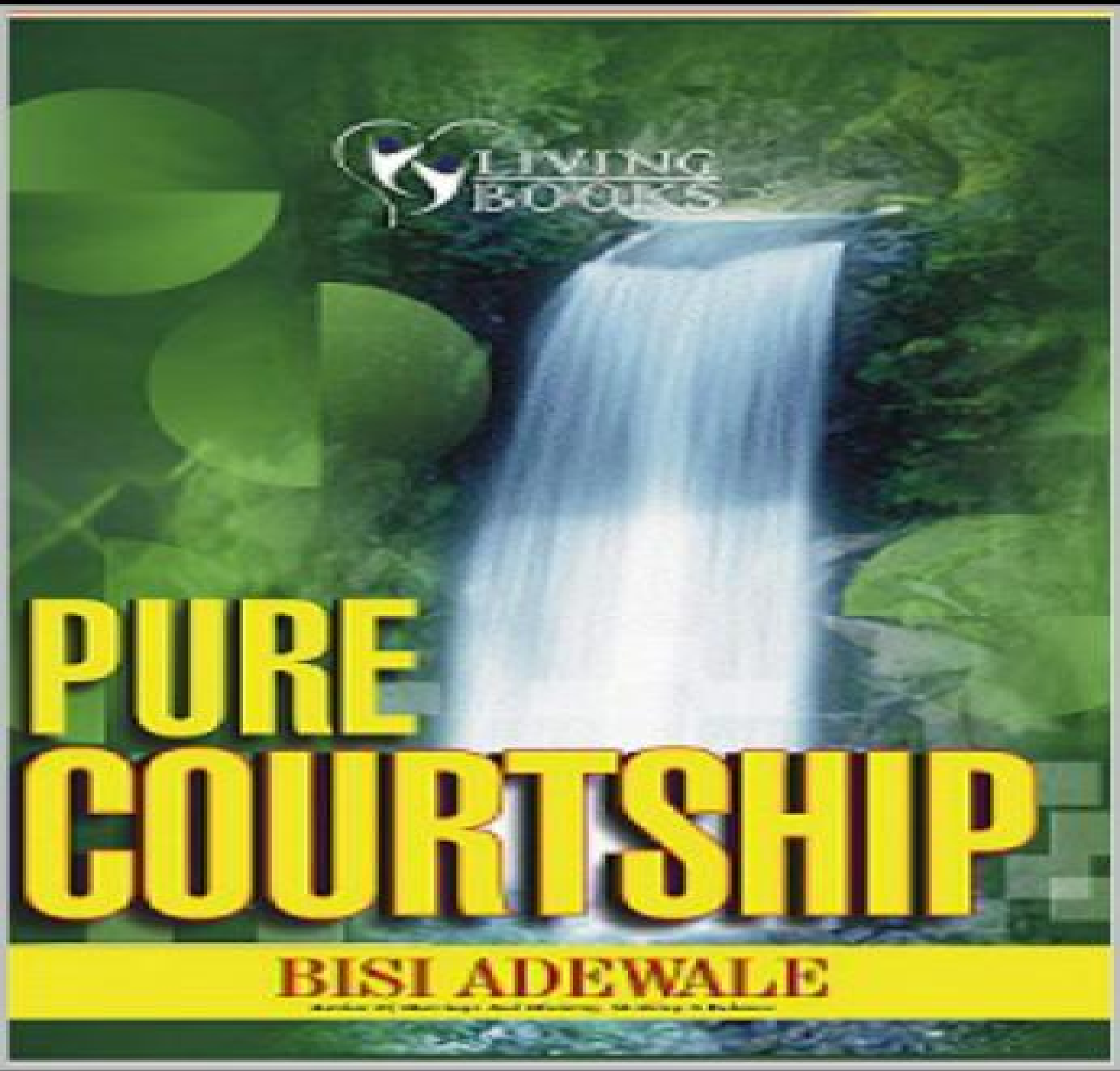
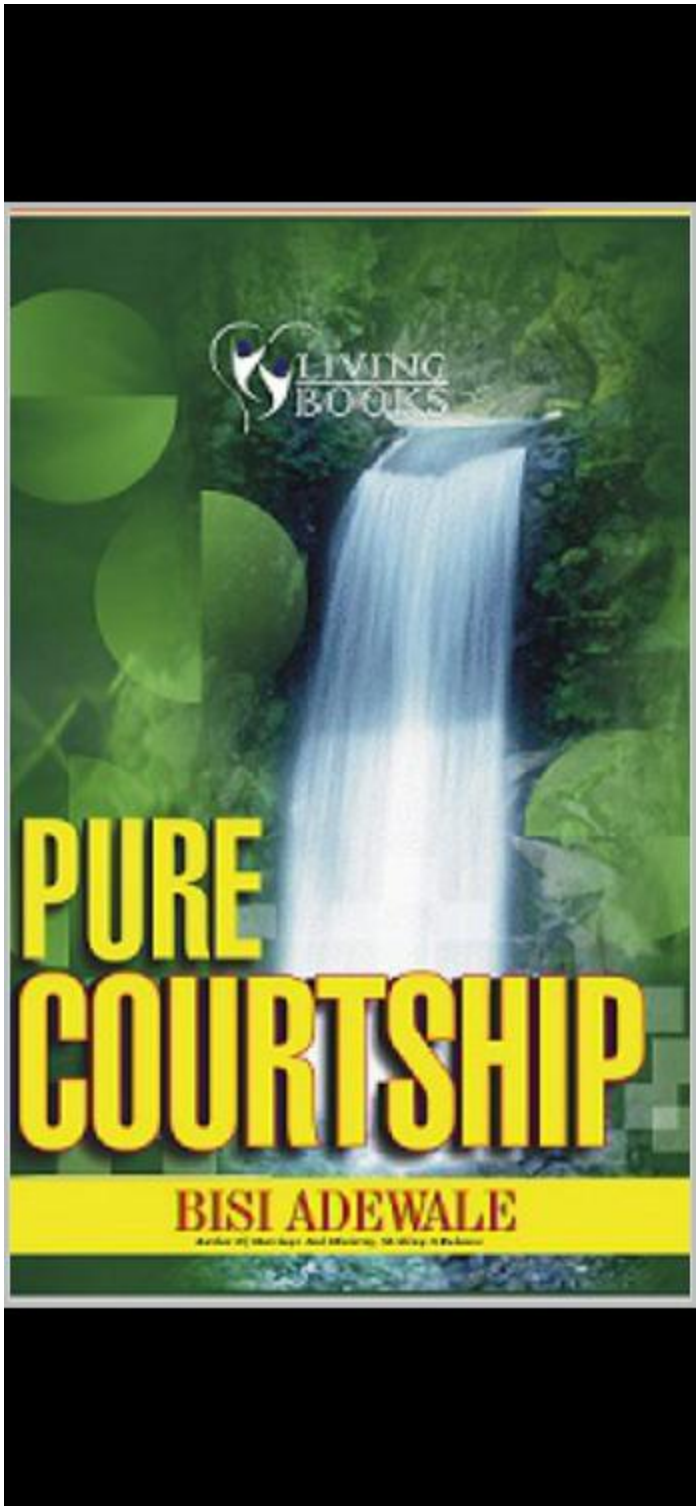

LIVING BOOKS
PURE COURTSHIP
BISI ADEWALE


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FIRST WORD

Foundation is paramount to the success or otherwise of any house. No matter how beautiful, high, strong, or big a house is, if

it has a bad foundation it will surely experienced a big fall. That is why wise builders don't joke with the issue of foundation.

"If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Ps. 11:3)

Courtship period is the period of foundation laying for a blissful home. Unfortunately, singles know close to nothing about it and handle it carelessly.

This book will teach you how to make the most of your courtship, what to do and what not to do in courtship, how to court without courting sin, how to court without offending God and how to have a **PURE COURTSHIP.**

In this book, you will come face to face with the truth. This book will empower and give you knowledge that will turn your destiny around.

Don't just read it, study and put it into use for a blissful future. NEVER forget to send a copy to your fiancé/fiancée and study it together for better results. Also, **introduce it to at least ten people.**

See you at the top. God Bless you.

-Pastor Bisi Adewale
Your Family Coach.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW SENIOR'S YOU!

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CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS COURTSHIP?

Courtship is a period between when a Christian brother and a sister agree to marry each other till their wedding day.

I always say it is the period between "yes I will do" and "yes I do". That is, the period between when a sister agrees to marry a brother and the period she truly offers him her hand in marriage before the whole world. Meaning that, a man proposes to a sister or plans to propose to her does not mean that they are in courtship until the lady consents

to the proposal. Courtship is similar to the Jewish custom of betrothal or espousal.

FOUNDATION FOR COURTSHIP

"If the foundation be destroyed what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3

Before you go into courtship, there are foundations to be laid. If ignored, it can pose problems for the future home.

These are:

1. **GOD'S LEADING:** You must be sure God is the one leading you into that relationship before going into it. I was talking to a brother few days ago, who told me he does not believe in God's leading in marriage because his church does not believe it. That is pathetic! Please, God should be the central figure in your life; your life should revolve around Him. If you fail to involve Him in any area of your life; you will suffer for it. **If He is not reigning in your life, He will resign.** Allow Him to lead you. He 'manufactured' marriage and knows what is good for you. **(Rom. 8:14, Prov. 19:14)**

2. **LOVE:** Before you go into courtship, please ensure you love the other person. Even if you see forty 'visions' you must wait until love develops. If you are not in love, you are not in God. Love is a major test of the will of God. If God is truly leading you, He will give you the grace to love him or her. It is dangerous to go into any relationship

with any fellow you do not love. Please, don't do it.

3. **PRAYER:** Start early to pray for your life-partner. Even if you are not ready for marriage, just pray generally telling God to lead you when the time comes. When you are ready, say specific prayers. Tell God to lead you to the sister or lead the brother to you.

4. **MATURITY:** ***"To everything there's a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.....A time to embrace, a time to refrain from embracing".*** **(Eccl. 3:1, 5b).**

Before you go into any relationship, please make sure you are mature for it. Maturity is not a date on calendar; it is a stage in life. It involves:

- ✓ **Physical Maturity.** Before you go into any relationship, make sure you are matured physically. Going into courtship when you are under 21 is not good at all. It takes a matured mind for real love to develop while immature mind can only be infatuated.
- ✓ **Emotional Maturity.** Make sure you are in charge of your emotion. If you cannot control your emotion, don't venture into courtship. Fear, malice, anger and pride must be far from somebody that is matured emotionally.
- ✓ **Social Maturity.** If you are socially deficient, please don't go into courtship. If you

can not keep good relationship with people of your sex, I wonder how you are going to fare relating with the opposite sex.

- ✓ **Financial Maturity.** You must be financially matured, meaning having a source of livelihood.

Besides financial maturity, you must neither be stingy nor extravagant. Payment of tithes is compulsory and offering is a necessity.

- ✓ **Intellectual Maturity.** You must have acquired a particular training, in formal or vocational school to earn a living or still undergoing training.
- ✓ **Spiritual Maturity.** You must not be a new convert **(1 Cor. 3:2).** You must be born again, Spirit-filled, able to recognized God's voice, prayerful and rooted in the word of God.

5. **CHARACTER:** Before you start a relationship with anybody, check his or her character very well. A brother who is the PRESIDENT of the fellowship may not be a RESIDENT of heaven. That Deacon may be a DRAGON at home, that singer may be a "serpent". Open your eyes widely, look before you leap.

6. **Attraction.** Never marry a man or woman you won't be proud to introduce. If you do not fancy her look at 25, how will you possibly do when she is

45 and her breast becomes flabby after four kids?

WHAT COURTSHIP IS NOT

1. **MARRIAGE:** Courtship is not marriage. The mere fact that you are engaged does not give you the permission to enjoy all these conjugal rights. Hence, sex, kissing, hugging, fondling, and caressing should be avoided in a righteous courtship.
2. **ORDINARY FRIENDSHIP:** Courtship is not a marriage, but it is definitely deeper than an ordinary friendship. That is why it has to involve proposal and consent.
3. **BROKEN COURTSHIP IS NOT A DIVORCE:** While a broken marriage is a divorce, a broken courtship is not. There is therefore room for breakages in courtship, if it is not working out. Broken courtship is better than a broken home.
4. **CANOPY MINISTRY:** This is an act by which a brother who has not really proposed to a lady is pretending they are in a relationship thereby sending wrong signal to the people, and blocking all other brothers that may want to propose to the sister. It is also known as *"shadowing"*.
5. **NOT BOY-FRIEND AND GIRL-FRIEND AFFAIR:** Courtship involves a deeper relationship that deserves all seriousness. It is not 'going

steady', but getting ready for marriage. When proposal is been made, it should not be "I want you to be my friend" but should be deeper than that. Christian life does not give room for ordinary 'going steady' the proposal should be clear enough. "I want to marry you, will you marry me?" Or "I want your hands in marriage".

6. **NOT DATING:** Courtship is not ordinary dating that has no basis or commitment. In courtship you are committed to the other party and there is a formal discussion of the direction of the relationship.
7. **NOT JOINT VENTURES:** It is not a business venture but rather a union for marriage preparation.
8. **NOT TRIAL MARRIAGE OR COHABITATION:** It is not a period to live together, to test 'whether we can actually marry each other'; rather it is a period of prayerful preparation for a blissful home.

"If you are not sure of where you are going, you'll probably end up somewhere else".
Roger F. Mager

CHAPTER 2

WHY COURTSHIP?

Some singles do not see any need for courtship before marriage. Some think it is unnecessary; some got married few weeks after consent is given.
Others begin to co-habit immediately they agree to marry each other. This is wrong by God and human standards.

IS COURTSHIP COMPULSORY?
YES. It is compulsory and mandatory. Courtship is a wonderful and important period you must not miss. It is very important.

1. **A TIME OF FOUNDATION LAYING:** It is a period when a man or woman in love gets to know each other intimately and lay solid foundation for their future home.

"If the foundation be destroyed what can the righteous do?" ***Ps. 11:3.***

2. **A TIME OF KNOWING:** It is the period of getting to know each other, a time for careful observation and hon-

est assessment of each other's moral and social values, spiritual depth and worldviews. It is the time to assess each other's strength and weakness likes and dislikes hobbies, professions, interest, and friends, among others.

3. **A TIME OF DISCOVERY:** It is the time to discover common area of interest and divergence as well as understanding each other's belief, fear, culture, custom and family values.
4. **TIME OF EXAMINATION:** It is a period when couples to be can carefully examine each other. They should not allow themselves to be blinded by infatuation or ignore glaring tell-tales of incompatibility and irreconcilable differences that may endanger their relationship in the future. Examine carefully and discuss together. Do not pretend they do not exist. Discuss and address them objectively. If there is a need to terminate the relationship because of these, do it in the love of Christ without hurting the other party. A broken courtship is better than a broken home.
5. **A TIME FOR PRAYER:** It is a period of serious prayer warfare. You should pray seriously, touching your relationship, purity, wedding, finance, childbearing and training, In-laws, jobs, professions, etc.
6. **A TIME OF PLANNING:** It is a good period to plan for wedding and your

future home. It is a period couples to be should plan their future together. Choice of residence, the kind of wedding they want, family-size, child-spacing, relationship with In-laws, financial management, among others are planned at this period.

7. **A TIME FOR LAYING STRONG FAMILY ALTAR:** Courtship is a period when couples should lay foundation of solid family altar for their future home. If you cultivate the habit of spending considerate time together in prayer during courtship, it will be much easier for you to have a strong family altar after wedding.
8. **A TIME FOR GOAL SETTING:** Courtship period is also a period for setting goals. Goal setting is the deliberate planning of what you want to achieve at a given period of time. It enables you to have focus and direction in life. Have corporate goal. What do you want? When do you want it? Discuss them and agree on what you really want, pursuing them with all your strength. It will give your marriage purpose, richness, depth and direction. This is what many marriages lack that is causing lots of problems.
9. **A TIME OF GOAL HARMONISATION:** Share your individual goals together in courtship and try to harmonise to become family goals. If you fail to do this

in courtship, it may lead to a very serious trouble after wedding.

10. TIME OF INTRODUCTION: During this period, you will be introduced to your intending partner's friends, family members, colleagues, etc. you will have to do likewise to him or her.

11. TIME OF ADJUSTMENT: Courtship is a time of learning to adjust. As soon as you discover your partner's strength and weakness, you are expected to start to pray for him or her and try to adjust to suit his or her purpose where necessary. A young man realised that his proposed wife easily catches cold whenever she sleeps under the fan. As a result, the lady has not been using fan. This young man quickly adjusted by learning to sleep without a fan. By the time they got married, he had been used to sleeping without fan. There is also need for adjustment in the area of culture, belief, custom, religion, disposition, language, vision, food, etc of your partner.

12. TIME OF DECISION: It is a period to take some vital decisions on where to live, size of the family, when to marry, type of wedding, child-spacing, etc.

13. TIME TO 'FIGHT': It is a period to learn how to ***disagree without quarrelling***; how to settle disputes without brawl; how to speak the truth in love;

how to learn to accept blame and say "I am sorry".

14. TIME OF QUESTION AND ANSWER. It is time to answer questions from your partner and answer him or her about your past and future.

"The picture of your future is taken with the camera of your character".
-Bisi Adewale

CHAPTER 3

TYPES OF COURTSHIP

We have fifteen types of courtship.

1. **WRONG COURTSHIP:** A courtship is wrong if it is unscriptural. A courtship is unscriptural if:
   a. **It is with unbeliever:** If you are in courtship with a Muslim or any non Christian, you are in a wrong courtship. (Joshua 23:10-13)

b. **It is with a divorcee:** If you are courting a divorcee, you are in a wrong courtship. (Malachi 2:14-16)

c. **It is with a married person:** If you are **courting** a married man or woman, you are courting wrongly.

2. **NICODEMUS COURTSHIP:** This is a secret courtship that is not known to your pastor, parents and family members. Your pastor/counsellor should be aware before you go into a relationship, and you have not really started until you get the blessing of your parents. Courtship should not be secretive. Do not allow anybody to manipulate you into a "close courtship. Some guys keep secret courtship so that it will be easy for them to dump one lady for another.
3. **PURPOSELESS COURTSHIP:** This is a courtship that starts without a purpose with the people involved not even thinking of marriage in the next five years. This is very wrong approach. Courtship should be focused and purposeful.
4. **PURPOSEFUL COURTSHIP:** This on the other hand, has a definite focus. The partners have a plan of what to do, how to do it and when to do it. Though they may not have the definite time they are going to get married, they plan towards it and have a probable period in mind.

5. **CARRY-OVER COURTSHIP:** This is a courtship between two Christians who have been be-friending each other before they embraced Christ but which continues after their conversion without consulting God. It was part of your old things that has passed away. So do away with it. You started that relationship as an unbeliever. So, it should discontinue.
6. **CLOSED COURTSHIP**: - This is one whereby the two people involve don't really know each other and are not exposing their lives to each other. Both of them have things to hide and they are hiding them. If this kind of relationship graduates to marriage, there will be chaos because they are not friends.
7. **OPEN COURTSHIP:** On the other hand, it is a kind of courtship whereby the partners are not hiding anything from each other. They are open to each other and expose their past lives.
8. **CAPTIVE COURTSHIP:** This is a kind of courtship where one of the parties involved is in charge, not giving the other partner any breathing space. Whatever he or she says is the final and the other partner may find it difficult to break the relationship for one reason or the other, even if it involves beating the 'captive' or turning her to a sex tool. Girls are often at the receiving end in this type of courtship.

9. **TURBULENT COURTSHIP:** The kind of courtship always experience open brawl, strife, malice, etc. this is always the case because both partners see themselves as opponents and not companion.

10. **FILTHY COURTSHIP:** This is a courtship filled with sex, necking, kissing, fondling, and all sorts of romance. God is not in this kind of relationship and those involved are endangering their lives.

11. **PURE COURTSHIP:** This is a courtship void of immorality. It glorifies God who is proud of the partners and is preferred to be involved in their lives and future.

12. **DRY COURTSHIP**: This is a kind of courtship that is draining those involved spiritually and emotionally due to what is happening in it. The prayer-life of many are dead because of their courtship. Many have become haters of the scripture with constant fight, malice and sexual sins.

13. **BALANCED COURTSHIP:** For a courtship to be balanced, it must be pure, open, enjoyable and purposeful. This kind of courtship is balanced because all parties involved –God, the man, the lady are enjoying it. They put God first before they started and are still obeying Him in courtship.

INGREDIENTS OF A BALANCED COURTSHIP

a. Good foundation exemplified by prayer and divine leading.
b. Proposal
c. Counsel (From Pastors/ Counsellors)
d. Holiness
e. Consent
f. Parental blessing
g. Good communication
h. Purpose.
i. Focus

14. **MISSIONARY COURTSHIP:** - This is the type of courtship you go into with an unbeliever with the intention of converting him or her. This is wrong and unscriptural. You must not marry an unbeliever.

15. **'STAND WITH ME' COURTSHIP:** - This is the kind of courtship whereby one of the parties involved is blocking the other from interacting with anybody apart from his or herself. This is kind of relationship often involve a Jealous or domineering partner, who will not want the partner to interact with anybody.

BE HUMBLE ENOUGH TO BREAK A BAD COURTSHIP

CHAPTER 4

INGREDIENTS FOR COURTSHIP

Before you can court for a peaceful marriage tomorrow, you need to lay a solid foundation for it today. **(Ps. 11:3).** You need to prepare adequately for it, you don't just wake up a day and say you are in a courtship. You need to put something together before you can have a good relationship.

These are what I called ingredients for courtship:

1. **YOU NEED TO BE BORN AGAIN:** If you really want good home tomorrow, then give your life to Christ before thinking of a relationship. If you give your life to Christ, then you have committed God to your life and destiny and this is very good for your tomorrow. If you are yet to give your life to Christ, this is an opportunity for you.

- Acknowledge you are a sinner
- Confess your sins to Him
- Forsake your sin and turn to God
- Ask Him to grant you grace to satisfy Him.
- Join a Bible believing, and holiness preaching church.
- Be a lover of God.

Say this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am before you today, I am a sinner and I can not help my self, forgive me my sins, cleanse me with your precious blood, deliver me from sin and Satan, to serve the

living God today. Lord Jesus, I accept you as my Lord and my savior. Thank you Jesus for saving me, I know I am born again. (Welcome into the family of God).

2. **LEAD A HOLY LIFE:** Don't just give your life to Christ, live for Him. Embrace Him; run away from sin and all appearances of the devil. Lying, stealing, fornicating, bitterness, anger, lust, and so on should not be found in you.
3. **PRAYER:** Pray unto God for a life partner. Tarry in the presence of God and commit your destiny into His hands. Get our book-**500 PRAYER POINTS FOR SINGLES** for your prayer focus.
4. **GOD'S VOICE:** Don't just pray. Allow God to lead you. Allow Him to instruct and correct you. "**For as many as are led by the spirit of God they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).**

Don't just go into courtship without consulting God. If you are a child of God, then let Him lead you. Please get a copy of our book-***THUS SAITH THE LORD; HAS THE LORD REALLY SPOKEN?*** To know how the Lord leads in marriage.

5. **LOVE:** Check whether you are in love. If you feel God is leading you but you do not love the person, then check yourself, God can not be wrong. It is either He is not speaking to you or you have an "idols" in your heart. Idols are standard you have laid for yourself, which this person do not meet. If

you don't have any "idol" in your heart and still do not love this person, please don't go into such dangerous relationship. Never marry someone you do not love for any reason. Get a copy of my book- ***32 WAYS TO KNOW TRUE LOVE*** for more on this.

6. **CHECK CHARACTER:** Before you go into that relationship, please check the character of your would-be partner. If he is not of good character, never make the mistake of attaching your destiny to his.
7. **CONVICTION:** You must be convinced that God is leading you, that you are in love and that the person is of good character. If you are not convinced, please don't go ahead. It is dangerous.
8. **PASTORAL ASSENT:** Before you go into that relationship, please consult your pastor or counsellor. Let him counsel and correct you. Let him pray about it. If there is marriage committee in your church, surrender yourself to its scrutiny. Secure its consent before you go ahead.
9. **PROPOSAL:** Having passed through the eight stages enumerated above, brothers are expected to propose. No matter the conviction, sisters must never propose. It is not good for your integrity. Brothers should propose. Sisters should wait for proposal.
10. **CONSENT:** After proposal. Sisters, having gone through the stages enu-

merated above should give an answer. Do not rush or delay your response. Pray and take a firm stand. Remember your life depends on your response. Be careful.

11. PARENTAL BLESSING: This important action comes after the sister's consent. Parental blessing is compulsory, even if the parents are unbelievers. Pray seriously before informing them. You can't hide this important aspect of your life from them.

12. PUBLIC INTRODUCTION: This does not mean going on radio to announce that you are in courtship. Rather, you should be proud to introduce your finance/fiancée to friends and family members without any inhibition. There is no secrecy about courtship. If you are in it, let people know. As a lady, politely tell whoever proposes to you that you are engaged.

"Doing right things; makes you the right man"

CHAPTER 5

THE DON'T S OF COURTSHIP

1. **Don't neglect God in your courtship**. Avoid whatever you cannot do in Jesus name. Don't do whatever you can not do in the presence of brethren behind the closed doors.
2. **Don't pretend in courtship.** Be yourself; let your partner know the real you. Pretence is a dangerous game.
3. **Don't double date**. As a Christian, you cannot be involved in two relationships at a time. 'Extra tyre' syndrome is not permitted among the children of God.
4. **Avoid secret courtship.** Your pastor should give his consent before you start courting, just as your friends, family members and relations should be in the know. Both parents must also bless the courtship. If you are not matured enough to go into an open courtship, then don't go into it. Courtship should not be a secret affair.
5. **Don't start to wear the same attire.** It is wrong to do so.
6. **Sisters should not turn themselves to cooks or launderer**. You are not expected to go and cook for the brother or help him to wash his clothes. If you visit him; let him treat you as a guest (that is what you are). If he visits you, you can entertain him but never go to his house to cook for him. Also, avoid

taking food to his house because you are not married yet.

7. **Never co-habitate.** It is wrong to be living together before wedding; it is unholy and annoys God. If you must live together, then get married.
8. **Don't be untruthful in courtship**. Never tell your partner what is not true. Don't say you are what you not. Be truthful and faithful.
9. **Don't court without focus**. Let your courtship be focused. Determined when you are likely to get married from the beginning, otherwise, it may lead you into trouble of fornication.
10. **Don't start having sex in courtship.** ***"Marriage is honourable among all and bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers, God will judge". Hebrews 13:4.*** Sex is not for those in courtship. It is the conjugal right of married couples.

Sex before wedding is known as fornication, which comes with dire consequences. It separates you from God, exposes one to unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, hurried marriage, wrong marriage, abortion, single parenthood and destruction of one's destiny, among others.

Never have sex in courtship; even if your wedding is just few hours away. Wait and obey God. **SEX IN COURTSHIP IS A SIN.** Do not endanger your life.

11. **Don't start pecking, kissing, fondling, hugging, etc in courtship**. It is for the married.
12. **Don't start what you can not finish. Do not allow emotion to override reason**. Be wise.
13. **Courtship period is not for joint** account or joint projects.
14. **Courtship period is not a period of INTERCOURSE**, it is a period of INTERVIEW (Communication) - be open to each other in courtship. **Open your mouth for each other not your skirt or trouser.**

Those that know what to do are the masters.

CHAPTER 6

WHAT TO DO IN COURTSHIP

1. **PRAYER:** Make your courtship a period of serious prayer and fasting. You need to pray about your relationship, love, academics, job, proposed residence, wedding, children, friends, conception, delivery, in-laws, spiritual life and others. Do not hesitate to touch all area of your life in prayer before you get married. It is very important to pray together in courtship. It is good for your future (for more on this, get these two books of mine- ***500 PRAYER POINTS FOR SINGLES*** *and* ***20 WEDDINGS THAT MUST NOT TAKE PLACE.***
2. **STUDY TOGETHER:** Study the Bible and other Christian books (Especially those on marriage). Lay a solid foundation for your home based on the word of God.

If the ***WORD*** *does not affect you, the* ***WORLD*** *will afflict you.*

3. **DISCUSS AND PLAN TOGETHER:** - Plan your future together. Discuss together.
4. **GOING OUT TOGETHER.** You need to visit your family members and attend seminars, Christian events and other godly social events together.
5. **COUNSEL:** - Pre-marital counseling is very important during courtship. Don't feel too big for it. Seek counsel. In

fact, you must have a marriage mentor. Choose a godly couple as your mentor and learn from them.

6. **PREPARE TOGETHER.** Prepare for your wedding and future home together. Adequate preparation should be made to make your wedding and marriage successful.
7. **ATTEND** seminars, fellowships and other Christians programmes together
8. **SERVE GOD TOGETHER**. Go on mission, bus, prison, hospital (etc) evangelism.
9. **WRITE** letters send E-mails and make phone calls to each other.
10. **HAVE COMMON MENTORS,** preferably a Christian's couple that had pure courtship and are happily married.
11. **ATTEND MARRIAGE SCHOOL TOGETHER**. If you are based in Lagos-Nigeria, you can attend our marriage school- **College Of Marital Success.**

If you are outside Lagos, you can take the course by correspondence.

Call 08056457013 for more information. Or E-mail: **familybooster@yahoo.com.**

"Zero communication brings suspicion, confusion and frustration"

CHAPTER 7

COMMUNICATION IN COURTSHIP

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" (Proverbs 18:21)

Communication is the process of sending a message through a medium to the receiver. It means passing or exchanging ideas, news, information, revelation, knowledge, feelings, emotion and aspiration.
In courtship, partners need to master the art of communication to prepare for a blissful home.
Communication in courtship should be:

- **A.** Truthful. The whole truth
- **B.** Total, without hiding anything
- **C.** Factual and coherent
- **D.** Must be result-oriented

Ask each other questions, find it easy to discuss, without communication there is no relationship.
You should be friends; friends do talk. Be open, truthful, frank and sincere.

8

HOW LONG SHOULD A COURTSHIP BE?

Scripturally, no time is specified. But based

on counselling and personal experience, I advised that no courtship should be less than six months and more than two years, except where there is sickness or parental objection. If it is less than six months, there is a danger of not knowing each other at all before the wedding. If you rush into marriage, you cannot rush out but can only be crushed.

If courtship is too long:

1. It can lead to sexual immorality because of too much exposure to each other.
2. It may make you become less committed to the things of God as you will give much of your attention to your partner.
3. It is emotionally demanding
4. It can lead to evil suggestions from friends and family members.
5. It can lead to a broken courtship
6. It is too demanding
7. It is costly. Travelling to see your partner, sending letters, calling. Sending, E-mails and gifts can be very expensive.

"Sex before marriage is like drinking a cup of poison because it is sweet".

CHAPTER 9

HOW TO AVOID SEXUAL IMMORALITY IN COURTSHIP

Like I said in the last chapter, sexual relationship is not meant for engaged Singles. It is for MARRIED COUPLES ONLY.



Before you drive a car, you must get a driving license.



Before you practice as a doctor, you must get a certificate.



Before you pilot an airplane, you must be licensed.



Before you can have sex, you must get a 'sex licensed', which is your wedding certificate. If you do it without this license, you will regret it for the rest of your life.

Many singles really wanted to run away from fornication but don't know how. Here, I will let you know how to flee from sexual immoralities. Make sure your partner reads this portion. Better still, you may read it together and pray after discussing.

1. Make sure you get engaged to a born again Christian who accepts pre-marital sex as a sin and is ready to shun it. That way, it will be easy for both of you to avoid this dangerous pitfall that has ruined many.
2. Both of you should determine to have a pure courtship.
3. Pray for a pure courtship.
4. Discuss how to have a pure courtship.
5. Always discuss the issue of sexual purity in your courtship, do not shy away from it. Do not pretend about it but be frank and obey God.
6. Make a vow together to obey God. Promising Him you will not have sex till your wedding night.
7. Always remind each other the vow whenever you meet.
8. Always pray about this vow, asking God to give you the grace to abide by it.
9. Avoid staying together for a long time doing nothing in particular

10. Watch out for the devil's deception. He will surely tempt you but stand firm and obey God.

11. Never SLEEP together in the same room, let alone on the same bed. Make no excuse for this and never think you are too anointed to fall.

12. Avoid meeting behind closed doors; open all doors and windows and put the devil to shame.

13. Avoid meeting in dark places. If you do, what happens in darkness will come to your mind.

14. Avoid meetings in a lonely place; do not give the devil undue advantages over you.

15. If your partner stays in another town and needs to visit you, it is better he or she returns the same day, if he or she must pass the night then arrange for where he or she will stay (with brethren). Never allow him or her to sleep in your room. Be careful.

16. Never allow the evil thought of confirming "sexual compatibility" comes to your mind. It is a lie and deception of the devil you must not fall into.

17. Avoid physical contact as much as possible.

18. Avoid watching worldly films and reading ungodly books and magazines either alone or together. They will destroy your resistance to sin.

19. Avoid unnecessary long courtship; get married as soon as possible. It is better to get married than burn with lust.

20. Never encourage kissing, pecking, hugging, petting, fondling, touching and necking. If you set on the fire of passion immaturely, it will burn you.

21. Run away from lust or lustful desires.

22. Guard your heart with all diligence; do not think for the devil, avoid STINKING THINKING.

23. Set your standards and ideals before you start your relationship.

24. Always remember that you are the temple of God therefore do not defile yourself (I Cor. 3:16-17).

25. Be a consecrated Christian.

26. Make the word of God your standard.

27. When you discover your partner is doing something that may arouse you, do not pretend nothing is happening. You need to wisely caution the person and if he or she continues, it is better to leave the place for that moment than allowing God to leave you.

28. Never say we have not gone TOO FAR, in as much as we have not have sex. Before God, you sin immediately you start lusting after your partner, even without touching him or her (Matt. 6:28). Hence petting, necking, pecking and kissing are sinful before Him.

29. When you are together, find something to do. If you are IDLE, you may CUDDLE the devil.

30. Always maintain a safe distance.

31. Do not be too confident of your spiritual strength (Romans. 8:10). Where mighty anointed men or women of God have fallen, tread cau-

tiously. **Remember your hormones are not born again.**

32. Do not toy with each other's emotion

33. Always remember that holding of hands, caress, kissing, romancing, fondling, and petting are NOT demonstrative of love in courtship but dangerous signal that you are about falling into trap of the devil. Avoid them so as not to make a shipwreck of your Christian faith, testimony and future home **(1 Corinthians 3:10).**

34. Always abstain from all appearances of the devil **(1 Thessalonians 5:22)**

35. Never stay together till late in the night, avoid night party.

36. Avoid alcohol and drugs.

37. Get a copy of my book **SINGLES, SEX AND PURITY** and read it together.

38. Sisters should get a copy of **PURE GOLD** and read it to know how to avoid sexual sin.

YOUR HORMONES ARE NOT BORN AGAIN, NEVER ALLOW IT TO DOMINATE YOUR LIFE WITH ITS CARNALITY. BE WISE

"Circumstances are rulers of the weak, but they are the instruments of the wise". -Samuel Lover

CHAPTER 10

POSSIBLE OBSTACLES DURING CHRSTIAN COURTSHIP

1. **DISTANCE:** This applies to intending couples living far from each other. When I was courting, I was in Lagos while my fiancé was residing in Awka (Anambra State of Nigeria).

To overcome this obstacle, do the following:

a. Be faithful to your partner despite the distance.
b. Never make the mistake of double dating.
c. Trust your partner until you have a cogent reason not to do so.
d. Do not be suspicious but prayerful.
e. Write letters often
f. Call often
g. Send love cards and text messages
h. Send your recent photograph or portraits.
i. Send messages through people.
j. Send gifts to each other
k. Exchange visits
l. Send e-mails.

2. **PARENTAL OBJECTIONS.** This is when either or both of your parents object to your choice of marriage partner. Note that they have the right to reject or accept and you have the right to make your choice. Their objection may be:

a. **Genuine.** They may be saying the truth due to the background, character, religion, or disposition of your partner.
b. **Divine.** God may be using them to stop you from going into error or slow you down.
c. **Out of Ignorance.** They may object due to ignorance.
d. **Based on selfishness or fear.** They may object because of their selfish interest, thinking you may not cater for them after marrying the person.
e. **Tribal or Historical.** They may object based on racial, tribal and cultural sentiments and discrimination. It may also be distorted historical facts between two communities.

For example, the Ijesas will not want their children marry the Ijebus. The Ijebus will not want their wards to marry the Ekitis; the Ekitis will object to having the Egbas as In-laws, white parents may not want their children to marry somebody that is black in complexion etc.

All these are based on what happened long ago during inter clan war among Yoruba's.

Whatever the reason for your parent's objection; **NEVER MARRY WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.**

In such situation do the following:

a. Do not ignore or rationalize it.
b. Do not be violent, stubborn or abusive.
c. Do not be discouraged, confused or offended.
d. Consult your pastor and counsellor.

c. Prayerfully discuss with them to allay their fear.
f. Use the period to examine and re-confirm your conviction and divine leading.
g. Take time to check the level of love and understanding in the relationship.
h. Always be in agreement with one another.
i. Do not make the mistake of hating the parents of your partner that are objecting to your choice.
j. Pray seriously, personally and jointly.
k. Be patient.
l. If you are sure of God's leading, then be resolute.
m. Be determined, prayerful and cheerful until the mountain is removed.
n. Don't worry. It shall be well.
o. Talk to your Uncle, a trusted Aunty, their friends; who can talk to them.

3. **PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIPS.** Do away with all past relationships and break off from the concerned parties. You are already involved with somebody else's. If there is any problem, please tell your pastor and counsellor and share with your partner.
4. **POVERTY AND LACK.** Labour with your hand. Do not be lazy, stop expecting manna from above. Be prayerful and have a vision. Do not incur debt on wedding and agree together to make it. It is well.

5. **UNEMPLOYMENT, FAILURE AND RETRENCHMENT.** Look out for another job and encourage each other in the Lord.
6. **FAILURE IN EITHER BUSINESS OR ACADEMICS.** Encourage your partner to try again and be positive.
7. **CONSIDER ANY PROBLEM AS COLLECTIVE ONE.** Both of you should start to pray about it seriously.
8. **SICKNESS, ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT.** Handle it prayerfully. Consult your doctor and counsellor.

"Any dog that will lost, will first lose his sense of smell"- Anonymous

CHAPTER 11

WARNING SIGNALS DURING CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

There is the need to exercise caution and pray seriously if you experience any of the following in your relationship;

a. **LOSS OF PEACE**. If you discover this, please never go into marriage until you are able to secure it. If it remains elusive after prayer and counseling, it may be a pointer to the fact that you are in a wrong relationship.

b. **FEAR**. If you are afraid of your partner or of getting marry to him or her, you better be careful for there is no fear in true love. Do not marry someone you fear.

c. **LACK OF LOVE AND AFFECTION.** If you discover you do not love your intending partner or he or she does not love you, it is BETTER not to go into marriage.

d. **LUST.** When lust is in control and you are always touching, kissing, pecking, or fornicating do not even think of marriage because ***marriage may not quench lust***. It will only end up jeopardizing your union.

e. **COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN**. If you cannot freely express your thoughts during courtship, then you have no business coming together as couples. If you discover you always find it difficult to discuss with your partner

or you are not on talking terms, please do not go into marriage.

f. **CONSTANT DISAGREEMENT**. If there are conflicts in your courtship, it is better to separate now than live a miserable life later.

g. **IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES.** If you discover you have too many differences and it is difficult for any of you to shift ground, it is better not to get married. For example, if one of you is very generous and extravagant and the other party is extremely stingy and miserly, it is either one or both of you change or you break the relationship.

h. **SPIRITUAL COLDNESS OR BACKSLIDING.** If your partner becomes cold in the spirit, avoids Christian fellowship, becomes prayerless and hates the scriptures, it is a signal that you are no longer in the same camp.

i. **SPIRITUAL SICKNESS.** If the relationship is incapacitating your spiritual life, it is better to do away with it.

j. **INDIFFERENCES.** When your partner becomes indifferent towards your feeling and well-being, it is a dangerous signal.

k. **ABSENCES OF GIVE AND TAKE.** If your partner is always ready to collect and unwillingly to give anything, it is dangerous. Love becomes robbery if it only takes and not give anything.

l. **PROVOCATION.** If all what your partner does annoys you, you need to be careful.

m. **BAD CHARACTER.** If you discover some bad traits in your partner like anger, laziness, oversleeping, hatred, nagging, prayerlessness, spiritual coldness, malice, bitterness, resentment, stealing, pride, lying, unfaithfulness, lust, unforgiving spirit, strife, night crawling, drunkenness, dirtiness, stinginess, extravagancy and stubbornness among others, you need to be extremely careful and prayerful. I will advise you to seek counsel.

n. **SHARP DOCTRINAL DIFFERENCES.** This should be seriously addressed. Issues like the church to attend after marriage, cosmetics, make-up, restitution, Christian calling, healing, mode of dressing and mode of prayer, among others should be sorted out. Make sure you harmonise your views on them.

o. **IMMATURITY.** When you discover your partner is not mature but childish, you better be careful.

p. **STINGINESS.** When you discover a man is stingy, you better be watchful because he is likely not going to cater for you and the kids.

q. **FREQUENT DISAPPOINTMENT.** If he or she is fond of disappointing you and is unpredictable, you need to watch it before you say "yes I do".

r. **DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, PASTOR AND LEADERS**. If your partner is fond of fighting or disobeying his or her parents, pastor and leaders, it will be dangerous to marry such a person. Even if he or she is not, fighting or disobeying you now, it will soon be your turn.

s. **ANGER.** Make no friends with an angry man……."**Prov. 2:24.** Anybody with an uncontrollable spirit of anger is too dangerous for marriage.

t. **UNFAITHFULNESS AND LYING.** If you discover the fellow double dates or lies, it will be better to do away with him or her.

u. **IMMORALITIES.** An immoral man or woman is dangerous to himself or herself and anybody around. Don't attach your destiny to him or her.

v. **ABSENCE OF THE FEAR OF GOD.** When you discover your intending partner does not fear God, quickly "pick race" before he or she destroys you.

w. **PRIDE.** When you discover pride and stubbornness in that lady, you better be careful because she is not likely to submit to you.

"When you are at the cross road, go to the cross".

CHAPTER 12

AT THE CROSS ROAD

What do you do when you are not so sure about continuing a relationship?

1. **Do not just break your partner's** heart even when you are fully persuaded that you made a wrong choice.
2. **Inform a marriage counsellor** and your pastor about your new disposition.
3. **Prayerfully share your conviction** with your partner in genuine love and sincere acceptance of the mistake after proper counselling.
4. **Determine to separate in love** and full forgiveness.
5. **Speak the truth** in love.
6. **Never nurse** any grudge.
7. **Avoid bitterness** after disengagement.
8. **If there is any bitterness in your heart towards the person**, do the following:

- Ask God to forgive you
- Confess that you have forgiven the person.
- Pray for the person for at least ten minutes in three days, morning and evening.
- Avoid writing letters, e-mails or calling to break off on phone. It is better to see face to face and avoid being misquoted.
- Be very sure you are doing the right thing before you break that relationship.
- Please, let the spirit of God lead you.

- As a sister, avoid going to the house of a brother to break a relationship. Many ladies have been beaten, molested or raped in the process.
- Do not announce your disengagement in a secret place where there will be nobody to protect you if he gets annoyed or bent on mishandling you.

"A courtship that endangers peace can not lead to a restful marriage"
- Bisi Adewale

CHAPTER 13

END OF A COURTSHIP



A broken courtship is not a divorce.



A broken courtship is better than a broken home.

Courtship, unlike marriage can be broken for so many reasons. In fact, it is better to break it than to have one's heart broken. But the facts that a broken courtship is better than a broken home does not give the go-ahead to breaks courtship anyhow because a broken courtship may adversely affect the other partner who still wants the relationship to continue. Therefore, be very careful before you go into courtship.

Don't think of experimenting with it. Broken courtship is not the best; it is just a 'better evil'. So be careful.

Here are the following things that may lead to the "death" of a courtship.

1. **WEDDING-** The commencement of marriage on the wedding day announces the automatic demise of every courtship. Then, you can now enjoy every conjugal right as husband and wife.

2. **MUTUAL AGREEMENT**- Engaged partners may agree to break the relationship without any bitterness if they discover that they are not compatible or both of them have discover that they are blood relations or engaged outside of the will of God.
3. **CHURCH DIRECTIVES.** The church can order intending couples to break if it is discovered that God is not in it or they are not in love. Also, if it is discovered that one of the partners is not a Christian or the courtship is sinful and ungodly, the church may wield the big stick. If your church leadership asks you to break your relationship, you had better obey.
4. **GOD'S DIRECTIVES.** The sovereign Lord may order intending couples to break up. He knows better; do not be stubborn but just obey Him.
5. **ELDERLY COUNSEL.** Counsellors, Elders, pastors, or mature Christians may advise you to break your relationship if they discover it is not in your best interest. It is better to obey such wise counsel than think you know better than them.
6. **ABSENCE OF PEACE, LOVE, COMMUNICATION AND AGREEMENT.** If all or any of these is missing in your courtship, it is better to break up.
7. **SPIRITUAL DRYNESS.** If you discover that what is happening in the relationship has not been helping your spiri-

tual growth, it is better to beat a retreat before it is too late.

8. **IMMORALITIES**. If the relationship has been leading you to immoralities, it is better to back out before you regret it. Remaining in immoral relationship will only ensure that you lose the presence of God. Go back now before it is too late! A guy or lady that is fornicating with you now can do it with anybody else and can graduate to become an adulterer. You had better retrace your step before you fall into that ditch. You are warned!
9. **FALSEHOOD**. If you discover your partner is not truthful and the relationship has been based on false foundation. It should be discontinued.
10. **WRONG FOUNDATION**. Courtship should be based on God's leading, mutual love, godly character and integrity. It is better to do away with a relationship you know God does not support or is lacking in mutual love.
11. **BACKSLIDING**. If your partner falls out of faith, that automatically end the courtship. Thinking you will stay with him or her till restoration may ensure you fall out of grace with the person. It is better to keep a distance and start praying for him or her.

"If you befriend a man that lives in the mortuary, you will sooner or later follow him to the cemetery".

12. UNFAITHFULNESS. If your so-called partner is unfaithful, keeping two relationships at the same time or fornicating with somebody, it is better to pull out now than shed tears tomorrow.

13. SEXUAL ADVANCES. If all your partner wants is sex, please take to your heels. If you give in, you offend God and get dumped after being 'conquered'.

14. DEATH OF A PARTNER. If one of the partners dies, the relationship is automatically terminated. The surviving partner can seek the face of God for another partner.

15. CONSTANT MISUNDERSTANDING. This can be a signal that you are in a wrong relationship. Strife, malice, nagging, irreconcillable differences may be pointers to the fact that you are wrongly engaged.

OTHER CAUSES OF BROKEN ENGAGEMENT/ COURTSHIP

In addition to the above, some relationships are broken due to the following reasons:

a. Impatience
b. Intolerance
c. Misunderstanding
d. Lust
e. Prayerlessness
f. Undue familiarity or attachment to someone other than one's partner
g. Lack of effective communication

h. Long courtship
i. Parental objection
j. Sexual sin
k. Frequent disappointments
l. Inconsistency
m. Immaturity
n. Unforgiving spirit
o. Pride
p. Covetousness
q. Unfaithfulness.

CHAPTER 14

COURTSHIP, WHAT CHRSTIAN LADIES SHOULD KNOW

As a lady, please take time to read and act on this:

a. Remember that courtship is a period of preparation. Therefore, prepare yourself to be a wife, a mother, a lover, friend, a good cook, a mother-in-law, a baby sitter, a grandmother, etc.

b. Study your man to know what he needs, likes or hates

c. Learn to cook his favourite meal like his mother does.

d. Be humble and submissive but fear the Lord.

e. Respect your partner

f. Be ready to apologise if you offend him. Do not be stubborn or proud.

g. Learn how to baby-sit

h. Dress like a responsible lady

i. Make sure a man proposes to you before accepting you are engaged. If he is not bold to propose to you, he is not old enough to be your husband.

j. Start buying items like stove, boiler, plates, blender and other cooking utensils.

The next two chapters will teach you what to do as sisters in courtship.

"There is a way to turn a monster-in-law, to a mother-in-law

and mother-in-love the way of wisdom".

CHAPTER 15

SISTERS: YOU AND YOUR FUTURE IN-LAWS

This is the best period to create good relationship with your future in-laws, especially your prospective mother-in-law. If you really want to have a successful marital life, you must do the following:

1. **GET RID OF THE NOTION THAT MOTHERS-IN-LAW ARE BAD.** Anticipate a very wonderful relationship with your in-laws and do not create obstacles in your mind.
2. **BEFORE AND DURING COURTSHIP.** Pray for your potential mother-in-law. Pray for her favour, support, love and understanding. As you are seeking the face of God for a blissful home, start to pray for your in-laws. Do not allow the devil to use them against you.
3. **COMPORT YOURSELF.** Carefully handle your in-laws and don't be too forward or quiet. Be wise.
4. **BE HARDWORKING**; especially when you are visiting them. They will be watching you.
5. **BE HUMBLE** and submissive
6. **FLEE FROM SEXUAL SINS DURING COURTSHIP**; preserve your integrity.
7. **INSIST ON RIGHTEOUSNESS**, even if they suggest pre-marital pregnancy. Remember it is ungodly and unscriptural.

8. **FEEL AND ACT FREELY** with your in-law to-be.
9. **SEND GIFTS TO YOUR MOTHER**-in-law to-be.

10. THINK POSITIVELY AND NEVER HATE any of your intending in-laws because it is dangerous.

11. TRY TO WIN THE LOVE of your potential mother-in-law, even if she is displaying resentment towards you or your engagement to her son.

12. START TO SEE YOUR WOULD-BE MOTHER-IN-LAW as your biological mother even if she is behaving otherwise.

13. MAKE SURE YOU GET ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION about your would-be in-laws from your intending partner and use them to pray and act positively toward them. Some of the things to know are:

a. **Their custom or culture.** If you are an Ibo lady (Eastern Nigeria) wishing to marry a Yoruba man (Western Nigeria), you must learn how to kneel down to greet your parents-in-law and even your husband because that is their custom, else they will see you as being disrespectful and proud.
b. **Their Local Food.** Know how to prepare and eat it.
c. **Their Beliefs.** Any of their belief that is scriptural should be respected, while those unscriptural should be wisely re-

jected. (This is applicable to custom/ culture too).

14. Trust the Lord for a blissful home.

15. VISIT ALL NECESSARY FAMILY MEMBERS before your wedding (For more on this, kindly get copies of my book **Wives Versus Mothers-in-law, When will the Battle Cease?** For yourself, your mother-in-law (as a gift) and your would-be husband).

WITH WISDOM, YOU CAN TURN YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW, TO YOUR MOTHER-IN-LOVE, WHILE IGNORANCE WILL MAKE MONSTER-IN-LAW OUT OF HER.

CHAPTER 16

ROLES OF SISTERS IN A PURE COURTSHIP

1. Be very firm and discourage any unhealthy advances from your partner. Brothers are moved by sight. That deliverance minister that fire brand brother, that Holy Ghost-filled deacon can suddenly be overwhelmed by lust and passion. Be careful.

2. Know that eighty percent of the possibility of pure courtship lies with you as a lady because females have more power to resist sexual urges than men. While men are moved by what they see, women can only be moved by what touches them or what they hear.

So, if that man falls, God will woman can only be moved by what they see; surely ask you.

3. Never allow him to touch you beyond handshake. Be wise.

4. Do not allow kissing, fondling, pecking and romance; do not do what you will later regret.

5. If you are meeting in a place where light suddenly goes off; get up immediately to get that place lighted or leave completely.

6. Never pretend you are an angel; you have emotion and passion that must be controlled for now.

7. If you are to meet inside a room, please discourage this as much as possible) make sure all windows and doors are opened.

8. Do not wear tempting clothes. Do not expose your body carelessly before your spouse. Be decent, careful and moderate in your appearance.

9. Remember that no genuine Christian will put on body hug, see-through, mini skirt, spaghetti, etc be a child of

God by covering your nakedness and stop being a disgrace to womanhood.

10. Never sleep with him in the same room, let alone on the same bed.

11. Never put on ordinary wrappers, towel, night dress and sleeveless when he visits. Dress properly and glorify God. **(1 Thessalonians 1:22).**

12. As soon as you allow him to touch any part of your body such as hair, breast, thigh, neck, face, etc you have gone too far. Please discourage this.

13. Always sit properly; never sit carelessly exposing your under skirt or panties most especially when you are with him.

14. Refrain from visiting him in the night, when there is nobody at home or during your ovulation period (Amorous Period) when you are more likely to be vulnerable.

15. Never lie down on his bed; it is suggestive and may make him think you are inviting him for sex.

16. Avoid physical contact with him as much as possible

17. Call for prayer and Bible study whenever you are together.

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18. Buy him my books- **SINGLES, SEX AND PURITY** and **31 DEADLY THINGS SINGLES MUST NEVER DO.** To drive the point home.

19. Always tell him how much you appreciate him for keeping the courtship pure.

20. Guide your heart from lust and be Godly.

21. Do not allow the devil to suggest testing whether your partner is potent or not before wedding. What God gives you is perfect. Just believe; do not test death by tasting poison.

22. Do not allow any man to manipulate you into secret courtship, this is dangerous.

23. Do not assume your man is an angel. Be watchful.

24. Temptation from somebody you do not love is easier to overcome, than the one from somebody you love. So, please take precaution. Prevention is better than cure.

25. Avoid watching worldly films.

26. Never make unbelievers your models or counsellors.

27. Write special letter to your partner thanking him for not defiling you.

28. Proudly tell brethren in his presence you are enjoying pure courtship.
29. Pray always for pure courtship as well as grace to overcome temptation and power over flesh, passion and emotion.
30. Praise God always as you enjoy pure courtship that will launch you to blissful home.
31. Get a copy of my book **PURE GOLD** for yourself.

"You can't be right doing wrong things".

CHAPTER 17

WHAT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SHOULD KNOW

AND CAREFULLY ACT ON DURING COURTSHIP

1. YOU ARE NOT YET IN COURTSHIP with a lady until you have proposed to her and she gives you an emphatic "YES".

2. THAT YOU ARE CLOSE does not make her your partner. Stop being stupid.

3. THAT SHE GREETS YOU CHEERFULLY or even visits you does not make her your partner, salutation is not love.

4. THAT YOU PROPOSE do not make her yours; she has the right to reject or accept you proposal.

5. PREPARE YOURSELF FOR MARRIAGE by preparing to be a lover, a husband, a father, a baby-sitter, a friend, etc.

6. LEARN the art of loving

7. LEARN the art of good leadership

8. LEARN AND START PRACTICING how to help your wife baby-sit and cook at home now.

9. START TO BUY some of the items you will need at home. Buy pressing iron, fan, T.V. cassette player, video player, etc.

1. BE READY TO APOLOGISE when you are wrong; do not be arrogant.

2. GLORIFY GOD with your body.

ANYBODY CAN BE A MALE, EXTRA-ORDINARY MAN IS THE REAL MAN

"Great men are rulers, greater men are leaders".

CHAPTER 18

BROTHER: YOUR MUM AND WOULD-BE WIFE

Do you look forward to a situation where your wife and mother will be best of friends and give you rest of mind at home? Then do the following:

1. Get a copy of my book **WIVES VERSUS MOTHERS-IN-LAW, When will the battle Cease?** for them.
2. Do not wait till wedding before you start making them friends; do it now.
3. Never fight your parents if they object to your partner. If you do, they will hate your wife if you eventually marry her.
4. Try as much as possible to let your intending partner know some things about your family (Likes, dislikes, disposition beliefs, food, custom, culture, etc.)
5. Respect your partner before them and they will do likewise.
6. Never report her to your parents and family if there is any misunderstanding.
7. Let your parents know you love her.
8. Whenever you visit your parents together, tell her what to do.
9. Defend her wisely if they oppose her.
10. Back your partner whenever your parents suggest anything sinful, e.g. pregnancy before wedding.

11. Present her very well when introducing her to your family.
12. Encourage her to send gifts to your parents. You may even buy some and sends them on her behalf.
13. Pray for a cordial relationship between your intending partner and mother as well as family members.
14. If your parents are against your relationship, never speak in such a way that your partner will hate them.
15. Let your intending partner know you love your parents.
16. If you have any responsibility in the family, let her know about it before marriage.
17. Make sure she does not visit your family until she has known all the necessary things about them.
18. Let her know key members of your family and your commitment to them, it will assist her to avoid conflicts with them.
19. As you prepare for wedding, take your partner to all your necessary relations.
20. Embrace pre-marital counseling if you must avoid marital crisis.
21. Be bold and be wise in defending your partner.
22. Pray seriously against satanic family influence or attack on your proposed marriage.
23. Pray that your partner may be acceptable to your family.

YOUR ROLES IN PURE COURTSHIP

- Know that you are the head and accountable for everything that happens in the relationship.
- Never allow passion to override reason in your courtship.
- Never believe you are an angel; you have emotion and passion that you put under control for now.
- Frown at her tempting dresses and stop pretending they do not affect you.
- Throws windows and doors open if you must meet in the room with the light on.
- Do not visit her in the night; encourage her not to visit you at night too.
- Discipline your heart, hands, eyes and emotions
- Do not lust after her, for it opens you up for falling.
- Be determined to run a pure courtship and discuss it always with her backing it up with prayers.
- When you are discussing sexual sins, never call it 'love making', 'fun', 'affairs' but what it is: **FORNICATION.**
- Count the costs of sexual sins before going into it. Loss of peace, separation from God, demonic attack, unwanted pregnancy, hurried marriage, guilt, fear, wrong marriage, etc. **(1 Cor. 3:16-17).**
- Discuss about fornication (what can lead to it, effects and how to avoid it) with your partner. Be frank and do this often.

- Lead your partner to make a vow before God not to have sex until your wedding night.
- **Understanding your sexuality.** As a man, you are moved by what you see. Hence, discipline your eyes and guard your heart. **(Proverbs 4:23).**
- Never sit or lie on her bed (Proverbs. 6:27). It is suggestive.
- Never encourage her to come to your room. Let her stay in the sitting room and do not go to her room either.
- Do not encourage her to come to your house to cook for you and wash you clothes when she visits. She is a fiancée not yet your wife; let her remain that. If she comes to your house, let her be a visitor and entertain her. When you visit her, you are also a guest who can be entertained.
- Never tell her to prove her love through sex. Love is not sex and sex is not love.
- It is unnecessary to ask her whether she is a virgin or not. It is not virginity that makes a marriage work.
- Avoid touching, kissing, fondling, hugging and pecking her. Wait till your wedding day. (James 1:15).
- If you must visit your partner residing in another town and you know you cannot return that same day, then she must arrange a separate accommodation for you. If she comes to visit, you do likewise. Never make the mistake of sleeping in the same room, regardless of any reason.

- Avoid meeting behind closed doors, in dark rooms, street corners, lonely places or night clubs.
- Avoid physical contact with her as much as possible.
- Avoid long courtship; get married as soon as possible. It is better to get married than burn.
- Never demand for pregnancy before wedding **(Romans 12:1-2).**
- Confide in your pastor, counsellor or a mature Christian if you are sexually tempted.
- Have a marriage counsellor and be open to him or her.
- Pray always and love the Bible **(2 Timothy 2:15; Col. 3:10)**
- Get a copy of my book **SINGLES, SEX AND PURITY** for more knowledge on how to avoid sexual sins and a copy of **PURE GOLD** for her.

"YOU CAN'T BE RIGHT DOING THE WRONG THING"

"If you fail to prepare, you will have many things to repair".

CHAPTER 19

PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE

Courtship is a period of preparation for marriage. It is the time to lay a solid foundation for your glorious home. Preparing for a good marriage involves the following:

- **READING BOOKS ON MARRIAGE.** Most singles read books on how to choose and nothing more. Marriage is not just about choosing. You need to read books on adjustments in marriage, financial management in marriage, child bearing, parenting, understanding marriage, communication in marriage, care of pregnancy, crisis management, etc.
- **ATTENDING MARRIAGE SEMINARS.** Attend seminars where you can be taught how to lead a joyful and peaceful marital life. Don't just attend your church's single seminars only. I will advise you to attend our programme **BREAKTHROUGH FOR SINGLES** (Every last Sunday of the month) for proper understanding of marriage.

- **PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING.** Make sure you attend this. Some churches offer this for their members. If your church does not offer it, get in touch with us at **Living Home Foundation** for a free counselling session.

- **GETTING YOUR OWN APARTMENT.** This needs not be costly but comfortable.

Never get married while still residing with your parents.

❖ **BUYING HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS.** Like stove, TV sets, radio, mattress, bed, fan, Blender, Refrigerator, Cutlery, rug, etc.

❖ **CHANGING YOUR MENTALITY.** Change all your wrong mentality about marriage. (Genesis 2:18; Proverb 18:23).
Marriage is enjoyable (Ecclesiastes 9:9); Men are good; women are wonderful; mothers-in-laws are good; life is beautiful.

❖ **CHANGE YOUR THINKING.** Learn to think "double"; stop thinking "I", "me" and "mine". Marriage is a team work; there is no self in it. Think "ours" and "we". Prepare to tolerate others faults with love and understanding, bearing in mind that you are not perfect either.

❖ **DRAWING CLOSER TO AT LEAST A GODLY COUPLE.** Learn love and appreciation from them. Learn forgiveness and inter-personal relationship. Learn about child care, care of pregnancies and pregnant woman, etc.

❖ **ATTEND COLLEGE OF MARITAL SUCCESS** for proper training and teaching about marriage and marital life. Attend this school; ignorance is number one killer of marriage. So, kill ignorance.

"If you want the right answer,
ask the correct question".

CHAPTER 20

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE
YOU SAY "YES I DO"

- Is this person truly born again?
- Is he or she truly the will of God for me?
- Do I love him or her and does he or she love me.
- Can I spend the rest of my life with him or her?
- Is he truthful and faithful?
- Will I still love him or her if he or she's present stature change?.
- Have I known him or her long enough?
- Can I live with his or her dirty past?
- Am I doing the right thing?
- Can this give me joy?
- Am I happy being with him or her?
- Is he or she happy been with me?
- Can I trust him or her?
- Can he take care of me? (Sisters)
- Can I submit to him? (Sisters)
- Can she submit to me? (Brothers)
- Can I control her? (Brothers)
- Do I appreciate him or her?
- Is he or she faithful to me?
- Are we compatible?
- Can I live with his or her weaknesses?
- What if he or she refuses to change?
- Do I love to pray for him or her?
- Will I like my first born to look like him or her?
- Is he or she really what he or she claims to be?

- Do I love his mother? (Sisters)
- Am I ready to adjust to suit his or her purpose?
- Do I know how to cook his local food? (sisters)
- Can my finances cater for at least three people now? (Brothers)
- Is this person dependable?
- Is there any curse in his or her family to destroy before wedding?

Answer these questions sincerely.
Please don't go into marriage if you have any reservation.
Conviction is a strong pillar in the land of marital success.

"Sex is not free; there is a price for all intercourse"

CHAPTER 21

BETWEEN SEX, LOVE AND MARRIAGE

As you are preparing for a blissful marriage, let me quickly tell you something that is very important: **NEVER PUT THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE. LET WISDOM PREVAIL.**

Sex, love and marriage are three events that every singles desires but they must come in the order ordained by God

(1) LOVE

(2) MARRIAGE

(3) SEX.

Anything different from these will lead to disorderliness.

Love is the root of homes; **marriage** is the **trunk** while **sex** is the **leaf.** If a solid and blissful home is what you desire, then they should come in this order. **Love (the root)**, **marriage (trunk)** and **sex (leaves).** Any plant that brings out leaves without being deep rooted will wither. Let me use these diagrams below to illustrate this.

EXPLANATIONS

From figure 1, We discover the tree has root **(love)** followed by the trunk (marriage) before bringing out leaves **(sex).** This is the plan of God for every home.

Anything different from this will definitely lead to trouble as no tree can survive under any condition different from the one seen in figure 1. You will discover that only the fig-

ure **1** really looks like a tree, others are something else.

Figure 11. Shows trunk (**Marriage**) standing in the position of root (**love**) followed by root (**love**) then leaves (**sex**). No marriage will survive under this condition. Don't believe you can marry somebody you never love; thinking love will grow in marriage. This is an illusion. Marriage (**trunk**) should be on love (**root**) not the other way round. Consequences of loveless marriages abound around us. **NEVER MARRY SOMEBODY YOU DON'T LOVE** (Get my book **32 Ways to Know True Love** for more on this)

Figure 111. Here, sex (**leaves**) comes before marriage. Hence, they get married based on sexual attraction, not love. The result of this kind of homes is that they will start collapsing after honey moon or when the wife becomes pregnant and is unable to respond like before to sexual advances from the husband. Majority of marriages these days are based on this. This explains why the printer of divorce bill is still smiling to the bank everyday. Most marriages in Nigeria are based on this. Many are already pregnant before wedding. The result is bad marriage and faulty families.

Figure 1V. This begins on genuine love but was caught in the web of immoralities, making them fall into sexual intercourse before wedding.

Results. Genuine love is destroyed; sex becomes the focus, common sense is removed and passion takes over. Unexpected pregnancy, hurried marriage, guilt, fear marriage without solid foundation and regret follow.
I advise you to keep your courtship holy. Wait till your wedding night to avoid this pitfall.

Figure V. This, like figure 111, starts with sex (**leaves**) but do not graduate to marriage (**trunk**). They think love will grow itself before marriage but they have forgotten that sexual attraction (**lust**) is quite different from genuine love.

Results. God's attention is removed from the people involved, sex becomes the focus, truth departs, constant fight begins, misunderstanding and argument, kissing, fondling, necking, pecking take over. Prayerlessness, fear, guilt and regret thrive. Atimes, conscience becomes dead while people continue in illicit affairs, making pregnancy follows hurried marriage. If the church refuses to join them they go to the registry and live with the consequences of their folly for the rest of their lives.
Keep yourself holy; Lay solid foundation for your home. Be wise and vow to God personally and collectively. You will be glad you did.
Make the vow like this; I/ We (**Mention your name**). Promise God that: I/ We will not have sex or indulge in any sexual activity until my/our wedding night. If I/We do it let, your angel chastise me/us. I/We make this vow today Date.....

In the name of the father, the son and the Holy Ghost, may the Lord help us in Jesus name.
You can get a trusted friend to witness it

LAST WORD

- You have read the book.
- Your honest heart has been affected
- You have discovered treasures that you never knew existed.
- You have found the truth about courtship in righteousness.
- Now what are you going to do with these knowledge? You remembered that knowledge brings responsibility, that if not assumed, results to judgment.
- You know too much now not to act upon this knowledge.
- Make your courtship a memorable one by living for God in it. Assess your present relationship whether it is according to the plan of God.
- Use the knowledge gathered from this book to train yourself on how to live for God.
- We shall be glad to help you in any way possible. We would be pleased to hear from you.
- Introduce this book to other people as parts of your evangelistic efforts. Get other books from us and develop a brighter future for yourself.

God bless you as you live for Him. Remember:
DON'T COURT SIN IN COURTSHIP.

PASTOR BISI ADEWALE'S BOOKS

1. Sexual Fulfillment in Marriage
2. Fight for that marriage
3. Ten commandment for wives
4. Ten commandment for husbands
5. Ten commandment for couples
6. Ten commandment for teenagers
7. Ten commandment for singles
8. Protecting your husband from strange women
9. Wives versus mothers-in-law, when will the battle cease
10. 20 wedding that must not take place
11. 121 ways to make your husband love you
12. 121 ways to make your wife submit to you
13. 33 keys to a peaceful marriage
14. 33 keys to a peaceful marriage
15. Singles, sex and purity
16. 31 Deadly things singles must never do
17. 500 prayer points for singles
18. Pure courtship
19. Winning wisdom for singles
20. 101 wisdom keys for singles
21. Pure Gold
22. 32 Ways to Know True Love
23. 100% Marriage
24. Hot and Sizzling Marriage
25. It's My Turn to Get Married

26. 22 Pillars of Success
27. Is HE the one for me?
28. Is SHE the one for me?
29. Parenting Without Tears
30. Secrets of an Irresistible Wife
31. Secrets of an Irresistible Husband
32. The making of a great wife
33. Complete minister's wife
34. Signs that a guy will beat you in marriage
35. Uncommon intimacy in marriage
36. Marriage & ministry, striking a balance
37. Maximizing money in marriage
38. How to fall in love without falling into trouble
39. I will not fail in marriage
40. 20 highways to a successful marriage
41. Money management in marriage
42. Before you say I do
43. Handling marriage counseling
44. Preparing for marriage
45. 4 pillar of life
46. Enjoy God's mercy in your family
47. Excellent marriage volume 1
48. Excellent marriage volume 2
49. Excellent marriage volume 3
50. Excellent marriage volume 4
51. Excellent marriage volume 5
52. Stronger Than Diamond
53. Total Pastor

54. How to Win your Husband's LOVE ATTENTION

55. 32 Guys & Ladies you Must Never Marry

56. How to build your own house without stress

57. Exposing Hidden Destroyers of Marriage

58. Understanding Marriage Languages

59. Your Character is your marriage

60. My Husband must prosper

61. My wife must prosper

62. My Children must prosper

63. Solid foundation solid marriage

64. Wisdom for choosing a life partner

65. Parenting boys

66. Parenting girls

67. Parenting your baby from the womb

68. Parenting toddlers (ages 0-3)

69. Parenting preschooler (ages 4-6)

70. Parenting middle childhood (ages 7-8)

71. Parenting preteens (ages 9-12)

72. Parenting teenagers (ages 13-19

73. Parenting adult children (20 +)

74. Parenting by fire

75. Wonders of praise and worship

76. O' Lord deliver my home

77. Marriage of My dream

78. Success Catalyst

79. All round Success

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