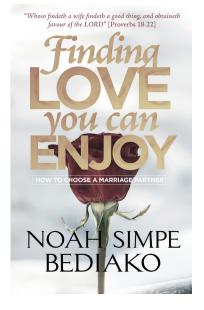
"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD" [Proverbs 18-22]



HOW TO CHOOSE A MARRIAGE PARTNER

NOAH SIMPE BEDIAKO

# finding LOVE you can ENJOY





Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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### Chapter 1

# Finding Love You Can Enjoy

This publication is a passionate appeal to this generation to settle for nothing less than love they can enjoy when it comes to marriage. This is for the simple reason that;

- 1. Many have gone to an early grave because they settled for less than love they could enjoy.
- 2. Others are stuck in the middle of nowhere because they settled for less.
- 3. Some are in deep mess which they cannot fix, all because they settled for vanity; they settled for garnishing and glitz.

Heed the appeal and voice of wisdom now

that it is not too late; settle for nothing less than love you can enjoy!. Some paths may be easy but will not lead to the desired destiny.

I remember when I set off on this journey to find love; I understood the uncertainties that sometimes crowd the mind. So, I sought the Lord earnestly concerning a future partner, and He spoke. He led me and directed me. One truth should, however, be clear to you; the fact that God led you will not make marrying any easier, but He will surely be there to guide and help you through every step.

He has been so faithful all through these years. God has never left Sandra and I because we obeyed and still obey Him. He leads and we follow; it's not been easy nor has it been a bed of roses but we have enjoyed the journey so far.

# Secrets to finding love you can enjoy

PROVERBS 18-22

Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Right from the beginning of creation until recent times; finding love is an art of men. Proverbs teaches that whosoever finds a wife has found a good thing. Men are naturally cut out for hunting, and that is how it has always been.

Men must diligently search for wives; and women must strategically position themselves to be found. From the beginning, that is what it has been.

Anytime a woman becomes desperate to find a husband, she is deceived. A woman should never go out looking for a husband. She must

A woman should never propose. just be preparing. There is a popular saying that, "do not be a woman that needs a man, but be the woman every man needs".

The Lord teaches us in Genesis, from the lessons of the first marriage that endured the test of time that, "man shall leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh". The man must leave, cleave, and become. These days, unfortunately, our sisters are the ones rushing to leave home to cohabit with men.

Indeed, you should not settle for anything

less than love you can enjoy. Even Adam did not settle for anything at all. He searched diligently from among over 5416 different species of mammals (Reeder, 2005) and yet did not find any suitor. Many

The secret to finding love you can enjoy is diligent search by men and strategic positioning by women.

young people settle for less because they do not search diligently, they settle for anything that is available.

### **GENESIS 2-18-25**

- (18) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
- (19) And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.
- (20) And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.
- (21) 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;
- (22) And the rib, which the LORD God had

taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

- (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.

I pray that you will not settle for less than God's best for your life, Amen!

# 7 Steps to finding love you can enjoy

The seven simple steps to love you can enjoy are;

1. Work on yourself; start with the man in the mirror.

- 2. Know what you seek; without a vision, the people of God perish.
- 3. Know where to find what you are seeking
- 4. Prove all acquaintances
- 5. Seek counsel early
- 6. Be authentic and friendly
- 7. Catch the little foxes that destroy the tender grapes

### Step 1: Start with yourself

You must start with the man in the mirror. The Bible tells us that the desire of the righteous shall be granted. It is a complete waste of time to pray for love you can enjoy when you have not adequately prepared yourself for it.

### PROVERBS 10.24

The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

God is the God of equity and righteousness; He will give you the kind of help that is appropriate for you. That is to say that who you are determines what kind of wife God will give you (if God gave wives at all)

#### GENESIS 2.18

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

God makes a help that is meet for you; God gives you your type of a woman. Eve was made to suit Adam; Sandra was made to suit me; your wife will be made to suit you. Be good, and your wife will be made for you, accordingly.

### Step 2: Know what you are looking for

Where there is no vision, the people perishbut he that keeps these principles shall find

### happiness.

#### PROVERBS 29.18

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

There are many people who are stuck in wrong relationships, all because they were ignorant of what they were searching for, and even what they should be searching for.

Be sure of what you are looking for. Some are looking for money, others are looking for hips and breasts; some are looking for this or that tribe; some are looking for visa, but what are you also looking for? I suggest that you look for love you can enjoy. Because living with the love you find will be your reasonable duty all the days of your life under heaven.

### **ECCLESIASTES 9.9**

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

In your search for a wife, you must look for love you can enjoy. Settle for nothing less than that. Love you can enjoy is the irreducible requirement for marriages that last.

### Step 3: Know where to find it:

Love is not found in any particular place, or tribe, or race; love is found in persons. Your dog may love you, but that is because it is a dog. For all you know, if your dog could think, it might give up on you, hate you, or act differently.

There are some types of men and women who can bring along the love that you can enjoy. You must know where to find them.

### Step 4: Prove all acquaintances:

It is silly to trust a stranger; trust is like a gem, you don't leave it with strangers. Many are sick, dead, and stuck in various messes because they trusted strangers, they trusted men and women whom they had not proven. Living with someone for 12 years does not necessarily make them familiar friends; a familiar friend is someone you have proven and know.

Proven people are not necessarily perfect; they are just people you know. Proving your acquaintances will show you who they are and in what matters to trust them or otherwise.

Listen, every man promises of his unfailing love but it's hard to find a faithful man.

### PROVERBS 20.5-7

Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

- (6) Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?
- (7) The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Every man will say he is good, but it takes understanding to draw out the hidden counsel of their heart.

### Step 5: Seek counsel early:

From the Scripture we just read, every man boasts of his own goodness; nobody will tell that they are bad. A faithful man is hard to find.

No man will tell you that he will show your sex tapes and nakedness to his friends; but many do it anyway. This is why you should never allow any man to film you.

The Bible tells us in the preceding Scripture

that counsel in the heart of a man is like deep wells, but a man of understanding will draw it out. You need to seek counsel early so that you can draw out the counsel in the heart of men. In a multitude of counselors there is safety. We live in dangerous times and strangers cannot be trusted.

The other person may be your class mate, your colleague at work, a church member; but attending the same church or belonging to a fellowship for ten years does not mean you know them.

Seek counsel; talk to your pastor, seek professional help; speak to your parents; speak to the marriage committee.

### Step 6: Be authentic and friendly.

When you have satisfied yourself that this is the person God wants me to marry, the next step is be authentic and friendly.

He that seeks equity must come with clean hands. You may have a rough past but once you find love, it is an opportunity to start a new chapter of your life; don't mess it up with lies.

# Step 7: Catch the little foxes that destroy the tender grapes of love.

There are little things that ruin the tender grapes of love; competitiveness, third party interferences, tales and tale bearers, risky behaviour; contentions; laziness; lack of diligence etc. You must deal with these foxes before they destroy your love.

# My beart felt prayer for you

May God bless you and help you to find love you can enjoy. You will be able to find love! Nobody can deceive you as you trust the Lord and obey Him. May God guide you every step of the way! May heaven smile on you!

I rebuke every strange person assigned against you, to steal the joy in your marriage!

Stay blessed, I love you!

### Chapter 2

# What is Love You Can Enjoy?

JOHN 15-12-14

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

- (13) Greater love bath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
- (14) Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Many people have given up on finding love they can enjoy, and are ready to settle for anything that promises pleasure and convenience. But this is because they do not know how the kind of love they can enjoy looks like. They step out searching for something they cannot even describe. The word of God, however, defines love you can enjoy as the love of Christ. Greater love has no man; every man's love must be measured against the love of Christ Jesus.

A love-metre would indicate the absolute degree of love; the standard for love is the love of Christ Jesus.

There may be many forms of love but the only love you can enjoy is the love that looks like the love of Christ. If you marry any person who cannot love as Christ loved the church, you will struggle.

This kind of love is that thing or feeling that makes you want to be the best for someone or something, to give your best to someone of something, and do the best for that other thing or person without compulsion.

Mary Magdalene loved the Lord dearly that she became her best, she gave her best and did her best. She gave an expensive box of alabaster oil, she washed His feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

This is the love that brings out the best in you. This love brings change for the better, improved character and best behaviour; this love gives and gives the best; love does and will do the best.

This love is the real love. The only love a man must feel for his wife is this kind of Christ's love. The closer the love is to that of Christ, the safer and better that love is.

Settle for nothing less than that.

### EPHESIANS 5.22-30

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

- (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- (24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own

husbands in every thing.

- (25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- (29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
- (30) For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

# What Would a Woman Whose Love You Can Enjoy Do?

# 1. This love makes women submit to godly authority.

Our mother, Sarah, submitted to Abraham and called him Lord.

### 1 PETER 3.5

For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

# 2. This love makes women help the men they love to fulfil their Godgiven assignment.

Mary prepared the body of Christ for burial. She knew that Jesus was about to face the cross and die; she helped Him by anointing His body in preparation for burial.

## 3. This love seeks to be made compatible to you.

Ruth loved Naomi and resolved that her God shall be her God, her people shall be her people, where she dies would be where she shall also die, and she shall be buried in the same place where Naomi would be buried. Ruth was willing to be compatible to Naomi because of the deep love she had for her mother-in-law.

# What Would a Man Whose Love You Can Enjoy Do?

1. He will give himself to his wife as Christ gave Himself for the church

- 2. He will study the word of God that he might wash and sanctify his wife with the water of the word.
- 3. He will present his own wife to himself as a glorious woman without wrinkles, spots, or blemish.

True love will make a husband sacrifice himself for you until he can present you to himself as a glorious woman, without spots, wrinkles and blemishes.

4. He will nourish and cherish his wife as his own flesh.

# Remember to Settle for Nothing Less

The phrase "love you can enjoy" has four words;

1. Love: Anyone who wants to get married would be in search of love. So, love is the

product you're seeking.

- 2. You: You are the focus (the object) in the picture.
- 3. Can: The verb 'can' suggests possibility. It is true that love and marriage can go wrong but it is better to start right.
- 4. Enjoy: This is the qualification. Everybody can marry but few really enjoy it.

So it must be settled now, that as you step out, settle for nothing less than love you can enjoy. Our father, Abraham, though a great man of faith, did not marry a wife for Isaac by faith. He paid the price to find love that his son and heir to the blessing can enjoy. And see how Isaac turned out to be one of the few people in Scripture who married one woman even when there were no laws against polygamy.

You cannot settle for anything less, seek love you can enjoy. That is what you should

be looking for, if you want a marriage that endures the test of time and storms.

### Chapter 3

# Where to Find Love You Can Enjoy

# Hasty People Make Dangerous Partners

Marriage works for people who live their lives with contentment as singles. Discontent singles make contentious spouses. Hasty people are dangerous people.

Never marry a person who is in a rush to make it big, or anyone who wants heaven tomorrow. Such people are always dreaming of a better tomorrow and have no time to enjoy or celebrate today as a gift from God.

### **ECCLESIASTES 9.4-18**

For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

- (5) For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.
- (6) Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.
- (7) Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.
- (8) Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.
- (9) Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.
- (10) Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

(11) I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

# 1. Better spouses or partners are singles who celebrate everyday as a gift.

These are people that live their lives content. You can find love you can enjoy in a single person who celebrates everyday as a gift from God, knowing that there is more hope for a living dog than a dead lion. This is called contentment.

Find a person who thanks God every morning, noon, evening, and night for the gift of life. We may not be where we want to be but, at least, we know that things could have

been worse.

# 2. Consider people who eat their bread with gladness, and drink their wine with joy.

Whatever you find to eat must be received with thanksgiving, in order to be sanctified.

### 1 TIMOTHY 4.4-5

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

(5) For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

## 3. Look for people who groom and dress with poise and integrity.

Grooming and dressing is important. A good suitor is that person who can wear whatever they have with grace and integrity. You should not be looking for new clothes every day; you should combine what you have with grace. The Bible says that, a lover of oil and wine shall come to poverty.

## 4. Find someone who will put you before his work and children.

That person will treat you as a helper and not a doormat. Most marriages do not work because the couples prioritize their jobs above their partners.

# 5. Find someone who is doing what they have found to do with all their might.

When Moses found Zipporah, she was watering and shepherding her father's flock. Eliezer, Abraham's servant met Rebekah at the well, Jacob also found Rachel at the well.

### EXODUS 2-15-21

Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

- (16) Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.
- (17) And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.
- (18) And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day?
- (19) And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock.
- (20) And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the

man? call him, that he may eat bread.

(21) And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.

### How to Prepare as a Man

PROVERBS 19.14

House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.

A prudent wife is from the Lord, but He will never give a good gift to the unrighteous or those who follow their own heart.

It is sport for a player to do mischief but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

### PROVERBS 10-23-24

It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

(24) The fear of the wicked, it shall come

upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

So, if you want to inherit a prudent wife, then you must be righteous; you must first of all be right. Work on yourself and become the right person for the kind of person you desire to be married to. Build up yourself into the kind of man who is worth the woman you seek.

Love you can enjoy is not just about finding the right woman, but also about being the right man for that woman you've found.

Being a man or husband require muscles and knowledge. Spend time preparing for the journey of love you can enjoy; build up yourself.

There is a way to marry a slut and there is a way to marry an angel.

If you want to find love you can enjoy, then build up yourself.

## 1. Build up yourself into a son

Marriage is for sons, and not for strangers. No smart woman will accept the proposal of a stranger.

#### PROVERBS 11.15

He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.

Anyone who vouches for a stranger will surely be outsmarted. Don't trust a stranger, and question intentions of anyone who guarantees for a stranger.

In that same way, a guy who proposes to a strange woman is not wise.

#### PROVERBS 20-16-18

Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

(17) Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

(18) Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

A suitor who can offer love that a woman can enjoy must have a father, a foster-father, or a mentor. There are lots of self-governing strangers who are looking for girls, you give them your personal contact details at your own risk. Every young man must belong to both a spiritual family and a biological family. I have found out that most lone rangers are drug users, cheats and liars.

Apostle Paul could speak of Timothy as a son who is like-minded as him. Isaac had a father who could vouch for him. Elisha had someone he called his father. Even our Lord Jesus Christ had a Father. Who is your Father?

#### 2 TIMOTHY 1.2

To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

## 2. Build up yourself in a fellowship

Those who separate themselves and do not belong to any fellowship have not the spirit of Christ. The Bible says "anybody who does not belong to and grow in a fellowship of believers is sensual, a mocker and walks after ungodly lusts".

#### JUDE 1-17-19

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

- (18) How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.
- (19) These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

If you truly want to receive a prudent wife from God, then you must build up yourself in a fellowship. Every true child of God looks for someone who is in the Lord.

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 7.39

The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

I agree, none of us have any gauge with which to tell out those who are in the Lord and those who are not, but anyone who builds himself or herself in fellowship may pass the test. I am not talking about merely attending meetings, but building up yourself in a fellowship with God and with His people.

# 3. Build up yourself on your most holy faith

Beyond building up yourself in fellowship, you must build up yourself on your most holy faith.

#### JUDE 1-17-21

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

- (18) How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.
- (19) These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.
- (20) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
- (21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

You build up yourself on your most holy faith through daily Quiet Times, Bible reading, soaking in anointed messages and fellowshipping with other believers.

Your ministry as a husband is to be a pastor and saviour to your wife. This is why you

will fail if you lack sound biblical understanding. The husband is to a wife what Christ is to the church. A weak man cannot offer love you can enjoy. So, build up yourself dear brother. Every man has a ministry to save and pastor his wife.

#### EPHESIANS 5.25-31

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

- (26) That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- (29) For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
- (30) For we are members of his body, of his

flesh, and of his bones.

(31) For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

It is against this background that Apostle Paul admonished Bishop Titus to charge the old men in the church to teach the younger men, and be a pattern of good works to them.

#### TITUS 2-1-2, 6-8

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

- (2) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.
- (6) Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.
- (7) In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,
- (8) Sound speech, that cannot be condemned;

that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

## 4. Build up yourself in stewardship

Everyman is a steward of what is committed to his trust, and it is required of a steward to be faithful.

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 4-1-2

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

(2) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

The husband must see himself as a steward of the heritage of God. He must build himself to be faithful.

#### PROVERBS 20.6

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

#### PROVERBS 28-20

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

## 5. Build up yourself in leadership

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 11.3

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

As a husband, you are the head of the woman and you are the one going to lead her about. It is important to build up yourself in leadership, so that you do not lead the good woman astray.

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 9.5

Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

## 6. Build up yourself in knowledge

You are required to dwell with your wife according to knowledge. Therefore, you must build up yourself in knowledge. You must fully equip yourself with knowledge.

#### 1 PETER 3.7

Likewise, ye husbands, <u>dwell with them</u> <u>according to knowledge</u>, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

You have a responsibility to dwell with your wife according to knowledge. Build yourself up. In all thy getting get understanding.

Ignorance leads to destruction and struggle.

#### PROVERBS 4.5-9

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

(6) Forsake her not, and she shall preserve

thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

- (7) Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.
- (8) Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.
- (9) She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

You can build yourself in knowledge through praying, reading, watching, listening, etc.

There are things we know through observing. You don't have to learn from your mistakes if you are smart, you can learn from the mistakes and successes of others.

#### ECCLESIASTES 10.10

If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

## 7. Build up yourself economically

#### 1 TIMOTHY 5.8

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

One of the principal responsibilities of a husband is to take care of his home. Therefore, you need to build up yourself economically.

## 8. Build up yourself in character

You must bear the fruit of the Spirit. Allow the Holy Spirit to take control of your body and bear fruits. Mortify your members upon the earth.

#### GALATIANS 5.16-26

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

(17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit,

and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

- (18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.
- (19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
- (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
- (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
- (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- (24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

- (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- (26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

## 9. Build up yourself in maturity

To mature is to wilfully put away childish things as you grow into a man.

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 13,11

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

## Preparing as a Woman

Genesis 24 teaches us by the account of how Isaac found a wife that this kind of love can be found in a particular kind of woman. How then can you also become that kind of woman?

## 1. Develop virtue and strength

Every man who has prepared for life seeks a virtuous and a strong woman; a woman who fears the Lord. Only fools fall for strange women.

#### PROVERBS 31-10-31

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

- (11) The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- (12) She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
- (13) She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
- (14) She is like the merchants' ships; she

bringeth her food from afar.

- (15) She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
- (16) She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
- (17) She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
- (18) She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.
- (19) She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
- (20) She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
- (21) She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- (22) She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
- (23) Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

- (24) She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
- (25) Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
- (26) She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
- (27) She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
- (28) Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth ber.
- (29) Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
- (30) Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a <u>woman that feareth the LORD</u>, she shall be praised.
- (31) Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

## 2. Be a gracious woman

#### PROVERBS 11-16

A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.

Be polite, tactful, kind, diplomatic, courteous, civil, amiable, and a cordial woman; nobody wants a contentious woman.

#### 3. Build character

One of the important things that a man who is seeking a wife would look for is character.

#### RUTH 2.8-14

Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:

(9) Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not

touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

- (10) Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?
- (11) And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.
- (12) The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.
- (13) Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like

unto one of thine handmaidens.

(14) And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

The following are important character traits and qualities to seek;

- 1. Soberness
- 2. Love
- 3. Discretion
- 4. Chastity
- 5. Keepers at home
- 6. Goodness
- 7. Obedience

This is what Apostle Paul commanded to be taught to the younger women.

#### TITUS 2-3-5

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

- (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.
- (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

## 4. Allow yourself to be taught how to love your own husband and children

Godly men seek women who have been taught how to love their own husbands and children. Love you can enjoy is resident in a woman who

Learn how to love and be romantic: it's important.

knows how to love her own husband and children.

## 5. Learn to stay home and be a home-keeper

Find a woman who can be kept at home to keep a home. Love you can enjoy is resident in a woman who can be kept at home to keep a home.

Never go visiting any man in his house; let him come and visit you at your home.

Zipporah brought Moses home and he married her; Rebekah brought Abraham's servant home, and Isaac married her; Rachel brought Jacob home, and he married

Stay home and let the men come and visit.

her; but Tamar visited Ammon, and she was sexually abused, raped and reproached; Dina went out to the city, she went to Sechem to see what was happening, and she was sexually assaulted, raped and reproached.

#### 6. Be teachable

Christian women learn in silence. Love you can enjoy may be found in a woman who can learn in silence.

#### 7. Avoid contentions

Avoid contention; nobody can marry a contentious woman.

#### PROVERBS 21.19

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

#### PROVERBS 27-15

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

## 8. Avoid being strange

Listen, a strange woman is a narrow pit; the road to her house is the road to hell. Strange women spread sexually transmitted diseases. Deal with any tendency to be strange.

#### PROVERBS 23-26-28

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

- (27) For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.
- (28) She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

How does strangeness look like? What must you avoid? Proverbs 7 describe how strangeness looks like.

#### PROVERBS 7.5

That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

Any woman who flatters with her words is strange. They speaks of strangers as if they know them. Strange women flatter with their words; don't flatter with your words.

#### PROVERBS 7.6-10

For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

- (7) And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,
- (8) Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,
- (9) In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:
- (10) And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

Any woman who dresses like a harlot or prostitute and hang out in the streets and corners of her house in the evening and at nights is a strange woman and subtle at heart

#### PROVERBS 7-11-27

(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

Any woman who does not stay at home,

talks loudly and dress in prominent colours with impudence is a strange woman. Strange women are strong-willed and impudent.

#### PROVERBS 7-12

Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

A Strange woman lurks about in the streets; you'll find her in every corner in the city. If you find a woman at every event in the hood and city, remember she is exhibiting strangeness.

#### PROVERBS 7-13-27

So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

- (14) I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.
- (15) Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
- (16) I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen

of Egypt.

- (17) I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
- (18) Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

Any woman who uses sex as bait to win a man, or even thinks in this manner is strange. Strange women don't value their bodies. They have sex with strangers, even total strangers, as if it is nobody's business.

They are in the church, some are married, and some are single. Strangeness is deadly, it's a deadly killer, beware.

#### PROVERBS 7-19-27

- (19) For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:
- (20) He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.
- (21) With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she

forced him.

- (22) He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
- (23) Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.
- (24) Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.
- (25) Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.
- (26) For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.
- (27) Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

## 9. Be beautiful but don't trust in your beauty

My daughter, be beautiful but don't trust beauty, it does not add much.

#### PROVERBS 31.30

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Beauty is deceitful; those who trust in beauty are deceived. Beauty is vain, those who build their lives on their looks are building on sinking sand; but a woman that fears the Lord is priceless.

### Chapter 4

# Why You Must Prove all Acquaintances

#### PROVERBS 17.18

A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.

The days we live in are dangerous, hence the need to prove all acquaintances. Sometimes even the names of people are not their real names. You must do your own checks to ascertain the verity of the facts and figures.

The Bible tells us that a man of understanding will not be guarantor for a stranger. Even a friend cannot be trusted that much, how much more a mere acquaintance. How can you trust someone you just met in college? In Africa, most of us come from backgrounds

that are far different from what we look like in school.

Do not propose or accept the proposal of a stranger. A stranger cannot be trusted; prove them. People are not straight forward; you must wise up.

Judah impregnated his own daughter-in-law because he trusted a stranger. There is the need to probe every information you receive before trusting, things are not like they use to be.

The story of the Gibeonites informs us on the need to cross-check what strangers and acquaintances tell us. There are many people telling tales and deceiving people. Many of our heartaches and depressions can be blamed on deferred hopes.

## 1. Ask the right questions:

Probe and be sure; things are not always like

they seem. People lie, people swindle, people deceive, people window-dress.

## 2. Don't believe in vanity:

The Bible says that, he that is deceived believed in vanity.

#### JOB 15.31

Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompence.

The godly perish because the wicked speak with vain lips. The child of God must probe intuitively.

#### PSALMS 12-1-2

To the chief Musician upon Sheminith, A Psalm of David. Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

(2) They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

## 3. Don't hold on too tightly to anything:

Love neither the world nor anything in it. If you hold on too tightly, you will be swept off your feet.

## 4. Beware, if you feel lucky to be with any man or woman:

Don't feel lucky that you met any man or woman. No man is worth that value. Anything that looks too good is likely to be fake. Love will not make you feel so indebted. You are a treasure, you must live your life in such a way that the other partner will need you and not the other way.

#### Chapter 5

## Why You Must Seek Counsel Early

#### TITUS 2-1-8

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

- (2) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.
- (3) The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;
- (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,
- (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

- (6) Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.
- (7) In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,
- (8) Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

In a multitude of counsellors there is safety and by counsel is war made. In the spate of many suicides and broken-heartedness; one of the greatest needs in the pursuit of love you can enjoy is counsellors.

That is exactly what we are doing here, seeking counsel early. Do not let anybody disturb you; seek counseling early. Whenever there are problems speak to your pastor, or to a counselor or even a parent.

Apostle Paul admonished Titus to charge the older men and women to teach the younger ones. Without a teacher, you are likely to

make mistakes. We must all get counselors and seek professional help.

Ruth sought the counsel of Naomi; Rebekah ran back home after the servant met and gave her gifts; Rachel brought Jacob home when they met.

### Chapter 6

# The Need to be Authentic and Friendly

These are the two most important qualities that a relationship requires; being authentic and friendly.

### 1. Be authentic:

He that seeks love he can enjoy must be authentic. You must be real to find real people and real love. Friendship will require openness, transparency, and authenticity. If you try to deceive people you will be deceived.

### 2 TIMOTHY 3-13-15

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

(14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of,

knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

(15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

# 2. Be friendly

He that has friends must show himself friendly; friendship places a demand on you. If you genuinely take interest in people, you'll rather find more people taking interest in you.

### PROVERBS 18.24

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

### 3. Set clear boundaries

And remember, your friends will rely on you cheaply, and you must be willing to pay the

price of friendship, so set clear boundaries.

It's important to have a clear purpose for every relationship; without purpose, many things don't function well. There should always be a clear purpose for everything you do together, and every time you spend together.

Without boundaries, you will make a shipwreck of your faith. There should be clear boundaries. Ruth laid at the feet of Boaz after he spoke to her.

### Chapter 7

# Take Us the Foxes

### SONGS OF SOLOMON 2.15

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

There are little foxes that destroy the tender grapes of love. Let me exhort you on some little things that can erode the gains you make in your love relationships.

To catch the foxes that destroy the tender grapes of love, you must;

### 1. Cast out tale bearers:

When you listen to tale bearers you can never find love you can enjoy. Tale bearers are scorners, until you cast them out, you will not enjoy the love you've found.

# 2. Avoid the foolishness of Vashti:

The foolishness of Vashti is competitiveness. Those who find love they can enjoy must deal decisively with competitiveness. We must try to complement and complete each other. A husband and wife are made partners and not competitors.

# 3. Avoid the folly of Nabal:

Don't put your family at risk. Having indiscriminate sex in the name of love will put your spouse and family at risk.

Choices that put your progeny at risk must be avoided. I believe you must give up bad habits for the sake of your spouse and children.

Marrying your high school sweetheart in the name of love when your children may be at risk of sickle cell disease is also the foolishness of Nabal.

### 4. Be content with such as you have:

1 TIMOTHY 6.6

Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Contentment is a great blessing; comparison is a great thief of joy and happiness. Don't compare vourself with others; be content with such as you have.

Contentment is a catalyst of life. It's a little detail that makes a big difference

# 5. Avoid the folly of a concubine:

Judges 19 tells us a story of a concubine; she was raped, abused, and harassed till she dropped almost dead.

### **JUDGES 19-22-28 NASB**

While they were celebrating, behold, the men of the city, certain worthless fellows, surrounded the house, pounding the door; and they spoke to the owner of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came into your house that we may have relations with him."

- (23) Then the man, the owner of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my fellows, please do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not commit this act of folly.
- (24) "Here is my virgin daughter and his concubine. Please let me bring them out that you may ravish them and do to them whatever you wish. But do not commit such an act of folly against this man."
- (25) But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and brought her out to them; and they raped her and abused her all night until morning, then let her go at the approach of dawn.

- (26) As the day began to dawn, the woman came and fell down at the doorway of the man's house where her master was, until full daylight.
- (27) When her master arose in the morning and opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, then behold, his concubine was lying at the doorway of the house with her hands on the threshold.
- (28) He said to her, "Get up and let us go," but there was no answer. Then he placed her on the donkey; and the man arose and went to his home.

When you stay in a long relationship, you are likely to be dishonoured and abused. I advocate a relationship not longer than 18 months.

When the relationship lingers, the passion grows stale. Marry when the first love is still hot and on.

# 6. Avoid the folly of Tamar:

Ammon raped Tamar because she trusted his cock and bull story. You can avoid the folly of Tamar. Again, don't go about visiting from house to house; it is dangerous.

# Understand what Marriage is

### **EPHESIANS 5.31-33**

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

- (32) This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- (33) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

For the child of God, marriage is a mystery relationship and union between one man and one woman, who are not bound by blood, consummated upon covenant, not to be put asunder except by broken trust or death.

It's a physical union that exemplifies the spiritual relationship between Christ and the church.

### 1. Marriage is initiated by consent and covenant:

There is no marriage until there is a public covenant that is respected by faith, by custom, and by the laws of the land. The covenant part is the first step to marriage; it's neither secondary nor tertiary; it's the very first step in marrying.

# 2. Marriage is monogamous:

Marriage must be between a man and a woman. The man leaves his mother and father and cleaves to his wife and the two become one. Nothing wrecks marriages and steals the joy of couples more than third party influences. Third parties, be it mother, or father, or brothers, or sisters, or friends, or other woman, are the most dangerous leaches on the joy of marriage.

### 1 CORINTHIANS 7-1-2

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

(2) Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have ber own busband.

This is why it is mandatory that anybody seeking the high office of serving in the church must be a husband of one wife.

### 1 TIMOTHY 3.2

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife,

# 3. Marriage must be consummated:

We cannot rule out the need to celebrate love, sex is an important part of marriage. Sex is the bond that welds the couple together in holy matrimony. This is how the couple become one flesh.

# 4. Marriage must be held in honour:

Marriage, the Bible says, is honourable, especially the marriage bed undefiled. Fidelity and faithfulness honours the marital covenant.

# 5. Marriage must not be incestuous:

You cannot marry someone who is related to you by blood. The Bible and truth prohibits all incestuous relationships in marriage. You cannot marry your family member, or

to anyone who has had sexual relations with your family member.

### 6. Marriage must be heterosexual not homosexual:

It is an abomination to marry someone of the same sex. It's more brutish than being an animal.

# 7. Marriage is for adults not children:

The Lord prohibits all forms of child marriages. Marriage is a serious business and must be contracted between matured adults.

Marriage is a covenant relationship and a journey of a lifetime. It's a partnership to face life together. Marriage is not a game, it's a life partnership. Nothing can put couples asunder, except broken trust or death.

### Chapter 8

# Foundations to Enduring Marriages

PSALM 11.3

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Marriage is like building a house, the type and strength of foundations determine what kind of superstructure can be raised. How far and how high your building can go depends on the foundations that you lay. If the foundations be destroyed what will those who want to do right do.

Marriage has become a challenge in recent times for children of God because the foundations to sound and solid exciting marriages have been destroyed. I believe, however, that after this encounter, you and I will

determine to dig deep and repair the cracks from the foundations.

We are living in very challenging times; where right is seen as wrong, and wrong is celebrated as right. We are the light of the world, called to show forth the glory of God. We cannot fail this generation. The time has come for us to get the rudiments right and begin to change the error that floods our generation and seeks to drown us. So, marriage thrives and grows on certain foundations;

### 1. Mutual consent to love and commitment:

Until the couple decide willingly to make their marriage work, there is very little anybody can do to make their marriage endure the many storms that beat upon the sail. This is why forced marriage, marriages contracted under duress and undue influence,

and all forms of contract marriages don't work.

Neither the man nor the woman should be under pressure to marry. Marriages work well when we enter in with counsel, discretion and willingness.

# 2. Covenant and sacrifice:

Marriage is a sacrifice. This explains why it works better when it begins on the grounds of covenant; it becomes a whole lot easier to give to the other person.

### 3. Love and submission:

This is the first pair of things demanded from Christian couple. The Lord teaches us that men should love their wives and wives should be submitted to their own husbands.

Even the worse of men would not abuse a woman who is submitted to them, and most women would not disrespect a man who loves them.

# 4. Friendship and communication:

If you want your marriage to stand the test of time, then build friendship and strengthen your communication. Stronger marriages thrive on effective communication and friendship. We must strive not to be separated; build authentic friendships based on communication.

# 5. Mutual respect and empathy:

The next foundation to love is mutual respect and empathy.

# 6. Giving and receiving:

Marriage thrives and grows on giving and receiving.

# 7. Maturity and capacity:

Love you can enjoy comes from people who have matured and built capacity, especially if the man has built capacity and keeps maturing.

### 8. Faithfulness and commitment:

Keeping faith is important to keeping the marriage pure and the fire burning.

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# Even Adam did not settle for anything at all. He searched diligently from among all creation for a wife

Many people have gone to an early grave because they settled for less than love they could enjoy. Others are stuck in the middle of nowhere, all because they settled for less. There are also people who are in deep mess which they cannot fix; they settled for vanity, they settled for garnishing and glitz, instead to searching diligently for love they could enjoy.

Save yourself from the heartache of a mistaken marriage by acquainting yourself with the profound truths that the Holy Spirit has shared with all His precious sons and daughters like you, through the anointed writing ministry of Rev Simpe Bediako. *Be blessed!* 

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