. He deceitfully puts a strange drug mixture in her food. This is not honest! This is not love!

He seeks Satanic power in order to get this woman! Instead of having a foundation built upon God and his ways, this husband starts out in rebellion!

There are many demonic things in this world that open us up to the work of Satan. For example, the work of the witch doctor is from Satan. When people go to the witch doctor to help them find a wife or husband, or do a baby dedication with the witch doctor, they are opening up their lives and their baby's life to Satan and his demons. This can only lead to disaster! We have opened the door for Satan to bring problems into our lives and into our marriages.

When people try to do something to gain the approval of the dead or try to talk to their dead ancestors, they open the door to Satan. Do not invoke ancestral spirits to

come protect your family and live in your house. We are not allowed to try to communicate with the dead. These spirits are actually demons and will cause much grief to your family. When people die, their spirits go directly to either Hades or Paradise. (Luke 23:43, Luke 16:19-31). When Jesus comes back, the Bible says he will raise the dead, but He is talking about raising all believer's old physical bodies and transforming them into new eternal bodies. Their spirits have already been in Paradise from the day they died (1 Cor 15:35-38, 1 Cor. 15:42-44).

### **Demonic Activities that Destroy Marriages**

Casting spells, trying to talk to dead ancestors, and all these kinds of activities with the witch doctor and ancestral spirits destroys families and marriages!

*Deuteronomy 18:10-12, "10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you (NIV)."*

Often strange sexual dreams or lusts come from demonic spirits. We need to repent of any involvement we have had in seeking power from any source other than God! Rebuke these spirits in your dreams in Jesus' name.

Ephesians 4:27 says, "27 and do not give the devil a foothold (NIV)." Protect your marriage and family!

*Leviticus 19:31 "Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God (NIV)."*

*Leviticus 20:27 "A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads (NIV)."*

Love spells  
Lost love spells  
Fertility spells  
Marriage spells  
Divorce spells

These all come from Satan and can destroy marriages. We must stand against Satan. We must repent of all of these kinds of deeds.

God is always insulted when we look to powers other than His for deliverance, provision, or blessing. As His children, we must renounce all involvement in witchcraft and put our total trust in Christ's ability to help. Christ has much more power than demons. Christians have been given the Spirit of God, who is above all

spirits. God is good and He always works for our good. Evil spirits, however, are cunning. They may seem to help at first. But eventually, after they have deceived and entangled us, they do nothing by rob, kill, and destroy. John 10:10

### **To resist the devil, we must draw near to God (James 4:7-8)**

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

Husbands and wives must pray together, read the Word together, and talk about God together. The devil will flee from the marriage and family that is drawing close to the Lord.

If we have had any involvement with these demonic things, we need to repent and confess our sins. (1 John 1:9) Then we must draw near to God, talk to him, and listen to His Word. We must develop a strong relationship with Him. Spend time in His Presence, worshipping Him, listening to His voice, enjoying Him as your friend and King. *Psalm 16:11, 11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand (NIV).* "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10 NIV)." Abide in Him and let Him abide in you. John 15:4,5

### **LESSON NINE: ONLY ONE WIFE!**

Because of the lusts of the flesh and the influence of Satan upon people, many try to convince themselves and others that it is good to have more than one wife! This is wrong and should be strongly rejected!

God's original plan in marriage is clear.

*Matthew 19:5, "5 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' (NIV)?"*

In the Old Testament we read of many activities that were done by God's people that were not condemned or judged by God, but were still wrong.

Slavery is not condemned in the Bible, but it is evil. We know it is evil because we have scriptures explaining how we are to treat others as better than ourselves, Phil. 2:3.

In the book of Judges a man allowed his wife to be raped and then when she died, he sent her in pieces to the tribes of Israel. This man was not judged for his action in the Bible. But we know this was sin and a horrible thing to do. Besides being obvious, we know this was evil because we know the character of God and what other scriptures say about loving each other.

Jesus told the people that God allowed divorce in the Old Testament because of the hardness of man's heart but this was not the plan from the beginning!

People in the Old Testament had more than one wife but if we read all the stories in the Old Testament we find that marrying many women always produced problems.

Solomon had the most wives of all of the men in the Old Testament. But we are told that because of the many wives he acquired when he was older, he rebelled against God and allowed the false gods of his wives to come into Israel! This sin hurt the Israelites for hundreds of years!

### **Having just one wife has always been God's plan**

*Matthew 19:4-5 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh (NIV)?"*

Because man is evil, he wants to have sex with more than one woman! This is not love!

Love is carrying for that one special person you are married to.

Love is sacrificing for your spouse!

Love is being faithful to your one spouse.

Love wants each woman to find her own special man so they can become one flesh!

It is not love for two women to share one man!

It is not love to attempt to please two women!

It is not love to hurt one wife by having sex with another!

Not only are we to have only one wife, each Christian is also to stay committed to that wife! God tells us that he hates divorce in Malachi 2:16.

### **The Importance of Matthew 19:4-9**

We read in Matthew chapter 19,

*4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be*

*united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'[b]? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." 7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery (Matthew 19:4-9 NIV)."*

If anyone divorces or abandons his wife and takes another wife, he commits adultery. God says he will judge those who do such things.

In the church men are called to have only one wife and to love her as Christ loves the church!

## **LESSON 10: SEX AND MARRIAGE**

"If things go well in the bedroom, things go well in the marriage. If things go bad in the bedroom, things go bad in the marriage" (Surprise Sithole).

God understands that sex is an important part of any marriage. Therefore, the Bible talks about sex and marriage.

*1 Corinthians 7:2-3, "2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband (NIV)."*

God knows that people were created with the desire for sex. This is a normal part of creation. Husbands and wives are called to satisfy the needs of their spouses.

Marriage is a union of one man and one woman who make a permanent and exclusive commitment to each other until they are separated by death. As a Christian, this is a commitment made before God and others.

This exclusive commitment means that sex and sexual fulfillment will only be found with your spouse AND NO ONE ELSE until you are separated by death. This was and is God's perfect plan.

### **1 Corinthians 7:3-4**

*1 Cor 7:3-4, "3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife (NIV)."*

This Scripture is very clear. Husbands and wives cannot hold themselves back from their spouses. This is God's will for every wife and every husband. No husband has to give gifts to his wife in order to receive sex. No one has to give a capulana to his wife in order to have sexual relations with her.

*1 Corinthians 7:4, "4 The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife (NIV)."*

As a husband, your body is not your own. It belongs to your wife. You cannot be involved sexually with anyone but your wife. This is true for wives also. Your body is not your own. You can only have sex with your husband.

We read about sex and marriage in Proverbs chapter 5,

*Proverbs 5:18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer, may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love. 20 Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman (NIV)?"*

Husbands are to enjoy their wife's bodies all the days of their lives. But they are never to seek another! This is love. This is a Christian marriage. May all husbands and all wives be captivated by their love for one another.

## **Sex and Security**

One of the biggest needs of women is security. They want to know they will be provided for. This is the responsibility of every father and every husband. The father is responsible to take care of his daughter until she is married. When a woman gets married, this responsibility is her husband's.

Because men have failed in their responsibility to provide security for their daughters and wives, many women use sex to gain security. This is wrong and must end. No woman should use her body to get the things she needs!

Husbands should all work hard to provide for their wife and for their children. Women should never have to prostitute themselves to get food or clothing! If a man is lazy and will not work hard to provide for his family he is worse than a non-Christian (1 Tim 5:8).



## Final Notes on Sex, Marriage, and Pregnancy

*1 Corinthians 7:5, "5 Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control (NIV)".*

If men or women are deprived of sex and sexual intimacy, especially for a long time, they become tempted to have sex with another. God knows this. Satan can use this to destroy marriage. Some of the customs that people practice, tempt people to find sexual fulfillment with others. In chapter two we learned that God's ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). In chapter seven we learned that the ways of this world can destroy our marriages (1 John 2:15).

1. It is not a health problem to have sex during pregnancy. The Mayo Clinic, which is the largest and most respected Health Agency in the world, says that if a pregnancy is progressing normally, husbands and wives can have sex during this entire time.<sup>1</sup> Comfortable positions can be found so sex can be enjoyed throughout pregnancy. The Mayo Clinic also says that sex during pregnancy will not cause miscarriages.
2. The Mayo Clinic also reports that after delivery of the baby, if there are no complications, sex can be resumed 6 to 8 weeks after the baby is born. Sexual intercourse will not hurt the mother or the baby. Sexual intercourse will not affect the mother's milk.
3. When sexual intercourse is not possible, wives can and should find other ways to sexually fulfill the needs of their husbands.

## Birth Control

According to the health organization of UNICEF, only 6% of married Mozambican women use any form of birth control. As Christians, we have the freedom to use birth control. Today families have the opportunity to control how many children they have and when they have them by using birth control. Husbands and wives should pray together and ask God to lead them in these matters.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, understand that God created sex to be enjoyed between husbands and wives. Satan desires to destroy God's plan. Don't let him. Keep the marriage bed pure, remaining faithful to your spouse. Don't deny each other – your bodies are not your own. Understand the true health issues with sex during pregnancy and

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<sup>1</sup> Mayo Clinic website, <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/sex-during-pregnancy/HO00140>

breast-feeding. Physical intimacy is beautiful and essential to every healthy marriage.