

The Bread of Life Fellowship,  
Oman

# *Marriage Seminar*

Managing Relationship with  
Children, Extended Family  
Members and Others

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*For private circulation only*

# Introduction

**Genesis 2:23-25** 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a **man leave his father and his mother**, and shall **cleave unto his wife**: and they shall be **one flesh**. 25 And they were **both naked**, the man and his wife, and **were not ashamed**.

- A Godly Marriage is primarily made of Godhead, Husband and Wife
  - The leaving and cleaving must happen for a home to be Godly. **Matthew 19:5-6, Psalms 45:10-11, Genesis 2**
- Shame came to marriage when 3rd party got involved. **Gen 3 and 4**
- Hence, couples must be very careful, vigilant, watchful and be fully prepared to handle 3<sup>rd</sup> party involvement

# Outline

1. Managing relationship with Extended Family Members - Parents, In-laws, Siblings, Uncles etc.
2. Managing relationship with Children - Nuclear Family Members
3. Managing relationship with Non Family Members - Friends, Work, Ministry, Brethren, TV, Phone, Football, Cricket etc.
4. Handling Marital Challenges that are related to relationships with Children, Extended Family members and Others.

Couples  
Relationship with  
Extended Families  
Members

## Couples Relationship with Extended Family Members

1. This is usually the first group you are exposed to after your marriage by the nature of their divine connection to you.
2. You must consciously leave your extended family and cleave to your spouse. **Gen. 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6, Psalms 45:10-11**
3. They have limited roles to play in your marriage which they must not be denied of, else you are looking for big trouble. **Ruth 1:16**
4. Your family members should be at liberty to advice you but not to force you to comply.
5. Treat you parents and in-laws with respect, dignity and honour. **Deuteronomy 5:16, 1 Timothy 5:4**
6. Never delegate authority in your marriage to anybody **Eph 5:21-33**
7. Discuss, agree and establish clear mode of support and interaction with your parents and siblings. **1 Timothy 5:8**

# Couples Relationship with Children

# Managing Relationship with Children

1. Children are God's agenda for marriage as a means of filling the whole earth. Gen. 1:28
2. God desire that couples have and raise Godly children. Mal. 2:15
3. Children are special gift from God to couples as caretakers and to make them happy and never ashamed Psalm 127:3-5
4. Couples must be fully prepared for their arrival
5. Couples are charged with specific roles to play as God's Caretakers to the children:

## Managing Relationship with Children

- a. Give them prophetic names that will help them to fulfill God's purpose for their life. Psalms 11:3, Prov. 22:1, Eccl. 7:1
- b. Dedicate them to the Lord. Gen. 22, 1 Sam 2:21-28, Luke 2:21-40
- a. Lead them to Christ as they mature to understand salvation message. John 15:16
- c. Teach and Instruct them on everything - Spiritual and Physical. Prov. 22:6, Gen. 18:19, Deut. 6:6-9
- a. Correct and Disciple them appropriately on everything. Prov. 19:18, 29:17, 13:24, 2 Sam. 13. 1 King 2:1-4, Gen:49
- b. Pray for them, with them and allow them to pray.
- c. Encourage them to pursue and achieve their God given goal
- d. Be their friend, be available and approachable. James 2:23
- e. Do not provoke them. Ephesians 6:4, Gen. 25, 37
- f. Be their role model and good example to follow Jer. 35

# Managing Relationship with Children

## 1. Parents - Pre-Teen

- Create quality time to play with and be with them
- Any value you fail to plant in them at this age can no longer be planted after age 10.
- You are their hero this time and please make great use of it

## 2. Parents - Teenagers

- Be their intimate friends, trusted mentor and coach
- Encourage them to check with you and involve you before taking any critical decision in life.

## 3. Parents - Unmarried Adult

- Guide them in making choices. Respect their Godly desires.
- Follow Biblical principle and not any cultural requirements that are against the bible. Proverbs 18:22

## 4. Parents - Married Adult

- Advise them but not force them - know and respect your limit.
- Allow them to build their home and not you running it for them

Couples  
Relationship with  
Non Family  
Members

## Couples Relationship with Non Family Members

1. This group is by choice unlike family members. **Prov. 22:24, 16:28**
2. Actively involve your spouse in all relationships outside your marriage.
3. Define your stand about relationship with anybody outside your marriage. **Proverb 27:12**
4. Never treat any man/woman better than your spouse
5. Don't delegate your role to your spouse to another person.  
**Proverbs 5**
6. Do not compare your spouse with others.
7. Do not use phone, TV, cooking, child care to tactically avoid spending much desired time with your spouse. **Gen. 26:28**
8. Do not allow your job /company to steal you away from your spouse and children.
9. Keep personal problems personal. **Prov. 11:13**

**Handling Marital  
Challenges  
that are related to  
relationships with Children,  
Extended Family members  
and Others**

# Handling Marital Challenges

1. Be ready to forgive yourself, your spouse, your children, your family members and others for any hurt you may suffer as a result of your relationship with them. **Matt.18:21-22, Luke 17:3-4**
2. Watch out for danger signs, discuss them with your spouse and immediately make all necessary correction and adjustment.
3. **General solution to all challenges**
  - Prevention is better than cure. Follow Biblical principles
  - Do not wait until the problem get worse before you seek for Godly solution
  - Have open and sincere discussion about the problem for common understanding (spiritual and physical) and jointly proffer way out to overcome it.

# Handling Marital Challenges

- Go to God for help with persistent prayer and fasting. **Psalms 50:15, Ps. 91:15**
- Diligent search of the word of God for way out. **Psalms 119:49-50**
- Do not give up no matter the intensity of the heat. **Isaiah 43:2, 2 Cor. 4:16-17**
- Never consider any other alternative to God ordained strategy as indicated in His word. **Gen. 16:1-16**
- Involved trusted 3rd party for counselling - Pastor, Spiritually sound family members, Godly friends and brethren (Not un-Godly friends or parents). **Prov. 24:6, 15:22**

# Handling Marital Challenges – Examples

## 1. **Bareness – Family members reactions**

- Hold on to God's promises. Ex 23:26
- Never allow pity party discussion concerning your marital challenge
- People will treat your problem the way you allow them to treat it.

## 2. **Derailed Child**

- Treat the child like a prodigal son. Luke 15:11-32
- Play your role in their life without fail and never disown the child. 1 Sam. 8:1-7
- Pray for them until they are restored

## 3. **Infidelity / Divorce / Separation**

- You must maintain your marital vow which is 'till death do you part'
- No condition is bad enough to justify doing what God hates Mal. 2:16
- Follow Jesus formula - forgive Matt 5:31, Matthew 19:3-9
- Remarriage is sin of adultery unless the other partner is dead.
- If you treat the 'wrong' wife/husband with right attitude, he/she will eventually become the right wife/husband

# Conclusion

- Build your marriage only on Biblical principles.
- Make God first in all areas of your marriage and be assured of a colorful, stress-free, peaceful marriage and home.
- Make your spouse priority 1 (after God) in all areas of your life.
- Cast all your burden on God and not on any other person and your challenges shall become stepping stone to greater heights

**May the Lord  
bless your  
Marriage and  
make your Home  
Heaven on Earth**