MARRIAGE IS THE REALITY OF LOVE. ONLY A FULLY MATURED SOUL CAN TRULY LOVE, AND IN THIS CASE LOVE SEES MARRIAGE AS ITS HIGHEST REWARD AND DOES NOT FADE AT THE GLITTER OF THE CROWN, BUT SPLASHES ITS FRAGRANT COLOR MORE MAGNIFICENTLY, AS IN THE RAYS OF THE SUN.

— V. G. BELINSKY

BEST SELLING AUTHOR



AM I READY TO BE a HUSBAND?

SUNDAY ADELAJA

Marriage is the reality of love. Only a fully matured soul can truly love, and in this case love sees marriage as its highest reward and does not fade at the glitter of the crown, but splashes its fragrant color more magnificently, as in the rays of the sun.

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Sunday Adelaja
Am I Ready to be a Husband?
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PREFACE

Dear Reader! The book you hold in your hands is designed to solve the global problem in our society and help men to become responsible in creating a successful and healthy family.

It is not a secret to us that the number of divorces is growing every year throughout the world. Despite this, more and more newly married couples spend extravagantly on their wedding day, in the hope that their marriage will be an exception and will stand strong amidst the chaos of everyday life. People marry because they are looking for a happy marriage and want to find a quiet harbor, support or protection in the family. The reasons for the creation of a family are different (ideally it should be love and care for the happiness of your partner), but many newlyweds are seeking happiness from their partners for themselves. In Ukraine, up to 70% of marriages end in divorce. This statistics should raise

some questions in your mind as to why such a high percentage of marriages end up in divorce while a handful is truly successful. Among all European countries, Ukraine and Russia are leaders in the number of divorces, and yearly they compete for the number 1 position.

In this book "Am I ready to be a husband?" we will look at 20 important signs that prove a man's readiness for marriage. You probably already know some of them. However, the problem is that often, out of these 20 necessary criteria for a man to take a woman to the altar as his wife, the newlywed has only one sign - Moral Maturity. As most people say: "The main thing is for a man to be "matured". Well, maybe this is the main thing, but this is not everything needed for a man to create a successful full-fledged family. A man's desire and moral preparedness to marry is catastrophically inadequate even to start thinking about marriage. This book is written for all young men to get acquainted with all the necessary tools to overcome the struggles and pains of building a successful and happy family in the future and to prepare for marriage.

INTRODUCTION

"It is the nature of love to bind itself, and the institution of marriage merely paid the average man the compliment of taking him at his word."

GILBERT CHESTERTON

Why do you think some men who once swore eternal love and fidelity to a woman before the altar, for some reasons divorce their wives? Why do people who could not live without each other previously, after a while begin to hate each other with the same strength that they used in loving each other? The reason is that they were not ready for marriage yet.

If a man who is building a family does not know the elementary responsibilities of a husband necessary for successful family life, the marriage he is trying to build will soon collapse. Also, every man who wants to create a happy and strong family needs to know that a successful marriage is hard work. "Successful marriage takes work" is the title of a separate book of mine. However, in this book, we'll talk specifically about how a man ought to prepare for marriage.

So, from this book "Am I ready to be a husband?" You will learn what the infantilism (immaturity) of men is, how a man differs from a boy, and finally, what signs would determine whether a man is ready to marry or not. We will

look at 20 of these signs that indicate a man's readiness, as well as the degree of the readiness of his relationship with a particular girl in creating a family with her.

Not so Encouraging Statistics

Among the countries of Europe, in the rating of the number of divorces, Ukraine ranks first. It is followed by Russia, which for many years was ahead of Ukraine in this disappointing indicator. Currently, in Ukraine, according to statistics, 5.3 couples per 1000 people are divorced, in Russia - 5 couples. Meaning, more than 50% of families fall apart annually. In large cities, this figure reaches 75-80%! However, how many families among the remaining 20-25% are really happy? These percentages are not just sad statistics: behind each of these figures is a broken human fate and unfortunate children who are victims of ignorant men.

The book you hold in your hands is designed to help eliminate the ignorance of what he takes to be prepared for marriage and to prevent a generation of children to be victims. After reading it, you will get a clear list of criteria that will help you to determine to what degree you are ready for marriage, and to find "void" in knowledge about building a successful family, which you can efficiently fill by reading this book to the end. You have in your hands a complete guide for preparing a man for marriage!

The first thing I would like us to consider in more details is the meaning of the word "marriage."

What is Marriage?

Marriage is the legal union of a husband and wife. It is the sacrament of the wedding and their union by the church...

(Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopedic Dictionary)

Marriage - (derived from Latin “maritatus” means to wed or unite), or a marital union regulated by an institution (including the state), is a family bond between two people who have reached the age of marriage, generating their rights and obligations about each other and their children.

(Historical dictionary)

Despite a man's willingness to marry, one must not forget that the desire to get into a marriage and the degree of readiness for his decision to marry are different concepts.

Signs that I am Ready

for Marriage

Psychologists distinguish the following groups of requirements for partners preparing to marry:

- Moral and psychological preparedness;
- Social and legal preparedness;
- Economic and financial preparation;
- Sexual education;
- Willingness to raise children.

As you see, dear reader, the preparation required to create a family includes many more conditions than what is commonly believed. Unfortunately, there is a gross ignorance in the society in matters relating to preparation for marriage. You can say most of our young men have no knowledge or understanding that they should purposefully prepare themselves for marriage. As a result, a man decides to marry, when he feels like walking up to an attractive woman, or when he meets a girl who he develops strong feelings. However, after a year or two the feelings wane, they are replaced by boredom, and the man realizes that he made a mistake in choosing to marry.

On another hand, a man who is mentally ready for marriage expects to find a "quiet harbor" - a place of rest from daily storms. In return, he receives an "enterprise with unlimited liability" called "family," where he only dreams of rest. At the same time, it turns out to be a shock of his life that the whole responsibility for this "enterprise" (family) lies on his shoulders!

Examples of negative outcomes of this ignorance about marriage are in their millions. As we know, most of them end in divorce. The divorce is not because the man is bad, but because he was not originally ready for the role of a husband and was void of the necessary knowledge to build up a successful family and what it means to be a real man. After all, schools and universities don’t teach these things.

Lack of Maturity in Men

The problems of the unpreparedness of men for marriage is mainly due to their immaturity. Infantilism (from Latin “infantilis” meaning "small child") means immaturity in development, the persistence of infantile characteristics or behavior in adult life. In fact, infantilism is immaturity and childish behavior in a man. Outwardly, he might look like a man, but inwardly, he is a child.

In his "inner self," he has not yet become a man, but remains an immature person - "a kid." "Infants" getting married is the source of fatherlessness in our society. Even in situations where the family is avoiding divorce, the man residing under the same roof with his wife and children is not able to take responsibility for his family. He doesn't know who a responsible husband and father because he is ignorant of his marital and paternal duties. He does not know what it means to be a man. Perhaps because his father did not show him an example. Most times, "boys" raised by this kind of fathers produce men in the future who conceive children outside of marriage, and then refuse to marry their children's mother, or marry them and later abandon their family due to their inability to withstand their responsibility and need to work on their character in order to save their family. A man who is immature or "infantile" is easily detectable- he always chooses the easy way.

What is the Solution?

Fortunately, the problem of the failure of preparation of men to create a family is solvable. It has been proven by practice that the availability of necessary training drastically reduces the number of families that fail in turning young "men" into an integral head of the family who can bear responsibility for himself and for his family members. For example, pre-marriage preparation courses is a prerequisite for the creation of a family for every Christian who attends the Embassy of God church. This rule applies to both Ukrainian and foreign branches of our church. On the basis of our social center "New Time" (Kiev, Ukraine) there is a course called "Anatomy of marriage", which can systematically train everyone who wants to learn the secrets of building a successful marriage regardless of religion, race etc. Anyone, including married couples, can receive training and knowledge that will save their marriage or prevent family problems.

Thanks to this approach, the number of divorces among couples who have received this training does not exceed 10% and decreases every year. Against the background of domestic and foreign statistics, this indicator is simply a miracle!

This book is designed to ensure that the reality of a strong and successful marriage becomes the norm in our society. "Am I ready to be a husband?" was written in order for the reality of a successful marriage becomes your daily reality.

"Without her advice, I would have remained poor."

(John Rockefeller said this about his wife Laura, a simple teacher who he

lived with after marriage all his life and without her advice, according to Rockefeller himself, he would never have become rich).

This statement made by the famous billionaire, whose income was a significant part of US GDP shows us the role marriage can play in a man's life. Because a poor American guy named John successfully married and had a happy marriage, he became John Rockefeller, which the whole world is still talking about.

Just as a successful marriage can elevate a man, so also an unsuccessful one can destroy him and ruin his destiny. It's not for nothing that people say:

Marriage: It's either you swim or sink.

Now, in order to prevent the latter part this saying from being a prophecy for you, please carefully study this book!

The last thing I would like to dwell on before we turn to the main part of our book is people's belief that divorce is the hope to start a new marriage or life.

Divorce is not the Answer

Every man should once and for all discard the idea of the possibility of a divorce because divorce is not the solution to problems in the family. Problems in the family arise due to the active participation of both parties - both husband and wife. Thus, the man is also a culprit of the conflict, which means he must take responsibility as a man to resolve the problems. If you try to solve family crises through a divorce, then you will not find happiness, but you can repeat the fate of the Soviet actor Yuri Vizbor. The famous actor who played the role of Martin Bormann in the film "17 Moments of Spring", answering questions about the family by journalists, said:

Each successive wife is worse than the previous one.

We believe his opinion should be trusted because he was married four times.

This statement is also supported by sociological research; the results convince us that divorce in marriages does not make sense since the next marriage will be even less durable than the previous one. This is evidenced by inexorable statistics: the probability of divorce in a second marriage grows, compared to the first marriage, and subsequently, the probability of divorce get even higher with the third, fourth etc.

Therefore, the main task of every man, as the future head of the family is to approach marriage responsibly. The only way to marry successfully is to prepare yourself comprehensively for marriage. This book "Am I ready to be a husband?" will help you in this.

PART 1

YOUR PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

Chapter 1

I MUST BE MORALLY READY FOR MARRIAGE

The first and foremost obvious sign of a man's preparedness to marry is his moral readiness. As already stated in the preface, this one quality is not enough for marriage, but without it, no man has successfully built a family. Therefore, a man is potentially ready to marry, if he can affirm the following:

I'm Morally Ready for Marriage

A JOKE

Two friends met each other. One says to another: I heard that you quarreled with your fiancée?
- Yes, we quarreled!
- And what was the reason for the quarrel?
- She wanted us to have a white wedding!
- And you?
- I do not want to get married at all!

Unfortunately, this joke reflects a situation that often occurs in real life. However, if you as a responsible man chose to read this book "Am I ready to be a husband?" this means that you already have a desire to marry.

Let's consider the idea of "moral readiness" from a scientific point of view. The explanatory dictionary of Ephraim describes the meaning of the word "morally", as "spiritually or internally". Thus, when we say that a person is morally ready for marriage, this means that he is inwardly mature for this decision.

"Marriage is the reality of love. Only a fully matured soul can truly love, and

in this case, love sees marriage as its highest reward and does not fade at the glitter of the crown, but splashes its fragrant color more magnificently, as in the rays of the sun..."

V.G. Belinsky

What does it mean in this case to be "matured internally"? This means that you only need to get married after you have exactly figured out who a man is and who a woman is: you understood her nature, questions, inclinations, her nature, etc. i.e. you are ready for marriage only after you find out what is required from you, as the husband. You must have knowledge of who a "man" is and who is a "woman". You must be sure that you are prepared morally and spiritually, and you will cope with the role as the head of the family. Undoubtedly, there are those who believe that knowledge about women is not such great wisdom. For such "men", let me give a classic quote: ***"All women are similar only in that each of them is unique."*** For this reason, it is necessary to obtain additional knowledge about the opposite sex, even those men who consider themselves experts in understanding women.

In order to gain the necessary knowledge of who a woman is, there are many books, trainings, seminars, retreats and even sermons that are available today on-line and off-line. Let's briefly dwell on the main points that should be considered when preparing for marriage:

Should the Husband be the Head of the Family?

If you watch new lovers, you would see the young man leading and basically making all the initiatives. However, whether he would remain as the leader in his family and after the wedding, in many aspects depend on his awareness of his role and position in his family union.

Some men grow up observing the matriarchal way of life in their family due to the example of their mothers and fathers. As a result, they may ask: "Should a man be the leader (head) in the family?". The answer is an unequivocal yes. This is shown by the wise teachings of our forefathers and, more importantly from the Holy Scripture. Let's see what the Bible says about this:

In the epistle of the apostle Paul to the Ephesians, in the 5th chapter, verse 23, it is said:

"For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church..."

Ephesians 5:23

The head is ahead, leading and taking responsibility for the body. In one word - he is the leader. So, the husband's role is to be a leader.

Why are so few men are leaders in their family today, although in their heart of hearts they have a desire to lead? This is mainly due to low self-esteem.

Three misconceptions prevent a man from taking leadership in his family are:

1. **I do not have enough knowledge; I do not know how to be a leader.**
   Imagine if a man does not know, then the wife might not even know it! Boys during their childhood play a "war" game, where each of them periodically was a commander. And the girls at that time played dolls and wove their pigtails at them. Then the boys grew up, put aside their toy guns, takes off their cloth helmets, and waits for the woman to decide everything for him. In fact, the boys playing commander in childhood is proof that God laid the desire and the potential to be the leader in man.
2. **I'm not sure, I'm afraid I'll make the wrong decision! I do not want to be responsible for the consequences.**
   The truth is asides the man in the family; there's no other person who is to take the responsibility of leadership. Therefore, if a man considers having two options for his decisions in his marriage: "taking responsibility himself" or "delegating responsibility to his wife" - then he is not a real man. A real man always takes responsibility, and he does this automatically. The truth is everyone in one way or the other has some fears, but a man needs courage. It is through courage; he can lead his family successfully.
3. **Who am I? I'm not a businessman, neither am I a boss...**

A man needs to throw such thoughts out of his head!

The modern world is experiencing a leadership crisis. Where are the people who lead their families? More often than not, the absence of male leadership in the family is the cause of many problems arising in marriage.

Husbands do not want to play the role of head of the family, because they do not believe in themselves and this affects the state of the wives, which was created by God as a helper to her husband, but not as a head. A man must, by all means, find the strength and courage in himself to lead and manage his family.

It is worth noting that if a man is assigned the role of head of the family, this does not mean that he is smarter or better than his wife. In the eyes of the Lord, both the man and the woman are equal. Everyone has their own role in marriage

so that the family can function normally.

Of course, dear young man, you do not deserve this honor, but you are a leader because God has appointed you so. Therefore, remember as soon as you say "yes" in front of the altar: "I take this woman to be my wife; from that point onwards you are the leader!"

But if you are passive, if you do not take responsibility, then you are acting against the will of God.

Below is a list of the main functions of men as the leader of their family.

The leader in the family is:

1. **A keeper of peace of mind.**
   For example, if a neighbor causes scandals and disturbs the peace of your family, your wife can always rely on your involvement in the situation. She simply responds by saying, "soon my husband will come and handle this matter." A wife for this kind of husband is like a house behind a solid wall.
2. **A defender.**
   A husband will protect his wife from any resentment, even from his own children, if they disrespect to their mother.
3. **The breadwinner and provider.**
4. **A guide.**
   A guide who finds and chooses the right direction on the path to go, if the family is traveling or in an unfamiliar place.
5. **A priest in the family.**
   This represent his role as the spiritual leader: the husband makes sure that all his family members develop a living relationship with God.
6. **A problem solver and comforter.**
   This facet of leadership involves comforting the family as the head of the family. He must be able to listen to their problems, helps with advice, and comfort when necessary. The very presence of a husband in the house reassures his wife and children: "Everything will be fine, Dad is here. Dad is near".
7. **The King.**

This position creates the perception of a man by members of his family as a person who can do anything. He is kind, gentle, caring, but a king. And the wife, in this case, is a queen.

So, dear men, do not be afraid to be leaders. To illustrate what is happening in the lives of men, who do not take responsibility for the family, read the following story:

For 14 years of marriage, Boris proved that he is unable to stay in one place for a long time. His resume was too voluminous, and the range of occupations and jobs listed in it was a lot. He was also incapable of giving good recommendations. In the end, his wife who had dragged the family on her shoulders for many years said, "I'm done!" She filed for divorce, took their child, and moved to another state. Boris has developed a habit of easily giving up on things all his life.

Boris's wife could never understand why her husband gives up so easily. At first, she suspected that he was bored with work; then later realized; he was just spoiled especially considering that she made the main money in the family. However, during a psychotherapeutic session, she realized that his problem lay much deeper. The essence of his case is what the psychologist Martin Seligman called "acquired learned helplessness."

In childhood, Boris was spoilt by his mother and grandmother. Instead of learning to get up, fall and get up again, he grew and understood life in another way: if he falls, someone will raise him. As a result, he never developed the skills necessary for success. He felt helpless and unable to move forward. It is not surprising that he married the daughter of an alcoholic who from childhood has been used to solving any problem that arises that her father couldn't, because couples often develop on the basis of a mutual attraction to each other's neuroses.

(from Mark Goulston's book "Mental traps at work")

The moral readiness of a man to marry implies the understanding that every man should always be ready to overcome difficulties. You cannot become happy without learning to overcome difficulties. This truth is well known to athletes. They know that only those who have learned to conquer difficulties by overcoming themselves can become champions. No matter how gifted a person is, he will never become successful without training. He cannot become a champion if he does not learn to overcome himself every time. In this process, happiness is born.

Becoming a man and a father is the same process of battles and victories. It is a process of "overcoming" oneself. Only a person who learns to gain victory over himself can say, "Yes, I am prepared. I am a personality, and I am morally ready to take responsibility for my family as well".

Moral readiness for marriage is only present in mature individuals. Until the man is guided only by his values, not by his feelings and emotions - he is not yet mature, and he is not yet a man. Moreover, he is not ready to become a real father. Often people think that the making of a man depends on age, but they are mistaken. Even in his 70's and 45's, a man can still be at the very beginning of the process of becoming a real and mature man. Some men never become real men, even after living their whole lives. Some men will never become real fathers, even if they have children.

To conclude this chapter, I will give one statement for those men who seem overwhelmed by the burden of responsibility that is placed on the man as the head of the family

> "You're not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying to do the best you can every day."
>
> ***MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN***

In this chapter, we examined the first sign of a man's readiness to create a family, his moral attitude and maturity.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

Summarizing the number of points you received in the tests of all 20 chapters of this book, you will be able to assess your willingness to marry at the moment. You can get your final result at the end of the last chapter.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Being morally ready for marriage means...**
    a. the desire to marry a good girl (3)
    b. the desire to have children (2)
    c. the feeling that arises when I see an attractive lady" (1)
    d. that I am guided by reason, not weakness and desire. I understand the role of men in marriage; I am ready to take the lead, and also have knowledge about the nature of women (4)
2. **Being the head of the family means...**

a. that I always give the last word (1)
b. earning the most income in the family (2)
c. readiness to take responsibility, make decisions and be responsible for their consequences (3)

3. **Why do you think the head of the family should be a man, not a woman?**
   a. because he is stronger (1)
   b. because he is smarter (2)
   c. because he is a man (4)
   d. because it is generally accepted (3)
   e. because, from the time of Adam's creation, God instructed the man to lead his family (5)

1. **In your opinion, what can prevent a man from becoming a leader in the family?**
    a. a small salary (1)
    b. a troublesome wife (3)
    c. weak character and uncertainty (4)
    d. lack of experience of being a leader (2)
    e. misunderstanding of his role in the family and the potential that God has placed in man to perform his leadership functions (5)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 6 points - We are sorry, but now you do not have the necessary quality of moral readiness; therefore, you are not ready to create a family. You should develop this necessary quality; otherwise, you risk failing and facing intractable problems in your marriage.

6-10 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, but at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

11-14 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

15-17 points - Great! Congratulations, you are sufficiently qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready to marry, but do not rest on your laurels but constantly improve.

CHAPTER 2

I MUST BE READY TO LOSE THE FREEDOM OF SINGLENESS

In the previous chapter, we examined the issue of a man's moral readiness for marriage. The next necessary condition is the man's conviction that he is

ready to lose the freedom and liberty of being a bachelor.

A Joke

A Wife said to her husband:

- Why did you come home at 5AM yesterday?

- Where else in this city can you go at 5 o'clock in the morning?

There is a general opinion that a real man is not afraid of anything. But in fact, this is a common and a false stereotype. Men are afraid of many things, but at the top of their fears is the fear of losing their freedom. What I am speaking of is probably not even about the fear, but about those complexes that cause a man to fear.

A man generally will not be frightened by a cockroach or mouse, which many women are so afraid of. They often laugh at women because they are afraid of such insignificant things. Women, in turn, do not understand how one can be afraid of losing freedom or giving total commitment to an endeavor. Nevertheless, one of the most common fears of men is the fear of losing their freedom, not in the direct sense of the word, but figuratively. Why do men fear to lose their freedom? The answer to this question lies deep in the male mind. For many millennia and centuries, men fought for freedom; they sought it in various ways. The whole life of a man is a battle and a rivalry, in one sense or another. For a man, to depend on someone means to be in bondage. However, marriage means to bind yourself to another person with certain obligations, which is a kind of situation of dependence.

It is because of this fear of losing freedom; many men are long hesitant to create a family. They fell that marring a woman gives her the right to encroach on their "territory", make them do things, as she wants. This prospect frightens many men, and they prefer to remain bachelors or live in a civil marriage.

Abraham Lincoln, 16th US President, spoke of freedom in this manner:

> "Sheep and wolf differently understand the word “freedom”. This is the essence of the disagreements that prevail in human society."

This statement says that both spouses can understand "freedom in marriage" in completely different ways. Of course, marriage is not a prison, and marriage does not mean the total restriction of a man's freedom. But the fact that freedom after marriage will be less needs no further proof. Often a man feels that he is ready to part with his bachelor life, but at the same time, he does not know what exactly he will have to say goodbye to.

The old bachelor is like a stubborn pedestrian who has not yet got under the

car "

HORACE SAFRIN

A large explanatory dictionary gives this definition to the word "freedom":

"Freedom is a person's ability to act in accordance with his interests and goals, to make a choice."

The encyclopedic dictionary gives the following definition:

"Freedom in English means freedom/liberty; German. freiheit. The ability of a person to act in accordance with their desires, interests and goals based on knowledge of objective reality. "

Freedom is a dependence on the desire to be independent.

Often, it happens that a man simply worries that a woman will not let him go to meet his friends or play hockey. Such men should understand that family relations is built on the interaction of spouses, but a husband and wife do not have to be tied to each other day and night. Everyone has the right to his or her personal time to communicate with friends. These moments should be agreed on before marriage so that after the marriage it does not seem like each partner is trying to control the time of each other. The question that a man should answer for himself before getting married is: Am I ready to lose the freedom of a bachelor?

It's normal that a man values freedom. However, the law of a happy marriage says - the husband must leave bachelor habits. Attachment to such a "free" life is not an attribute of masculinity, but an attribute of immaturity. It is the presence of "childish" thinking. If you are too fond of this way of life and are not ready to radically change it - you should not think about getting married yet. But, if you are determined to marry, you need to make a decision to "divorce" with this way of life, because it will be counterproductive to combine marriage and bachelorhood.

"Without a wife, one can not live like food and drink. Born and nurtured by women, we largely live their lives and do not have any opportunity to abandon them. "

MARTIN LUTHER

By the way, the author of this statement was a great Christian companion and initiator of a revolution. He was an inveterate bachelor until he got married in his fifth decade. However, then a charming girl named Catherine von Bora, whom biographers described as "a clever Saxon with a sharp tongue," managed to persuade him to marry. Subsequently, Martin Luther was very happy that he

allowed her to engage in marriage, as you can judge from the above statement. In the beginning, he spoke about family life in the following way: *"In the first year of marriage, you have to get used to everything... You wake up in the morning and find hair on your pillow that was not there before."* However, over the years, the pleasure from family life and love for his wife continued to grow. As a bachelor, Martin Luther taught that marriage is a necessity for the flesh, but, having learned about it firsthand, he began to call marriage an opportunity for spiritual growth. The statements of other great people confirm this:

> “A bachelor is not a complete human being. He is like the odd half of a pair of scissors, which has not yet found its fellow, and therefore is not even half as useful as they might be together”.
>
> ***Benjamin Franklin***

> Wife and children are a kind of discipline of humanity. A bachelor's life is a fine breakfast, a flat lunch, and a miserable dinner.
>
> ***Francis Bacon***

In conclusion, I would like to say a few words to those men who parting with the status of a bachelor is a painful process. Think about the meaning of the word "bachelor." In the Russian language, the word bachelor means "ineffective, and barren." A certain logic is that a bachelor is "ineffective” can be really traced. After all, having no legitimate wife, a man often communicates with women anyway: he gives compliments, gives flowers, invests time and money in relationships, but what does he get in return? Where is his home, family, children, love and respect for offspring? What does he have? Nothing. He is single. Are you still sure that you cherish this status?

In this chapter, we have considered the second condition of a man's readiness for marriage - a willingness to part with the freedom of his bachelorhood.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I encourage you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in the bracket opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned from the information received in this chapter.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **A man’s willingness to lose the freedom of his singleness means...**

a. giving consent sometimes to sacrifice friends for the sake of the family (1)
b. willingness to give up all friends, entertainment and hobbies (3)
c. the decision to inform his wife about each step (2)
d. understanding that as a married man, one cannot live the same lifestyle as a bachelor. Now his life is prioritized in the interests of his family (4)

2. **You believe that you are ready to lose the freedom of singleness, because...**
   a. there is nothing complicated about this (1)
   b. all lose it, and none of this died (2)
   c. I do not see much difference between my life now and after marriage (3)
   d. an intelligent man will always find a way to relax from the family, if necessary (1)
   e. I realize the habits I had as a bachelor had to be giving up, and I made a conscious decision to change the way of life after marriage (5)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 5 points - We are sorry, but now you do not have the necessary quality to the fullest, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise, you risk failing and facing intractable problems in your marriage.

5-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, but at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-8 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at your present level, so continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

9 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels but constantly improve.

CHAPTER 3

I MUST BE READY INTELLECTUALLY FOR MARRIAGE

In the previous chapter, we considered the second sign of a man's readiness for marriage -the willingness to lose his freedom of singleness. What is the third sign of a man's readiness for marriage? This is what it sounds like:

You Must be Ready Intellectually for Marriage

A JOKE

Two neighbors were having a conversation.
- The other day while we spoke, you said your husband lives like a dog
- Oh yes! That's absolutely right. He constantly enters the room with dirty and smelling feet. He then sits by the fireplace and waits for him to be fed.

Most people especially in their teenage years associate marriage with very high expectations. Here are some of them:

- We will always be happy;
- We will never face conflicts that we won't overcome;
- If we have children, they will grow up without causing us any discomfort;
- Our love for each other will remain unchanged.

It's wonderful to have high expectations, but we also need to look at the reality of things and think about what constitutes the essence of marriage. Dear reader, even if you are only 18 years old and people consider it too early for you to think about getting married. I would advise you to start preparing for marriage now. Irrespective of our specialties or kind of activities, we decide to engage in, whether it be medicine, business, engineering, art, etc., it will take us some time to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in these specialties. We would

never engage in these professions without proper preparation. But is family and marriage less important in life than our professional activity? Successful family life also requires special skills, knowledge and training.

Often times, many men do not marry because they realize the responsibility that marriage demands from them. They are also ignorant of the nature of women, and therefore realize that they do not know anything about marriage.

This approach is correct because you should not marry without this special knowledge. Otherwise, you are doomed to physical and psychological problems for the rest of your family life. To get married, we must gain maximum knowledge and prepare ourselves intellectually.

What does this intellectual preparation include?

Preparation for marriage includes these stages: reading books, passing through pre-marital training, attending courses, trainings, male retreats, etc. At the end of this book is a list of special questions for determining your readiness for marriage - you also need to answer them in order to understand how prepared you are intellectually and ready to start a family.

Warning: do not take the preparation for marriage lightly. Experience shows that even those men who married being prepared for family life, later regret that they didn't spend enough time and energy to prepare.

If you marry without even the minimum basic training, then you are waiting for a storm in which your family boat may not survive. The reality of daily challenges would sooner or late replaces the euphoria and romance. This comes as a shock to many couples, which can be related to an expected storm. Consequently, your family likened to a boat will become overwhelmed by the storm. It doesn't matter who the person is; neither does it matter the kind of preparation the person had undergone; every marriage would experience its storm! In addition, if you are not prepared at all, you will find that your family is built on sand and would collapse in the slightest challenge. All who married without proper preparation would find this out eventually. That's why serious preparation for marriage is very important.

A JOKE

Two girlfriends chat

"Remember, I complained to you that I had a spark in my living room?" So, I asked my husband to fix it, and he didn't respond for a month. Finally, I lost my patience, and yesterday I phoned the "service company." Imagine, It was an unkept man who came. He turned on the sports channel on my television,

ate my food, and later threw his dirty socks into my sink.
Exactly an hour later, he and left without even looking at the faulty outlet.
To my reproach, he answered: "why couldn't your husband fix this? Why bother me for something as trivial as this!"

Let's look at the basic qualities that a man must find in the process of preparing for marriage:

1. In preparation for marriage, it is necessary to realize that no one automatically becomes a man just because he is advanced in age or because his beard is growing. A man becomes a real man when he is ready to take responsibility. Up to this point, though he is a male, he is not yet a man but a kid. In order to understand in details the differences between the first and the second, the man needs to go through all kinds of preparations for marriage. He needs to read special books, attends men's retreats with obligatory tasks before and after the retreat and, of course, in practice to prove yourself with those around you and your fiancée that you have implemented all the knowledge gained during the preparation.

   The main differences between a real man ready for marriage and a "boy" are given in the Appendix.
2. One of the important tasks in the premarital training of a man is the training to sacrifice in relation to his wife. In the Slavic culture, this quality is inherent more in women than men. However, the head of the family should live a sacrificial life, so the man needs to develop in himself this attitude because many men don't know how to live up to their responsibility. A hint on how to develop such a sacrificial love is in the words of the Holy Scripture:

   "As Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... So husbands must love their wives..."

   Ephesians 5: 25,28

   A man always needs to show love, care, and attention to his wife. Husbands should be ready to sacrifice for their wives. Dear brother, if you still cannot sacrificially love the girl you are going to marry, please do not rush to marry her. Work on yourself to become a real man first.
3. It is also necessary to equip yourself with knowledge about what qualities a woman is looking for in men and what they expect from a

man in marriage. If you are sure that, you know the answer to this question - read the following list of 30 qualities. Surely, you will find many things that are overlooked by men. Here is a brief list of the properties of a man any woman dreams find in the man that desire to marry.

What does a woman want to see in men in general and in her husband in particular?

1. Fatherly love.
2. Sincerity and honesty.
3. Protection, security, cover (a husband who would be as strong as a rock behind her)
4. Devotion and fidelity
5. Reliability.
6. Romance and pleasant surprises
7. Respect
8. Freedom
9. Help in self-realization
10. Friendship
11. Desire not to control her like a child, trying to control and change her.
12. Love and acceptance
13. Accuracy and neatness
14. Leadership qualities (someone she can follow)
15. Wise and Intelligent
16. Sense of humor (no boring time with him)
17. Optimism (his motto is seemingly hopeless situations is, "we will break through")
18. Attentiveness, affection, care, and tenderness
19. Support (someone who will always be there for her, a man she can rely on)
20. Ability to solve her problems (he sees the problem himself and decides to solve it himself, he does not need to be begged to or reminded)
21. Responsibility (A man who takes his destiny in his own hands takes responsibility for himself and for others)
22. Striving for growth, self-improvement, vision and understanding of how

to achieve it

23. Initiative (he sees problems himself and takes responsibility for it)
24. Dedication and devotion
25. Love, respect and honor for his wife
26. Pays attention to her, as though she's the only person in the world
27. Sensitivity and understanding of her feelings, thoughts and fears
28. Helping her build her self-esteem and self-confidence
29. Integrity (he is a man of his word)
30. Love for children.

Let us consider some of these qualities in more details.

Women are looking for a father in their husband.

When a woman marries a man, above all she is not looking for love, but for a father, or rather, for a fatherly husband. This question is so important; we will devote a whole chapter to this subject.

Women are looking for honesty and sincerity.

The cry of the soul of every woman to her husband is this: *"Be sincere with me! Tell me how it really is! Open up to me! "*

It's hard for a man to talk openly about his thoughts and feelings: he wants to look better than he is. His need is a desire to show off, massage his ego and reality. While women want and demand sincerity and honesty. Often times, a woman marries for this particular reason - she needs a sincere soul.

As soon as a woman sees the sincerity and honesty of a man, her heart opens, and if she sees fatherly characteristics, that's it! There is no woman who wouldn't be persuaded by this.

A woman needs protection and coverage.

Women expect men to protect them. They want to feel secured close to him like a solid wall. Is the ability to protect and cover a woman physically enough? What if a husband does not have a house or car? It is a crime to look towards a woman if you do not have a financial base to create a family! On the topic of the financial readiness of a man for marriage, we'll talk more in a separate chapter.

Women need reliability , so they can simply rely on their husband without even doubting that everything will be okay.

Nothing demoralizes women more than uncertainties and unpleasant surprises from a man. Women are configured in such a way that they do not perceive uncertainty. This makes them worry because they want to know clearly: what

can I expect? What will happen now? Will everything be all right? "What would we see next?"- All these questions disturb her peace. She starts getting depressed; she loses her sleep and cannot relax. Men are created to withstand all kinds of blows of fate and are strong in a state of uncertainty, but women are different, there need stability in their lives.

A woman is a romantic and gentle creation, so she needs romance and pleasant surprises.

A JOKE

A wife covered in tears, says to her husband:
"For three whole weeks, I told you that you do not need to give me anything for my birthday, but you forgot about it anyway!"

Being a hero for your wife is the highest rank that you can be. Women are not created to be warriors, on the contrary, we men are created to be fighters, and even our physical morphology proves it.

No matter how clever and capable a woman is, even if she is smarter than a man is, she is still waiting for her husband to help her to realize herself.

A woman, in any case, needs a number of men who would help her to become her best self: her husband, father, or just any man who participates in her life as a friend or mentor.

A woman is waiting for acceptance.

Do not control her as a kid: she wants a husband who will begin lecturing her as a student. You should force to change her. She did not sign up for another school; she got married to a husband. A woman does not tolerate word spoken to her as to a child: you are not right; you do not understand, sit down and listen to me! This attitude depresses her, and she feels "less than her true self".

A woman is looking for confirmation of her uniqueness.

She wants to marry someone who will allow her to feel like is she is the only one and the best in the world. Every woman wants to be this for at least for one man - her husband.

These are the main qualities that every woman is looking for in a man who will become their husband.

In addition to the qualities discussed above, I would like to dwell on this particular indicator of a man's readiness for marriage, his love for children. In our society, it is considered that a woman should be the one only engaged in raising children, while a man is not an important figure in the matters of

upbringing and caring for the children. But this is a gross incorrect stereotype.

The most courageous occupation in the world is to be a good father. This is the true sign of his manhood, not his physical scars.

The father lays the foundation of the upbringing of his children. The mother is responsible for giving the children care and tenderness, but the formation of the personality takes place under the influence of the father. That's why it's important that a man, as the father of the family must have a great love for children, otherwise he cannot become a responsible father.

The next important knowledge necessary for a man to build a family is the awareness of the characteristics of a real man.

Characteristics of a Real Man

What should a real man be?

1. He is the image of God the Father.
2. He takes responsibility for everything.

   As a foundation and foundation, he brings peace, stability, and reliability in all aspects.
3. A real man is brave and courageous.

   These qualities: bravery and courage are in-built in man by God.

   The courage of a man is his ability to overcome himself. Making bold decisions at work is easier than when you have to humble yourself and break down before your wife. From my own experience, I can confirm that at my level it is not easy to reconcile either: the wife has helpers, a manager, a driver, security and a lot of people, but there are situations when nobody is looking after me to carry out my assignments. Or, on the other hand, they also send the guard to tell me what I need to do. In this case, courage is manifested by humbling yourself and controlling your emotions instead of reacting. For me, bravery and courage is willpower. The most important manifestation of power is the ability to have it in full but not to exercise this power nor use it. Courage is the ability to control oneself and to control one's emotions.

   The Bible says this:

   "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

   Prov. 16: 32

   It seems to all that the conqueror of the city is courageous and brave - A

man defeating a whole city! But it turns out that a man who is able to manage his emotions, who is able to control himself internally is better, stronger, more courageous and bolder than the conqueror of a city! His feat is greater than the feat of the one who conquered the whole city. Courage leads to humility.

A REAL-LIFE STORY

Alex married Ina when he was just 30 years old. A good age for a man to be developed, matured and firm on his beliefs and values in life. Alex was no exception to this; he was already ripe for a serious family relationship. He was ready to take responsibility for the family and had a sufficient financial basis. Ina could not rejoice enough considering her fiancé, a decent, strong, and reliable man. All her friends envied her. It would seem that there was no other preparation needed for her future husband. Yes, this is the dream of any woman. But Alex had his "little secret", which was a consequence of the fact that he grew up without a father.

Having experienced a childhood without anyone to model before his eyes how a responsible man should act, he did not learn the correct way of treating a woman. He believed that giving his hand to a lady or carrying her bag is a sign of weakness and cowardice because he is a man! He could not force himself to do these things, because he had never seen his father help his mother so much. Alex thought he would look stupid helping a woman and that everyone would look at him weirdly.

But true courage lies in his ability to overcome public opinion. He also requires courage to say, “I do not care what they think about me." One day, soon after their wedding, Ina returning with her husband from the supermarket was surprised that he did not help her to carry their goods. For the first time, she did not say a word believing that he was distracted or did not notice that she needed help. But this situation kept repeating itself frequently, while the Ina never explicitly demanded help from her husband. This was the most unpleasant moment in their short family life. Later, she subtly suggested to him to help when necessary.

On the one hand, Alex realized that Ina wasn't demanding for something impossible or too difficult for him to do, but he just could not overcome his ego. She insisted but he persisted and when his male ego got into his head and became uncomfortable, believing Ina was dictating and teaching him how to live. This case lingered on until the point where he had to refuse

helping her blatantly. It got to a point when the young wife literally lost her speech, and Alexei was angry with himself for not responding to her rudely. After this scene, their marriage lasted only six months and the couple dispersed without regret.

Why is it sometimes difficult for a man to overcome himself?

Men think logically. If he sees that people are looking at him, his logic tells him: "It's shameful." A man's ego and status is very precious to him, so he tries to do everything possible so that he is respected in the society. Somewhere in his heart, he knows that he should help with the back, open the door for his lady, but once it is not accepted by the public, then he would gladly oblige.", He loves public opinion that is in line with his logic . A man is a creation that is subject to the influence of logic. He is a logically thinking person. Dear men, to educate yourself in the right attitude towards a woman, it's better we use the biblical wisdom that says:

“And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

Matthew 23:2

4. He controls his emotions. He thinks first and then reacts. He is a logical person.
5. He can listen and take advice from others.

The quality that God gave to a man is the ability to accept advice. But this is exactly what men want to do the least. Our reaction is usually: "Ah! Do not tell me what to do". We think that if a woman prompts or suggests something to us, it means she wants to take the lead over us.

Why is that a man doesn't want to be told what to do? It is because he is afraid of losing his leadership role. He is afraid of losing his credibility. In9 fact, it is meant to be the exact opposite. God leads helpers to a man in the person of his wife, just in order to save us from all problems through their advices. But pride prevents a man from listening to his wife. This is wrong, and a man needs to develop the ability to listen and value the words of a woman. This is very useful to him in marriage because communication is the basis of every relationships.

6. He is a risk taker.

Only men who are risk takers rule the world. They make the world go round, and the world revolve around them. All those who have significant results in life are risk takers in every sense of the word. These people make

many mistakes, but they have results.

Without showing these qualities, it is impossible to achieve success in life. This kind of men are called "engines of progress".

Examples of reasonable risk:

- Bill Gates left Harvard University in his 2nd year and went on an adventure with the opening of his company.
- Steve Jobs having a computer company that developed successfully, abandons it to start a new one. He did so constantly every year.
- Warren Buffett is the king of investment. He develops his firm to a great level and then sold it.
- Jesus Christ went to Jerusalem himself. All logical and thinking people stopped Him, but He went to embrace death with his own legs.
- Apostle Paul was a respected man. He had a "normal" work, but he left everything!
- Moses left the royal palace in order to lead the Israelites out of slavery.

It's important that man doesn't just take risks, but takes intelligent risks. It is necessary to make every necessary calculation.

EXAMPLE:

Jesus had calculated that He was going to be crucified. However, He knew that he will rise again. So, he wouldn't lose at the end. Smart risk-takers take reasonable risks.

However, one should know that men do not like taking risks with women; it's considered a disaster. Despite this, a real man is a man of risk. It's better to be a husband who takes risks and does something than one who lies on the couch and waits for his wife always to take actions. A man must carefully weigh the risks because sometimes men can abuse their craving for risks like in casino, cards, drugs, crime, extreme activities, racing, unspecified loans, or debts.

1. He is a conqueror

God created man as a conqueror, a man of adventure. God gave this quality to men, which's why men always desire to go somewhere, somewhere to run to, or somewhere to move to. This is the nature of men.

He is constantly looking for some kind of adventure because he needs to realize himself, but this all must be built on values.

Men often use their energy in the wrong direction. A man is created to achieve success, but basically, very few men achieve real result. If a person does not have the right direction to spend his energy on conquering for God and to fulfilling his calling, he begins to engage in nonsense. He begins to conquer women, use drugs, alcohol, play gambling, etc.

2. He is a pragmatist - a man of purpose, result, and vision.

A real man is a person who is always:

- results-oriented,
- sets goals and targets results,
- clearly and closely he sees the ultimate goal, to which he should strive towards- A VISIONARY MAN

A woman is a person of process (details, trivialities, order).

EXAMPLE:

Going to the store,

- *for her, this is a fascinating process,*
- *while the man is annoyed: "Well, how much can you sell this?!" A man going for shopping makes purchases strictly based on a list of only necessary things.*

So, in this chapter, we have considered the third sign of man's readiness for marriage - his intellectual preparation.

Dear reader, I offer you to pass the next self-examination test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in the brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned from the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Preparing for marriage means.**
    a. buying a wedding dress, rings, and order a restaurant for guests

(1)

b. having a rich life experience (2)
c. getting a job and housing (3)
d. choosing the girl to marry (2)
e. studying books, listening to courses, going through retreats and preparing for marriage, passing the tests of readiness for marriage (5)

2. **In your opinion, what awaits the groom who married without special preliminary training...**
    a. nothing special - an ordinary life, like everyone else's (1)
    b. depends on the compatibility of the spouses' characters (2)
    c. everything will be okay if a man knows how to get on with women (3)
    d. unequivocally, there are problems are waiting for him. When the honeymoon ends, he will be face to face with the realities of marriage and the shock is pending (4)

The sum of points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 5 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

5-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-8 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

9 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 4

I MUST BE READY MENTALLY FOR MARRIAGE

In the previous chapter, we were acquainted with the third condition of a happy marriage: the willingness of a man to undergo the necessary training and to be prepared intellectually. The fourth condition is for a man to be prepared mentally for marriage.

A measure of mental health is the willingness to find good in everything.

John M. Templeton, one of the richest people in the world, the creator of the business empire

Every one of us has met people who remain happy no matter what happens in their lives. As a rule, such people are always cheerful and possessing positive thoughts. Their entire appearance literally exudes positive energy. However, we also meet people who are quite different: people who are prone to gloomy and negative thoughts. They are touchy, dissatisfied and see evil in everything. What is the difference between a healthy and happy person and a gloomy, sad person living in the captivity of mental anguish and complexes? It's a choice! One of them decided to work on himself and fill his thoughts with positive things, while the second person gave himself up to the will of feelings and negative experiences from the past. Optimism and positive perception of life is not an inborn quality; it is developed in an individual. An optimist sees the good in everything; he does not expect bad actions from others. A pessimist, on the other hand, is under the influence of negative life experience and personal complexes. As a result, he sees only the dark side of life. There is nothing surprising in that, according to the law of sowing and reaping, each one is surrounded by the fruits that he has sown. It is known fact that what reflects on the outside is a product of what's on the inside.

A good quote says:

“A good man lives in a good world.”

Accordingly, an evil person experiences evil everywhere because he attracts them with his evil thoughts. In this regard, dear man, if you have not yet

developed the habit of expecting good in life and from people - you will definitely attract additional troubles into your life. Suspicion towards people has a negative impact in marital relationships, because a partner with this negative attitude, burdened by his or her complexes, grievances and wounds is ready to suspect the partner of all sorts of sins. God has given you the freedom to choose whether to turn your mind into hell or into a beautiful garden - and this choice does not depend on your surrounding but on you.

A PARABLE

Change the world

When I was a young man, I saw the injustice of the world. I really wanted to change the world and make it better. I prayed: "Lord, help me change the world for the better."

Years passed, and I realized that I couldn't change the world. I began to pray: "Lord, help me change at least the closest people to me - my wife and children."

Recently, being an already very old man, I felt the imminent arrival of death. I said a prayer: "I could not change the world, not even my family." Lord, help me to change myself. "

Then I heard the answer from God: "It's too late, now you will not have time."

Every man if asked about his mental health, without hesitation will reply that he is healthy. This is because there is no culture of caring for mental health in our society. An ordinary person, by default, underestimates the importance of his mental health and its impact on all spheres of his life. The fact is, mental trauma and discomfort can eventually lead to mental problems, asides from the major problems it causes in marriage.

In Western society, it is customary to take care of one's mental health, just as the physical health is catered for. The overwhelming majority of the population of developed countries uses the services of professional psychologists, but in our society, in developing countries, it is customary to see mental health specialists only in case of obvious problems that has become evident not only to the individual but even to those around them. It is difficult to imagine a Nigerian man who visits a psychologist to get rid of unforgiveness to his ex-wife because it prevents him from looking at all other women positively for example. However, in Western culture, this is normal, because this kind of problem is easily solved. If it's ignored, it can destroy the life of the man and his future relationship with women.

What are the alternatives to the treatment of a psychologist? A man can independently study special books in order to understand and analyze his mental state. It is also possible to receive spiritual healing when a person turns to biblical wisdom, reads the Bible and attends Christian meetings. I would even say that this is the most effective way. After all, turning to God, a man is able to change and heal his soul largely, and through this, his life will change.

In any case, if a man is not inclined to visiting a psychologist to identify and get rid of his obvious or hidden mental problems, then he will have to become a "doctor to himself."

I will discuss later in this chapter how to do this and how he can identify his problems. Now I will give an example from the life of a man who did not work on his mental health.

A REAL-LIFE STORY

Steven and Lydia met during their student days. Both were about to become young specialists: he is a builder, while she is an economist. They were young, beautiful, and energetic like everyone who has just turned 22 years old. Attending student parties, then working in the same company and communicating frequently, the two young people realized that they were in love. Both were confident that they had a bright future ahead of them and in the future, they saw themselves together, going hand in hand through life. Steven was the only son of a well-to-do farmer. The entrepreneurial ability of his father was developed in him as well, being a student. He already earned his first money. In addition to the status of a rich young man, he also had charisma. He was confident, always smiling, and with a good sense of humor. Possessing such a good set of advantages, Steven had no great difficulty in winning Lydia to himself. The beautiful girl was well brought up herself. She came to the capital from a small town where she grew up in a single parent family. Her father alone raised 4 daughters after the death of his wife. Lydia's family was poor, but love and respect reigned in her. Her father managed to raise his daughters to be good and kind. These qualities attracted Steven. Lydia's family was exactly the kind of family he wants for his future family, so he was confident they would have good relationships with Steven in peace and love.

Steven and Lydia later got married. In the absence of a separate house, the young husband sent his wife with his newborn child to live with his parents. Everything you need is there, fresh air and the help of numerous relatives, he said. For the time that Lydia spent in her in-laws home, she learned that there is

real hell on earth. Steven's family was prosperous, but completely lacked love and respect for each other and even for her. Lydia had never imagined that such families and such relationships existed. For example, her father-in-law would turn to his wife and use obscene languages at her. While Lydia had to live in their house, she often dreamed of running away, but there was nowhere she could run to - she had no work, house and she had a newborn baby in her arms. Later, she returned to the city to her husband. The most terrible thing was that she began to notice in him the habits of his father, and soon Steven began to fully exhibit the same model of the family relationship he saw with his parents.

After many years, he excelled in the construction business, built a cottage and 2 houses for the family and children, has many friends who like to spend time in their house. But as soon as the door closes behind the guests, the kind, hospitable and charismatic master of the house turns into an angry tyrant. He becomes very rude, disrespectful, uses obscene language on her, and is unable to control himself. This is because of his internal war and complexes, and his family suffers for this. He pushes and beats his wife, so he lost the respect and honor from his own children.

We don't need to mention that this kind of man has oblivion and a terrible end awaiting him in the future!

Despite the fact that his wife humbly tolerates his antics, his children no longer recognize him as a responsible father. It is unlikely that in his old age he will see his grandchildren, enjoy honor, and love from his family. His state of mind is harmful to his health irrespective of his age and has mental problems. A foul language, as scientists have established, affects the reproductive system - these problems are already present in the life of the "man" in our story. This is the least payment for the negativity that he bears to his family.

Could Steven have behaved differently? Of course. If he recognized the presence of a psycho-trauma, which he experienced in childhood, raised in an environment where there's parental aggression so he could be healed of it. But he imitated the behavior of his father who served as a bad model to him, making him mentally inept.

If a man is not able to show empathy to his wife, but suppresses it or ignores her. He is mentally unwell; he is suffering from psychological trauma and complexes which 90% of people live with.

The goal of men who wants to prepare for marriage is to identify his weaknesses and strengthen them. He also has the responsibility of getting rid of the negative mindsets that affect his attitude towards women.

In order to understand how a man can estimate his mental health state, let's look at the definition of mental, spiritual and emotional health.

Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to her or his community.

The problem is that in the ordinary person's mind there are only two grades of mental health: 1) a mentally ill person in a psychiatric hospital and 2) healthy living in his or her house. But the truth is that there are many variations of a person's mental state that's not particularly a disease based on medical standards, but we cannot say such people are healthy.

You can have different mental and psychological traumas because of fatherlessness (both spiritual and physical), difficult childhood, wrong education, disappointments, conflicts with others and the opposite sex. These wounds differ from ordinary physical wounds in that they do not heal themselves. They live in us and require healing. The expression "time heals everything" does not apply to such complexes and wounds. They actually get worse with time. If you notice signs of such problems or you have such psychological problems, it is advisable not to think about marriage at all until you solve them.

So what negatively influences our psychological and mental health, which introduces the inappropriateness in our behavior and perception of reality? This factor is called psycho-trauma.

Psycho-trauma occurs as a result of a traumatic event, which creates long-lasting emotional impact and may lead to the deterioration of the quality of a person's life. The causes of psychological trauma may include; witnessing someone's actual death or personally experiencing serious physical injury, assault, rape and sexual abuse, being held as a hostage, or a threat to physical or psychological integrity.

There are several types of psychological trauma:

Shock trauma - It happens as a result of sudden life-threatening events experienced by a person or his loved ones, or perceived as such.

Acute psycho-trauma - It results from previous negative events. It can be a hard-lived conflict, a break in meaningful relationships, social humiliation, etc.

Chronic trauma - a long stay in an emotionally unfavorable situation. Examples include living as a child in an unsuccessful family, a prolonged difficult life situation, being in a marriage that causes moral or physical harm.

Undoubtedly, all these types of mental trauma lead to problems in the future

life of a man. Given all of the above, I can give men this solid advice:

Please marry only after you are healed mentally.

In this chapter, we have considered the fourth condition of a man's readiness for marriage- mental preparation for marriage.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **A person can be said to be mentally healthy, if he...**
    a. is not registered with a specialized medical institution (1)
    b. looks healthy outwardly (2)
    c. has a calm character (3)
    d. can control his emotions (4)
    e. does not have symptoms of mental illness (4)
    f. does not have symptoms of mental illness and has no psychological trauma and complexes (5)
2. **The cause of the negative influence of a person's mental health can be...**
    a. the presence of mentally ill relatives (2)
    b. wrong environment (1)
    c. prolonged stress, being in a psycho-traumatic situation and nervous shock (3)
3. **Do you have psycho-trauma or complexes?**
    a. Of course, No (1)
    b. I do not know (2)
    c. Yes, I do (2)
    d. I haven't noticed any, but I admit that I have. It will be necessary to analyze my behavior in various situations and identify my "weaknesses" (3)

1. **I engage in getting rid of my complexes and psycho-trauma...**
    a. if they clearly prevent me from living (1)
    b. if they interfere with others (2)
    c. as soon as I find them in myself because they constantly negatively affect my whole life (3)
    d. I never do. This is my character and my personal business. My "traumas" do not concern anyone except me (4)
2. **The presence of mental problems, psycho-trauma and complexes manifests itself in family life in this manner...**
    a. the man becomes more sensitive(2)
    b. the man becomes weak-willed, and his partner takes advantage of him (1)
    c. the man reacts inappropriately to certain words, deeds and situations that are provokes his psychological trauma (3)

The sum of your points...

TEST RESULTS

Less than 6 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality to the fullest; therefore, you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities. Otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

6-11 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, and the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

12-15 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

16-18 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 5

I MUST BE HAPPY AND SELF-

SUFFICIENT

In the previous chapter, we considered the fourth rule of building a successful family - which is the mental health of a man. In this chapter, we will focus on the next condition that would dictate a man's readiness to marry: HE MUST BE HAPPY AND SELF-SUFFICIENT

Happy relationships depend not on finding the right person, but on being the right person.

ERIC BUTTERWORTH

A PARABLE

Dirty Nests

One pigeon constantly changed its nests. The unpleasant and pungent smell coming from these nests was unbearable to him. He bitterly complained about this to a wise, old, and experienced pigeon. The old pigeon nodded and said: "Even after constantly changing your nests, nothing will change. The smell that pisses you off is not from the nests but from yourself...“

This parable reveals to us the truth that if we have a problem, we must look for its source within ourselves, and not in external circumstances. A man should not marry until he is convinced that he is happy living as a bachelor. He is also contented with his life. He is self-sufficient and whole as an individual. To make a woman happy, a man must first be whole, self-sufficient, and happy in himself.

French playwright and journalist Adrian Decursel made this remarkable statement:

"You cannot find happiness in marriage if you do not bring it with you."

ADRIAN DECURSEL

Why do people often marry unhappy, but expect that joy and happiness await them in marriage?

Only a whole person can be considered ready to create a family with another person. In our society, a man who is dealing with an inferiority complex and not self-sufficient searches for his "soul mate" in hope that she will make him whole and then he would become happy.

Sadly, the man meets a woman with the same dilemma; she's like him searching for her "soul mate" to become happy. Now, there are two unhappy people

married, and in a few years, they add to the statistics of divorce.

Carl Whitaker, in a joint book with William Bamberry "Dancing with the Family", writes about it this way:

> "We all expect that as soon as the marriage vows are heard, our lives will immediately become whole, the emptiness inside and around us will be filled, and our needs will be fully satisfied."

Many generations of people grow up believing in the false information that movies, television, media, romance, etc., bring to us, portraying that someone or something can save us from our boring life and turn us into that bright personality that we want to be. That's why so many people are unhappy with their marriage and their loved ones. That's why people get divorced, and then get married again and again. The reason is that in the shower they are the same. Their similarities attracted to each other. If a man marries with no happiness and self-sufficiency in himself, he will not become more satisfied with life in marriage. Rather, it will destroy not only his future but the destiny of others also.

A REAL-LIFE STORY

Abbey was already 35, and the idea of marriage came to him more often than usual. Although he could not boldly say that, he perceives himself to be a mature man. His parents gave him an apartment in the capital city, and he felt great living there with his cat. But his relatives every now and then were pouring oil on fire, bothering him with questions about marriage, "when will the "last bachelor" in our family marry". His elderly mother every year on her birthday asked Abbey to find a good girl and give her grandchildren finally. Abbey did not see the need to burden himself with a family, but looking around, he understood that many of his friends already had their wives and had sent their children to school a long time ago. His friends would make friendly jokes with him about his love for computer games because it was not a secret to anyone that Abbey had not yet left his childhood first love for computer games.

Mostly, Abbey wasn't getting the same level of happiness from the computer game as he was when he was younger, but life gradually becomes increasingly boring and was prompting him to make some decisions. Finally, the moment came when the game that usually amused Abbey became boring. He found it increasingly difficult to be occupied in the evenings, to avoid boredom. At those times, he dreamed of a family. It seemed to him that the moment had come for him to marry. Abbey pondered on this decision for several days, and the last major reason for his decision to marry was the fact that he was sick and tired of

cleaning up his apartment himself.

He wasn't disturbed with the question of where to find a bride. Thanks to his work, where he was a system administrator, there were more than enough good girls. He liked some of them and was particularly interested in some other employees, ladies who are modest, cute, and responsible who are without bad habits.

All he had to do was to make a move, and no one would refuse to go out with him on a date. It didn't take so long; Abbey chose the housewifely and good looking employee - Sharon. Abbey took his woman and introduced her to his mum, after all this is what she has dreamt of all her life. His mum was on cloud nine, his relatives were excited, and his friends made so much noise about his engagement.

They got married and off they went for a honeymoon. The honeymoon went so fast, and family routine began. Abbey was happy because it was nice to know that someone was waiting for him at home when he returned in the evenings. He was particularly in awe of his wife's culinary skills. At some point, Abbey even thought that there was nothing better than marriage. What else could be better than knowing that you do not need to clean your apartment or worry about cooking?

"Why didn't you think of this before?" His married friends quickly cooled his fire.

"Wait for at least a year after your wedding, and then the reality of family life will begin."

For Abbey, it started even earlier. He suddenly realized that he and his wife were not so interested in spending time together, because the initial euphoria was gone. He returned to his first love- computer games, and he immediately listened to his wife about a 35-year-old man playing computer games. Her honest opinion put succinctly was that such person is immature. In the depths of his soul, Abbey understood that his wife was right, but he was still in shock. He felt that they loved each other that his wife understands and accepts him as he is. It turned out that he was fantasizing. She apparently did not like his weak and immature nature. She just could not see anything but pure immaturity. Since that day, everything in their relationship went sour. She realized that he was not what she thought he was before marriage: He is not strong or independent. His apparent modesty actually turned out to be negligence, and the absence of bad habits, which Sharon liked so much before the wedding, was replaced by computer addiction. Abbey saw that his wife did not respect him and he lost his

respect for her. He was the first to suggest that they file for divorce, and Sharon agreed without hesitation. Due to this experience, Abbey decided that marriage was not for him. Till date, he still lives with his cat and a computer, which unlike his wife would not reproach him for immaturity and would not require anything from him.

If a man is not happy and self-sufficient by himself, then any attempt to get a wife would be self-destructive. An unhappy man cannot make another person happy. For this reason, only those who are already self-sufficient, whole and happy can marry. What do unhappy people do when they get married? They are looking for a way to brighten up their coexistence. First, the go for honeymoon, and when the gray days come to replace it, the couple decides that it is necessary to bring a little more "fun" into the relationship: "Maybe we'll have a baby?" - She suggests. "Come on," he agrees in the hope that the appearance of children will change his life and give it meaning. As a result, the man gets even more problems in place of the happiness he hoped for. Then again, the wife will feel a lack of happiness and will demand that her husband make her happier - after all, it was for this same reason she married him in the first place.

The Happiness of the Man

Dear brother, before you decide to get married, you need to be sure that you can give happiness to another person. It is only when you are happy that you can share happiness with others. Unhappy people usually look for someone to make them happy. Especially women, they marry a man not because they want to make you happy, but they expect that you will make them happy.

If you are not happy, i.e. you do not live with this joyful inner self-awareness, then no external incentives: no money, no women, no houses or cars will make you happy. You will experience pseudo-happiness when you strive for these things, but after achieving these goals, you will realize that couldn't make you happy, and the quest for true happiness would begin afresh.

For many people, the search for happiness turns into a failure, because they did not find it in themselves, but sought for it in external circumstances. They think; "If I make more money, or if I become a businessman, a major manager, a musician, a politician, a husband, a father, and then I will find my true happiness." After trying one social role and not finding joy in it, they switch to another, believing that it's the role itself that is just not right for them, probably there's something better!

The fact is that these people could not find the source of happiness in

themselves, so no external position would replace their inner joy. If this describes you, you should stop all these searches, look inward, and think: "Why am I unhappy? Maybe it's about my views on life? Maybe I'm looking for happiness in the wrong places? ".

This would lead you to the question of what really makes a man happy. We can say that the happiness of a man is in:

1. **Self-realization.**

   Man by nature is a creator. God, the creator in His image and likeness, created him. Therefore, if a man does not purposefully create his life and destiny, he has not found himself in life or discovered his purpose, he will most definitely experience discomfort and unhappiness. To feel happiness and fulfillment in life, every man needs to get involved and be engaged in some kind of business: from fishing to building business empires. In order to properly determine the purpose of your life, and not engage in what you weren't created to do, a man should have a relationship with the Creator, who created him and deposited specific gifts and potentials in him. Through fellowship with God, a man can open his destiny on this earth and begin to fulfill it. We will talk about the theme of the fulfillment of our mission in the tenth chapter. For now, let's consider the second component of a man's happiness - inner harmony.

2. **Inner harmony.**

Inner harmony is a necessary condition for happiness, both for women and for men. To find it, as well as to understand its purpose on earth, it is possible only through communication with the source of everything living, God. Many people who do not know God and do not recognize Jesus Christ as their Savior do not know that when God created everyone, He left a void inside Him for Himself. And as long as a person does not put God in this space due to Him - he would keep feeling empty and unhappy. Unbelievers actually feel empty inside, so they try to fill it with pseudo-spiritual practices (religions, occultism, divination, etc.), gluttony, alcohol, drugs, and wrong connections. They constantly lack something, but until such a person is acquainted with God, starts reading the Word of God, attend real spiritual and soul development gatherings - he will not find peace, joy and inner harmony. A man without God is doomed to toss around life in search of a substitute, which can at least temporarily fill that place in his soul that the Creator reserved for Himself.

The only one who knows himself can love wisely.
Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

I wish you, dear man, to restore order in your spiritual life. This is guaranteed to make your life better and happier. Now, let's tackle the aspect of self-sufficiency.

Self-Sufficiency of a Man

So, dear reader, let's say you are already happy even without being married. But for a successful marriage, personal happiness is not enough. A man who is ready to become the head of the family must also be self-sufficient. What does this quality mean?

A self-sufficient man is:

- One who has neither psychological, nor physical, nor moral, nor material problems. He is able to provide his life with everything necessary.
- This is a man who does not complain about fate. He does not try to hide behind circumstances or other people's backs but solves problems as soon as they arrive.
- If he is alone, it is not because no one needs him, but because he cares for the person who is next to him.

It is appropriate to quote the famous actor Oleg Menshikov, who for a long time held the status of the most enviable groom in the Russian movies:

"People are taught that loneliness is dangerous. Magazines replicate "universal" ways of finding mythical "second halves" ...But every person is lonely. There is rare and almost impossible happiness when you find a soul mate. Loneliness is defined as abandonment and uselessness: "they left you, you are alone in this world"...

But for me, loneliness is the need to reconcile with the fact that a person is lonely as a principle, from birth to death.

People's problems are more often not loneliness, but only what is called. Drinking is not loneliness; drugs are not loneliness, indifference and selfishness are not loneliness. Loneliness is a high and noble category, in my opinion. As Nietzsche defined, you respect your state of an autonomous planet and respect the state of other planets around you. Loneliness is very beautiful"... ***Oleg Menshikov***

This statement confirms the truth that it is better to go hungry than to eat what's horrible. A man should not marry in order not to be alone or because he is bored. A man must first become self-sufficient, that is, gain a state of autonomy and independence, and then only after that think about marriage.

What else distinguishes a self-sufficient man?

- He develops a sense of responsibility, he is a reliable person as the Bible puts it: his "yes" is "yes" and "no" is "no", i.e., his words can be trusted.
- He is a man who is strong in his spirit and generous, and therefore open (only people who are strong by the Spirit can be really kind and sincere).
- His work is his passion and his purpose, and not his duty.
- Kindness, straightforwardness and openness are a natural manifestation of his strong nature.
- A person whom a woman agrees to follow, without fear and doubt asking - "where are we going"? She is sure that he knows the way, and if he made this decision, then it will be better.
- He respects himself so much that he never sinks to drunkenness and rudeness.
- He is an optimist in life - but not a conformist and does not follow status quo. He just knows that there is a way out of every hopeless situation.
- He does not care what others think about him. He does not seek approval from people. He is confident and knows his worth. Such a person, of course, respects the opinion of others, but at the same time adheres to his own and it is difficult to upset him.
- He is able to build his life on his own, without any help. He takes responsibility for it, not shifting it to others.
- He feels well with himself. He does not need the attention of others since he is able to pay this attention to himself. The attention of others is not a source of self-affirmation for him your life more quality and happy. Now, let's consider the question of self-sufficiency.

So, in this chapter, we have considered the fifth sign of man's readiness for marriage - his happiness and self-sufficiency.

Dear reader, I offer you to pass the next self-examination test. Choose only one

answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in the brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned from the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **A happy man is...**
    a. a realist who understands that his happiness depends only on him (4)
    b. a person who is lucky with his surroundings (3)
    c. an optimist who can ignore problems (2)
    d. a rich man (1)
    e. a person who lives in harmony with himself, God and the outside world. He has a favorite business, his goals are clear, and his conscience is clear. He lives not only for himself (5)
2. **If a man marries without being happy and self-sufficient, then ...**
    a. marriage will bring him these feelings (1)
    b. he will remain the same (2)
    c. he will become even less happy because of the unfulfilled hope of finding a solution to all problems in marriage (3)
3. **Having a wife automatically adds to a man...**
    a. respectability (2)
    b. happiness (1)
    c. troubles and problems (3)
    d. responsibility (4)

1. **Which of the following male problems can solve the marriage?**
    a. Diffidence (1)
    b. Feeling of loneliness (2)
    c. Boredom (3)
    d. Lack of purpose and meaning of life (3)
    e. None of the above (5)

The sum of your points...

TEST RESULTS

Less than 5 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities. Otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

5-11 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

12-14 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

15-17points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 6

I AM READY TO SHUT MY EYES TO OTHER WOMEN ONCE I CHOSE ONE

In the previous chapter, we considered this sign of a man's readiness for marriage as an understanding that he must be happy and self-sufficient. Now

consider the following necessary quality. Can you say:

I Am Ready to Shut My Eyes to Other Women Once I Chose One

A JOKE

"Darling, there's nobody better than you!" Yesterday I was convinced of this again.

This kind of requirement for newlyweds as his readiness to keep his marital fidelity only seems logical and does not require proof. Any moral and sensible person will agree that marital fidelity should not be violated. But in reality, there are many variations of how men conscientiously follow this rule. However, if a man is going to start a family and plans to live a long, happy life in marriage, he will have to ask himself a serious question: am I willing to forget about the existence of all other women, except my wife? Am I willing to put an end to all the other girls? In fact, for a man, this step is very complex. For him, this is a problem because a man by nature is a hunter and conqueror. He is not so much in need of the woman herself, but the excitement of hunting for her excites him: “This lady looks so pretty, and the other lady is so respectful, and the list keeps going on." Even the modest man is a ladies' man.

I want you to realize that you are not "cornered" when you have a wife, but you made a choice by your own free will. The word choice for a man sound likes freedom. Well, why would a man make this lifetime choice! Some men because of their understanding of choosing a wife as being in bondage create a feeling that their life ends as soon as they leave bachelorhood to husbandhood. This mindset is one of the reasons why men are slow to get married, and some are frankly afraid even to go to the registry office.

But the truth is that when you choose one woman and offer her your hand and heart, it does not matter who else could come up or appear as good enough. All your search has reached its terminal station, and this is for life. Yes, it is difficult, but a man must answer to the question of whether he is ready to "finish his woman hunt" when he finds the one that he wants.

From my own experience, I can say that for a long time I could not answer this question to myself. But remember when you first met your girlfriend, the desire to compare her with others automatically disappeared. You know that it's her and that's it. We can say that this initial feeling when a man looks only at his beloved and does not see anyone else around is needed for a man to be able to keep his marriage. Such a position will save him from temptations. It would enhance his loving relationship with his wife and help them through possible conflicts,

saving their marriage from shocks or even divorce.

I make no exaggeration when I say that the ability not to look at other women is an important factor in the well-being of a man's family.

Psychologists describe the reason, which often leads to divorce. A study involving more than 680 couples allowed scientists to find out what should not be done by couples who want to preserve their relationship.

According to the results of this study, it turned out that jealousy is the main enemy of strong family relationships. If not for this reason, divorce rate could have dropped threefold, scientists from the University of Iowa (USA) estimated. Moreover, jealousy has its detrimental effect on married couples. By the way, during another research on the topic of jealousy, it was proved that women more acutely perceive emotional infidelity, and men perceive sexual.

My dear brother, this means that an interested look, just a glance that you give to a strange woman on the street in the presence of your wife will cause your spouse to experience feelings similar to those you would have experienced if you saw your wife hugging and giving your neighbor a kiss on the cheeks. Would you like to experience this? In that situation, you would feel right to display any form of recklessness. That's the exact feeling a woman has when she sees you looking at a woman with interest. The man begins to wonder why his wife created a scene because of something as trivial as looking at another woman. Well, for a woman what you call "trivial" is equated with treason, which occurred right before her eyes.

In our discussion on the subject of matrimonial fidelity, it should be mentioned that there is a public opinion that all men are polygamous. They claim that this quality is inherent in their nature and nothing can be done about it, while half of females are monogamous, interested in family and strong relationships. Hence, we see all the problems: treason, jealousy, the collapse of relationship, and the destruction of the family. But psychologists say that this idea is very primitive and, in general, far from reality.

In a heart that has a lot of space for many, there is not enough room for one.

FRENCH PROVERB

There are many reasons why men change wives. This may be dissatisfaction with his family life, and various complexes, and a negative model of behavior from his parent, and even male nymphomania (mental disorder).

Perhaps supporters of male polygamy will be surprised, but, according to psychologists, a "family" man appreciates comfort above all things. If he is well

in his family and he feels that he is appreciated and loved, then he is unlikely to risk losing his relationship.

In terms of importance, the priorities of a married man are distributed as follows:

1. Emotional comfort in the family.
2. Work.
3. Hobbies.
4. Sex.

Summarizing what has been said, it can be noted that male infidelity is not a natural quality, but a symptom of a man's personal problems. Men do not act promiscuously because it's their nature. There must be some deep reasons for this. To save your marriage, you need to find the underlying cause of these problems (perhaps with the help of a psychologist), then build your relationship anew.

Male infidelity or even suspicion of male infidelity can destroy a man's family. For this reason, the holy bible also categorically condemns adultery. In the Bible, in Exodus, chapter 20, verse 14, one of the Ten Commandments says: "Do not commit adultery." Nevertheless, there are men who do not stop this act. What is the reason why men are willing to take such a risk for the sake of immediate gratification, endangering their own spiritual and family well-being?

Psychologists distinguish three main reasons forcing spouses to default their marital fidelity;

- Revenge. In revenge to the infidelity of a partner 1.1% of men and 10.3% of women, also engage in infidelity.
- Self-test. 10% of husbands and 6% of wives admit cheating as a way to ascertain their sexual relevance.
- Circumstance. Alcohol, a corporate party and a good company can lead - 12% of men and 5% of women astray.

Here is the recent statistics found among couples: at least one out of wedlock accounted for 76% of men and 21% of women.

It is interesting that the main place of adultery is at work. At work, 28.7% of husbands and 31.3% of wives fall into adultery. Almost the same percentage happens on "vacation": on vacation, they found out that 20.7% of men and 34%

of women betray their partners. On business trips 9.8% and 2.6%, respectively. Adultery with neighbors happens in 4% of husbands and 10% of wives.

Why all these difficulties?

Why is it that married couples who look happy outwardly actually have extra-marital affairs? People involved in this say, their feelings waned (women) and that they do not enjoy sex with their partner (men).

In any case, adultery of men is not driven by physical causes and not because of an assumed "polygamous" nature. According to the sexologist, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Sergei Agarkov, first the mutual understanding in the family is destroyed. Women say, "love is gone" while men express themselves by saying- "I want something new and interesting" (35%). In any case, adultery and betrayal is only a consequence.

The model of family given to us by our parents is of great importance. It turns out that if they cheated each other, the probability of a child repeating this path in the future is 80%. Not surprisingly, while men are more inclined to repeat the betrayal of the father, the woman is the mother, so it means ended up with the wrong man, and her sons will be the same. Blaming the environment, friends and relatives for unfaithfulness in a relationship is useless. "The influence of friends" in adultery constitutes only 0.8% of husbands and 1.5% of wives.

The Male "Booze"

There is an opinion that male adulterers are safer for marriage than females. And some "experts" in the field of marital infidelity generally take the liberty to assert that "adultery strengthens the marriage.

- Apparently, men in order to find for themselves a comfortable niche and excuse invented this idea - says psychologist, trainer-consultant Natalia Shchukina. - Indeed, men who are emotionally tired need to discharge negative energy, but prefer not to pour it on their wives. With a mistress, you can have sex without speaking and without foreplay... For the most part, a man cheats for the sake of sex for this reason. Someone having lost interest in his wife is looking for fresh sensations, literally for a new body...

But in pursuit of such feelings, a man violates the moral and Christian laws. Once he crosses this line, he permanently destroys the atmosphere of the sanctity in his union. Even if the wife does not know about the adultery, eventually all other women will know about it. Then the man condemns himself, struggling with an unclean conscience before God, before his wife and his children. Many make a mistake believing that you can change and live on as if nothing had

happened. Moreover, having committed the sin of adultery, a man, as a rule, does not receive those emotions that he was chasing after but only appreciates the value and importance of his own family, which he never noticed until he "cheated."

Professor Sergei Agarkov agrees with this opinion:

Even after leaving his family for a while having received his portion of adrenaline from cheating with another woman, a man would begin to appreciate better what he had in his family. He will begin to understand that there is no better comfort and satisfaction outside his family. After proper self-examination because of his betrayal and has worked on himself and his emotional problems, a man can return to his partner. Here I will add, only if his partner finds it necessary to take him back to the bosom of the family.

Dear men, do not rush to get married until you are ready to devote yourself to a single woman.

I would like to finish this chapter with the statement of the Great Russian classic, who emphasizes the role of matrimony in the development of human morality:

"The dependence of family life makes a person more moral."

ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

In this chapter, we have considered the sixth condition of a man's readiness for marriage- his readiness to shut his eyes from every other woman after choosing one.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Faithfulness in a relationship is when a man...**
    a. despite his side chicks, he remains married to one woman (1)
    b. means to cherish the emotions of a familiar person. To walk so that the wife does not know about it (2)
    c. Means to be faithful in the soul (3)
    d. does not allow even the thought of other women. After all,

actions originate from thoughts (5)

2. **Is every man capable of being faithful in marriage?**
    a. No. Man is a polygamous being (2)
    b. Yes, it's very easy (3)
    c. Why should a man be faithful? (1)
    d. Everyone who has the willpower and faithfulness to take this decision. Loyalty is the solution (5)

The sum of points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 3points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

3-4 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

5-6 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

7-10 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 7

I AM READY TO KEEP MY FRIENDS AT BAY ONCE I GET MARRIED

In the previous chapter, we considered the quality of a man's readiness to shut his eyes on all other women, except his wife. The next condition that shows

a man's readiness for marriage is his readiness to keep his friends at bay.

There was a philosophy professor who was giving a lecture. In front of him, he had a big glass jar. He started by filling up the jar with the big rocks, and when they reached the rim of the jar, he held it up to the students and asked them if the jar was full. They all agreed, there was no more room to put the rocks in, it was full.

Is it full?

He then picked up a tub of small pebbles and poured these in a jar so that they filled the space around the big rocks. "Is the jar full now?" he asked. The group of students all looked at each other and agreed that the jar was now completely full.

Is it really full?

The professor then picked up another container; this time it had sand in it. He poured the sand in between the pebbles and the rocks and once again, he held up the jar to his class and asked if it was full. Once again, the students agreed that the jar was full.

"Are you sure it's full?" he asked. He finally picked up a bottle of water and tipped the water into the jar until it filled up all the remaining space. The students laughed.

Filling up your Life

The jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things that have real value - your family, your partner, your health, your children - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter - like your job, house, car, clothes and so forth.

The sand is everything else - the small stuff.

Make room for the important

This parable tells that a person should be able to sacrifice secondary things for the most important things. In order to follow this wise advice, a man should decide what areas of life are his primary obligations, and which are secondary. If you are a bachelor, then your friends may well be your priority. But if you are preparing for the role of husband, father and head of a family, then your priority, without argument should be your family. Friends, in this case, will have to be secondary. So you would have to keep your friends at bay to prioritize your family.

Thus, only if you are a serious man and have seriously asked yourself how much you are willing to turn away and give up friends for the sake of your

family, should you consider asking a woman to marry you. Of course, you do not have to renounce them in the literal sense of the word, but you will have to limit your attachments to your friends in order to replace them with affection for your wife.

I will give an example from my personal experience. I could not marry for a long time, because my answer to the question of whether I was ready to part with my friends was not positive. For me, friendship and the company of friends were very important. And I could not accept the fact that I would have to give up all my friends in order to acquire one person - my wife. But I had to make this decision, and you will have to do it as well. You cannot simultaneously combine your wife and friends in one apartment or in life! It is necessary to make a real choice: I consciously give up my friends for the sake of being with my wife.

To better illustrate my point, I will give an example from the life of the heroes in the novel Daniela Steele, who is a connoisseur of family vicissitudes. It's about a newly wedded couple who barely managed to get back from the honeymoon. They are young and secured; her husband did not have to think about their daily bread, so he chose the way of aimless wasting his life with friends. The marriage was not able to change his way of life, because of this their marriage ended up in divorce.

Freddie, as usual, didn't return home this night to see his wife. The next day he was filled with remorse when he returned at noon, explaining that he played games with his friends until four in the morning and stayed there because he did not want to wake her up.

"Is that all you've been doing?" - For the first time, she asked angrily. Her tone stunned and frightened him. She used to be very reserved, but this time she was angry.

- What do you mean? His innocent blue eyes opened wide with astonishment, and his blond hair made him look like Tom Sawyer.

"I'm interested in what you really do until two in the morning?" - She asked with genuine anger, pain and disappointment.

He smiled childishly, convinced that he would always be able to deceive her:

"Sometimes I drink a lot." That's all. So it's just better to stay where I am, than return home when you are sleeping. I do not want to disturb or upset you Sarah.

"But you do upset me already." You're never at home. You are always somewhere with your friends, and every night you come back drunk. Married people do not behave like this. - She replied to him. "Who are you? Why did you marry me? I never spend quality with you, only at parties, and the rest of the

time you spend with your friends playing cards, gisting and drinking, and only God truly knows where you end up going at nights, "she said sadly.

"Would you like me to stay at home with you and neglect my friends?" "It shocked him, and for the first time, she noticed something bad in the way he looked, which meant that she just challenged his lifestyle. She frightened him and even threatened him.

- Yes, I would like you to stay at home with me. Is there anything strange about this?

"You married me because you were having fun with me, isn't that true?" If you needed some kind of boring person, I suppose you could have stuck with your friends, but you did not. You needed me, and now you want to treat me as if I am useless. Well, honey, I promise you that this will not happen.

It is hard to imagine how many wives on the planet go through this every day from their husbands, and how many divorce statements are filed daily by lawyers because of such situations. In order not to become one of the participants in this process, a man should realize the importance of the message of this chapter.

I think there will be men who in the depths of their hearts are protesting - why should I sacrifice something, especially the most expensive thing that I have? If you cannot sacrifice, then do not expect a quiet and peaceful married life. In fact, even the Holy Scripture stands up for the woman in this matter. God in the Bible directly indicates that a husband should love his wife with a sacrificial love. What does this mean? This means that I can sacrifice communication with friends to spend time with my wife.

The Bible also says that a man must leave his father and mother to stick to his wife:

"...a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two will be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

Our fathers and mothers are the people closest to us. We owe them everything we have in this life. They gave birth to us; they nurtured, raised, taught and made us who we are today. Who can be more important than these people in our lives? We owe them for eternity. Nevertheless, God says that a man should leave his father and mother and stick to his wife. Here, the instruction does not mean to leave the parents physically, or to abandon them to suffer, but to mentally leave his old family to enter into his new family. Please, don't start a new family until

you are ready to be the head of the family. In this case, undoubtedly, the newlyweds should pay homage to both the parents of the husband and the parents of the wife - to give them both time, finances, as well as any necessary assistance.

Returning to the requirement in the Holy Scriptures to leave the parents, what conclusion can we draw? If God recommends that you move away from your old family ties for the sake of your new one, then this automatically means it's necessary to sacrifice other less essential ties. Such ties include a man's former friends. It is known that male friendship is strong and his hobby like fishing, car racing or football, takes a significant place in the life of a man. But the truth of life is that with the introduction of a family and wife, your hobby should be secondary. What does a person do when he has a new hobby? He pushes his former favorite pursuits aside. Dear man, you need to decide for yourself once and for all, are you ready to give priority to your new duties as head of the family and your wife, or are your friends more important than your family?

"One of the main advantages of marriage is that you can send friends to your wife."

Georg Lichtenberg

If you are not ready to choose one of these two categories and believe that both friends and wife can share the pedestal of your priorities, ask yourself the question: would you be able to live with a woman whom her friends are not in second place after you, but are equal to you? A woman who will never sacrifice her friend's interests for yours? What would you think of such a woman? Of course, you'd conclude that she does not really love you. I hope this example has allowed you to see yourself from another standpoint. If you love a woman, you will be ready to put her on the first place in the list of your priorities. After all, according to the Great Encyclopedic Dictionary, the word priority (from lat. Prior - the first, the senior one) means "primacy over time in the performance of an activity".

And this means that it cannot be divided among several loved ones or occupations. Priority can be only one.

So, if a man wants to have a happy family, he needs to love his wife more than parents, friends and, of course, a TV. After work, the husband needs to hurry home, to his wife. Nothing should stand between you both. Everything must be kept aside.

Why is it important for a married man to separate his friends from his family?

Because a woman needs communication. Men often gladly give it to their friends, but forget about their wives. Communicating with your wife means spending time together, just sitting around and talking. For a woman, there is no greater pleasure than such moments alone with her husband. If this is not in her life, she feels unhappy.

In this chapter, we have considered the seventh condition of a man's readiness for marriage- his readiness to sacrifice his friends for the sake of his wife and family.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **To you, friends are...**
    a. the meaning of life (1)
    b. the center of the universe (1)
    c. your closet folks (1)
    d. my business partners (3)
    e. people close in spirit. Everyone has his own life, but we share common interests or hobbies (4)
2. **The need for a married man to limit his communication with friends is...**
    a. a violation of his human rights (2)
    b. old-fashioned (2)
    c. an unjust demand that I do not intend to fulfill (1)
    d. a vital necessity, an indispensable condition for a successful marriage, confirmed by the experience of thousands of married couples (4)
3. **If after your wedding friends say you're trapped, then you...**
    a. I think that they are right because they know me well (2)
    b. they will not say so, because after the wedding I will remain the same (1)

c. change my behavior if they think that I have changed for the worse (1)
d. ask what they mean. I will explain that now my priorities have changed and the family is an important part of life (4)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 5 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

5-7 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

8-9 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

10-12 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 8

I AM FINANCIALLY SECURED FOR MARRIAGE

In the previous chapter, we examined the seventh rule of a successful marriage: "I am ready to keep my friend at bay." Now let's talk about the next necessary condition a man must fulfill to be ready to create a family. Can you say, "I am financially secured"?

A JOKE

A wife tells her husband in the morning:

- Imagine, today I dreamed that you gave me a gorgeous diamond necklace! What does this dream mean?

-You will know in the evening. - The husband answered.

In the evening the wife cooked a great dinner, prepared the table with candles. Her husband returned home and gave her a box. She opened it, lo and beheld a book titled "Dream Interpretation Guide..."

Jokes aside, frankly speaking, the lack of money in the family is not a reason for jokes. After all, Thomas Kevin O'Leary, a Canadian businessperson said,

"Money equals freedom."

Considering this statement, you can accurately predict the future of this family, which is built on a weak financial base. All members of this family will be limited in their freedom of choice of residence, education, nutrition, quality of services, health, leisure opportunities and so on.

The next anecdote describes the extreme degree of lack of finance in a family, which could lead a woman to tears, which unfortunately reflects the state of many families today.

AN ANECDOTE

March 8 was Lucy's birthday. Her husband came to her room and gave flowers to his wife.

"Lucy, here's your bouquet!"

- Thank you, dear!

- You can also have your balance...

I think every reader of this book knows that finance is required to maintain any family, even the smallest family. But understanding this truth does not always translate to understanding how important it is to have a strong financial base before going into marriage.

Often the reason for the lack of understanding of the importance of a financial base in family life lies in the wrong model of behavior that a man has learned by looking at his father. In previous generations, people married being poor, while they were still students. Nevertheless, they managed to become specialists in their profession, acquire their own houses, get permanent registration, go for vacation and train their children through school. By observing their parents, many young people seem to be convinced about their readiness for marriage

because they are in love with each other. They believe, as long they love each other, everything else will follow. There is also a saying "love makes a cottage a castle".

This is partly true; it's a non-truth. The feeling of living in a castle while living a cottage will last while the woman is still in the euphoria of love and the passions of their honeymoon are still high. But after that, the young wife will begin to see things as they really appear, she would look around that other women are living in a real palace, not in a hut.

A JOKE.

- I was always afraid of this day... I hoped that it would never come... I thought I could avoid it... But here it came... Today my wife spoke of my rickety old car...

Let's return to the older generations who married poor and as students. Why shouldn't young men model their lives and marriages according to the examples of their old generations? It is because our parents are from the previous generation and they lived in different realities from ours. Back then, the government solved their problems, and in return, they worked selflessly for the government and their country. Often they were into unskilled labor in factories, which of course in our day and time would never make anyone prosperous. It was not necessary to engage in critical thinking and taking initiatives; sometimes it was harmful.

But this system extracted all the benefits of civilization. The people were only working hard for their government. If they wouldn't skip their jobs and carefully executed their tasks, then in a couple of years the government could issue them an apartment. From their salary, it was possible to save up for a car, get a plot of land in the suburbs under, afford a summer vacation, sponsor their children for summer camps, and at the age of 60, their pension was enough for them to live a comfortable life.

However, this time has ended, and new realities are evident. Sadly, the younger generations continue to follow the example of their fathers in regards to providing for their family. They think that finishing a vocational school and going to a factory or "to a firm" is a good enough plan for achieving financial stability.

Young people marry, without having enough money for wedding rings, and their entire plan to maintain their families fits in one phrase: I will go to work. They leave hoping that material goods will be gifted to them automatically, like

their fathers. However, this, of course, would not happen. Over the years, a modern office worker would barely be able to thrive. The dream of a house also does not materialize, and after 10-20 years of waiting, the couple realizes they destroyed their future with their own hands.

A JOKE

Wife: Dear, I want a fur coat!

Husband: Well, my dear, now I'm trying to get you bread and fish.

There is another traditional type of financial lack. In this case, the man has some material goods now, but he got them not because he worked for them or a result of the qualities of his character but as gifts or luck.

We must remember that if a man gets money easily and suddenly, then it is likely that in the near future he will return to his original state of poverty. For this reason, we cannot certify this kind of men as responsible heads and providers of their families. Here is one perfect example:

When Bode disclosed the news of his marriage to his family, he made them very happy; his mother was particularly the happiest of all. She had long disturbed her son that it was time for him to settle down. But, unfortunately, like most mothers, she put the wrong meaning in the notion of "settle down". In her view, to settle down meant to get married, whereas a proper understanding of this word means getting on your feet holistically, and last but not least, financially.

Like the vast majority of mothers, she believed her duty was to provide her only son with all possible material benefits. She gave him access to all her possessions and arranged a job for her adult "child". This job needed Bode to go by public transport, but his mother again gave him a car. He lived in an old house, but because of his plans to marry, his mother bought him a new residential complex. Thus, our groom looked ready with the necessary material needs for marriage: A job, car and a new apartment.

In the eyes of the women, he looked like a successful young man, but in reality, maturity and responsibility were far from him, like the South Pole from the North Pole. All that this "groom" had, he received from his mother. She disciplined herself, suffered hardships, showed courage, perseverance and masculine qualities, not only to feed him till the age of 30 but also to pay the wife's "dowry." It would seem that there is nothing wrong with the fact that family members help each other, and it is natural that every mother supports their son. But if a man is not disabled, a man should not only support himself but also begin to pay his debts to his parents who have raised him up so far. This is the

manifestation of the essence of a responsible man. If a man is 30 years old and still accepts alms from his mother or father, he has a problem.

This story does not end with Bode's marriage. Now, having been married for several years, and becoming the father of a child, he absolutely does not know how to plan a family budget and is still receiving financial help from his mother.

Dear man, if you are going to get married, but you do not have a car and a home you got as a result of your labor and skills, it's better you forget that women, in general, exist in the world.

Some men don't even think before the wedding that his family will have to eat, where to live, money needed for clothes and to go on vacation. But how can you not think about this? A man is not a child. If a man just falls in love with a woman and immediately asks for her hand in marriage is a proof of his irresponsibility. Often times, young people do not want to think about problems, they are only concerned with love: "Where will we live? Stop and think about it!" How do we sponsor how kids through school? Stop and think about this!

I often wonder what is in the mind of young men, when they ask a girl to marry them. If you live in a hostel, or with your mother in the same room? - "Well, what if the lady already has an apartment?" some irresponsible men will answer. If this describes you, then you don't have any business with marriage.

Why do we have these problems?

- A man does not plan his life and his future family;
- A man plans, but his plan is to depend on fate and hope that somehow, things would change.

Now, we've come to the most important question in this chapter. What signs indicate that a man is financially stable to support a family? They include:

1. ***I am confident that I can fully provide for the material and financial needs of the family and my spouse. I know that my budget allows me to get married.***

   You only need to get married when you are sure that you can fully meet the material and financial needs of your family and your spouse. What does this include? I think an apartment is a necessity- either you rent a house, or bought it, or it's your own - in any case, you know that the issue of housing is already solved.

   When a man asks that a woman marries him, this sentence means that you are ready to take the responsibility of her mom and dad, assuring her

of a better life than what her parents could offer. The full provision means that she should forget about her parent meeting any of her need."

2. ***I already have a car.***

You can only get married when you already have a car. If you do not have a car, you should be at least very close to getting it. At least, before you have a child, you should have your car already. At the same time, a man should bear in mind that in the future, he wouldn't be the only one in need of a car, his wife also would need one.

3. ***I am ready to marry because I have no loans, debts or overwhelming mortgage to pay. I am ready financially and physically.***

If you are a student, work as a volunteer, or serve in the army, work as a contractor and so on - you are still too young to marry. A student must understand his priorities today, do what is necessary today, and leave marriage for later. It is for a reason, even the Bible says, "a newly married man must not be drafted into the army or be given any other official responsibilities. He must be free to spend one year at home, bringing happiness to the wife he has married.

In addition, do not marry if you have financial obligations, that is, loans or debts. You should only marry, if you're not bound by any financial obligations and if you're not a student. If you do are still in school, then do your best and study: there is no need to rush, you should finish your studies first, and then move to the next.

If you ignore these rules, then you are acting in wickedness and dishonesty to your bride.

How can a man act unfair and dishonest to a woman?

- If you have debts, and you don't have a house, a car, and you can't readily provide food on the table, it’s a disaster! If you cannot give her as much attention as she deserves, you are treating her badly. This is not a solid foundation in a family, but a deadly pit. It's a disappointment. It's a pure betrayal. This shows that you do not really like your bride, but you just want to take advantage of her. When you marry, your debts extend to her, and this is already a betrayal.
- If you do not have a financial base, but to please your future bride, you borrow a car, clothes from a friend to convince her but you are actually deceiving her. She thinks that you are somebody genuine and responsible, but in fact, you do not even have normal

trousers. You have to be yourself. Remove the mask. You cannot marry until you have the conditions necessary for it. All these things must be planned before time. The mistake of men is often self-confidence. But, in this case, ask yourself the question - if you really love a girl, why are you dragging her into these problems?

4. ***My budget allows me to support my family.***

You should get married if you know that your monthly budget is sufficient not only for one person but for you, for your wife, your parents and hers and a little bit more.

Why is it important to make sure that your own income is enough for the maintenance of the family? Because some men require their wife to contribute 50% to the income of the family. But she has the right not to work at all and just enjoy life. She should know that leaving her parents and marrying you, means should not be responsible for material needs.

In my book on preparing women for marriage, "Am I ready to be a wife?" One of the necessary qualities for a woman among other things is her ability not to be a burden to her husband, but to be self-sufficient, which includes financial independence from whomever she's married to. However, this requirement for a woman in no way removes the responsibility of the man for providing for his family. The woman’s income is a matter of her responsible attitude towards marriage, and this is only an indicator of her willingness to take responsibility for her life; this is confirmation that the solution of material problems is not the reason why a girl marries. But the financial well-being of the bride should not be a reason for you, the head of the family to be financially irresponsible and to share financial responsivity for the family with her.

From the beginning of time, a man has been considered the provider of the family. In this age of new technologies and new thinking, this truth must remain unshakable. If a man wants to have a strong family, a happy wife and well-bred children, he should remain responsible for the financial provision of his family.

This is the first reason why a man should not count on the wife's help in sustaining the family budget. The second reason is that the woman, due to her nature shouldn't be burdened with the task of earning and providing for her family.

In other words, if a man marries a girl with a good high-paying position and plans a family budget with regards to her income, she can be on maternity leave

at any time, and then on leave to take care for the child, then for the second, then, and possibly for the third , and so on. In this case, the budget will be empty, and the husband's income will go for the baby's diapers. How long will such a family last?

For this reason, the man who is going to marry a woman should rely solely on his own strength and income for his family's provision. The income of the wife is a secondary, additional income, which she, ideally, could spend at her own discretion. If you want to add your wife's income to your general family budget, then you should take it as a bonus. You know how companies add bonuses and allowances for doing well at work. It's always a nice to get bonuses that would increase your salary, but if in a month you don't get any bonus, it wouldn't be a problem because you would still have your salary anyway. This should be the attitude of a man to his wife's income.

Finally, I would like to touch once again on the topic of finances in relations with parents. The Bible says that the husband must cling to his wife. But often young people, having married, remain to live with their parents, and then problems arise in the young family. Dear man, if you are already thirty-forty years old, and you are still dependent on your parents, do you consider yourself a real man? In that case, you have not yet taken responsibility even for yourself - how much more to take responsibility for a woman and your future children? You're still too young to marry. First, you need to work on yourself and do not rush to get married.

In this chapter, we have considered the eight condition of a man's readiness for marriage- his financial stability.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I’d advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Who is responsible for the financial support of the family...**
    a. wife (1)
    b. the husband (4)
    c. both spouses (2)

2. **The family budget is calculated taking into account the following sources:**
    a. the salary of the one who gets more in the family (2)
    b. only the salary of the head of the family - the husband (6)
    c. salaries of all working family members (3)
    d. the salary of a husband, wife, assistance of parents, relatives, social benefits (1)
3. **You are considered financially secured to create a family, if...**
    a. you have a job(4)
    b. you have a place to live (2)
    c. you have a car (3)
    d. you have a job and own a house(5)
    e. you have wealthy parents or relatives who can help you financially (1)
    f. if you have a good paying job, house and savings. You have a car now or would be getting one soon. (6)

1. **I am sure that you will be able to support your family, because...**
    a. there will be for some days, and other days I know God will not leave me, but he will provide when the need arises (2)
    b. of my clever wife. Just as I do, she earns well and together we will have a decent budget (4)
    c. I have enough for myself. She also has saved enough for herself. Hence, after the wedding and we will continue to live. If there are children, the government will pay a subsidy for them. I do not see any problems (1)
    d. I have little savings (4)
    e. I have ideas on how to develop my business (3)
    f. I have a stable source of income today, which is enough to support a family of several people and the issue of housing has been resolved (6)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 10 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

11-16 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

17-19 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

20-22 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 9

I AM SPIRITUALLY

MATURED FOR MARRIAGE

In the previous chapter, we discussed the eighth sign of a man's readiness for marriage, his financial stability to sustain his future family. What is the next condition for creating a strong family? A man ready for marriage must be able to say:

I'm Spiritually Mature, and I Have an Active Relationship with God

> In this dark world, consider only spiritual wealth to be true, for it will never depreciate.
>
> ***Omar Khayyam***

> Man is a spiritual being. What protects the spirit is good. What belittles the spirit is evil.
>
> ***Winston Churchill***

The topic of this chapter is very relevant because the level of spirituality of a modern man is constantly being tested. The negative example and the influence of the environment, the media and even the state policy, which is asserted by laws that are far from the norms of morality and spirituality - all these stands in the way of elevating Christian values in the man. In order to maintain firm moral and spiritual guidelines in this chaos, a man needs to be spiritual matured, that is, to have God as his inner core.

Often husbands do not want to assume their role as the head of the family, especially in the part that relates to spiritual life. This invariably affects the state of the wife, which was created by God as a helper to her husband, but not as the head of the family, especially since she is not the spiritual leader of the family.

To illustrate what will happen in a family where a man does not have spiritual maturity, let's consider the story of Ruslan and Mary.

Before the wedding, the young couple had known each other for several years and had enough time to get to know each other well. Before meeting Mary, Ruslan did not think seriously about marriage. However, the first time he saw this wonderful girl, he immediately realized his fate. If at all he was going to marry, then he would like to marry this kind of wife - someone who is modest,

but queenly, a good mistress, but not a housewife, knows how to submit herself, but not a flirt. More than her external qualities, Ruslan was attracted by Mary's internal qualities. The girl was a Christian and served as a volunteer in the church, where she served every Sunday. By the way, it was thanks to her volunteer work they met each other.

Ruslan was a driver in an orphanage visited by a volunteer team headed by Mary. At first, Ruslan was joking about her lifestyle- it was unusual for him to see a young girl who reads the Bible every day and goes to church more often than the Easter holiday. But the more he communicated with her, the closer and clearer his views became to him. Ruslan did not notice how he himself went to church with Mary. It turned out that all his previous ideas about God and Christians were wrong - in the church where his girlfriend went, he met with many young, modern and socially active people. Their lives were interesting and dynamic; they had values and beliefs; it evoked respect in Ruslan. Soon Ruslan accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and learned that fellowship with God brings peace, joy and gives the wisdom to live, and is not a boring ritual for grandmothers in black handkerchiefs. In addition, after coming to church, Ruslan's life miraculously changed - he left bad habits, which he could not get rid of for many years. Then, one day while talking to a neighbor on the stairs, he said that he was no longer drinking or smoking - and it turned out that he was just looking for a driver for his director who doesn't drink. Thus, Ruslan changed his job and now received twice as much salary as before. Everything was improving as best as possible.

By the time he and Mary announced their engagement, Ruslan was already an active member of the charity organization and an assistant pastor of the church. Everyone predicted a great future for him. Soon after the long-awaited wedding, Ruslan became homesick. Problems at work left less and less time for the charity programs, which previously brought meaning to his life. He had to stop going for the outreaches because he is now the head of the family and must earn money. Then there was another unpleasant event - the employer changed his working schedule, and now Ruslan was forced to work on Sundays, so he couldn't attend Sunday services anymore. Ruslan sadly recalled how at the onset of his Christian life, he eagerly awaited the weekend and flew to the church like on wings. Now everything has changed - he is no longer single, He has Mary as his wife, and he must be responsible for his family. Let her go to church, while I earn money, Ruslan decided at that moment. He couldn't say, he never felt that he was moving away from God and was losing the joy and energy that he had before. But what

could he do? His wife advised him to at least to read the Bible every day, as he had done in the old days, but Ruslan was less and less able to find the opportunity to read, and it came to the point that he forgot where his placed his Bible. So what was his conclusion? He reassured himself that all families live like his. It is enough to have one believer in the family.

Ruslan's problem was that he forgot the way to God, but the problems did not forget its way to him. The difference between the one who communicates with God, and those who do not, is that the former is given the power to solve life's problems, while the latter tries to do it himself and lose.

Stress at work brought Ruslan back to his bad habits. When the authorities discovered that their non-drinking driver was drinking and smoking, he was immediately fired. Due to his joblessness, Ruslan fell into a depression; as a result, he could meet up the financial responsibilities towards his wife, or to even fill up their empty refigerator. Yesterday's breadwinner of the family now spent his days with a swollen face, sitting on the couch and staring at one point. Although Ruslan understood that life is not over though he was fired. So, it was necessary that he puts himself together, get up and live on - however, he could not find the strength to do it all. He understood that he was responsible for the family - and from this, he was angry with himself and, for some reason with his wife. As a result, Ruslan began to raise his voice at Mary, finding fault with every little thing. At such moments, he hated himself, but he could do nothing with himself. Having lost his inner core and self-esteem, he couldn't see himself as the leader and head in his house. After his scandals, drunkenness began, and when Ruslan awoke from another drinking episode, he discovered that he no longer had any family.

Dear man, consider yourself ready for marriage no sooner than you are confident that you are a spiritual person. You're mature and strong. You have established an incredible, reliable relationship with your Creator. You don't live for yourself alone - but for God and for people. You must have a firm internal understanding that you, as a man, are the image of God on earth, and this determines your position as the head of the family, a protector and provider.

To get a deeper understanding of the question of spirituality, let us consider the meaning of this word.

The explanatory dictionary of Efremova gives the following definition:

The meaning of the word spirit

1. Philosophical concept, meaning immaterial being, consciousness, mind,

thinking, and mental abilities.
2. Intangible and -according to religious beliefs - a supernatural, divine principle in man; soul.

1. State of mind, mood.
2. Moral strength, readiness for action.
3. World-view, perspective or mindset.
4. Characteristic features, basic properties, the essence of something.

Explanatory dictionary of the Russian language (Ozhegov S., Shvedova H):
Spirituality is the property of the soul, consisting in the predominance of spiritual, moral and intellectual interests over the material.
General psychology. Dictionary. (Edited by AV Petrovsky):
Spirituality is

1. the highest level of development and self-regulation of a mature personality, on which the highest human values become the main motivational and semantic regulators of his life activity.
2. Outside the theological interpretation, Spirituality in ordinary consciousness is understoo0d as a highly developed form of the psychic, as a highly moral principle in the psychic life, as an aspiration for the ideal, the capacity for self-analysis of actions and experiences, etc. In this case, usually, Spirituality (high culture feelings, thoughts and actions) and lack of spirituality (their low culture, earthiness, selfish orientation, etc.).

D.A. Leontiev, A.V. Petrovsky
Philosophical Dictionary:
Spirituality is...

1. Immateriality, intangibility
2. Fullness of the spirit of creativity;
3. The process of harmonious development of man's spiritual abilities. In the theological sense, spirituality is the stay of one spirit or another in the human soul, the connection of the soul with the spirit; lack of spirituality is the absence of spirit in the soul, the interruption of the connection of the soul with the spirit.

Thus, we see that spirituality, expressed in the academic language, is the connection of the soul with the spirit.

How can a person establish this connection? First, it is necessary to turn to God in prayer and recognize Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Then keep in touch with God through reading the Bible. Having created man, God is the Author of life. And the Bible is given to mankind, as an instruction to life and a source of spirituality. The scripture is the key to solving life's problems and the inexhaustible source of the spiritual and physical energy of a Christian. John M. Templeton, one of the richest people in the world, the author of the book "World Laws of Life" said:

Prayer gives you spiritual energy.

This man is the creator of a huge business empire. But he emphasizes the role of prayer and fellowship with God in that he was able to achieve such success in life. John Templeton describes the prayer as a concentrated effort of human consciousness, aimed at "adjusting" this consciousness to the consciousness of the Creator. Pointing out that since ancient time’s prayer in one form or another was present in almost every culture that would have been studied and described, he correctly noted that the desire to adjust to some more elevated point of view is the innate property of our soul. As we grow older, our lives become more difficult; our worries are overwhelming, for many, and prayer looks like an unattainable goal - I would like you to practice it daily, there is nothing impossible. In fact, everyone has the opportunity - it's only a matter of prioritization. What we consider to be really important, there will always be a time in our daily schedule. No wonder one of the main directions of Holy Scripture, in the book The First Epistle to Thessalonians, in the fifth chapter, the seventeenth verse, is: "Pray without ceasing".

This truth is also emphasized by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, an American writer, a religious leader who developed a combination of psychotherapy and religion based on the idea that almost all of the basic problems are personal, one of the founders of the concept of "Positive thinking". He states the following: "If you want to take advantage of the incomparable power of prayer, start praying immediately, and keep doing it every time you can." Those who call prayer the most powerful weapon on earth are right.

How can a man start if he wants to establish a relationship with God and begin to grow spiritually? To begin with, you should sincerely say the words of the prayer of repentance. It should be words coming from your heart, which you will ask God to become your Father and recognize the Son of God, Jesus Christ as

your Savior. In order to make it easier for you to find the right words for your first acquaintance with God, here is an example of prayer:

PRAYER FOR REPENTANCE

Heavenly Father! I come to you in prayer, realizing all my sinfulness. I believe Your Word. I believe that you accept everyone who coming to you. Lord, forgive all my sins and be merciful to me. I do not want to live the same life. I want to belong to You.

Jesus! Come into my heart and cleanse me. Be my Savior and Shepherd. Lead my life. I confess you, Jesus Christ, my Lord. I thank you for hearing my prayer, and by faith, I accept your salvation. Thank you, my Savior, for accepting me as I am. Amen.

Spiritual Maturity

Many cultures and religions of the world emphasize that the degree of maturity of a man is determined by his spiritual maturity.

What does the term "spiritual maturity" include?

A man must understand who he is, know his place under the sun, understand why he came to this world, and be sure that he did not come from a monkey, but is a descendant of Adam, that is, the son of God. Accordingly, he is subject to the rights and duties expressed in the Holy Scriptures. In the Bible, in Matthew: 20-28, it is said, "For the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." The spiritual goal of creating a family is to serve another person, and, if necessary, a willingness to give his life for them. That is why a person who is integral and ready for marriage is a spiritually developed person.

In addition to the fact that a man must be spiritually strong for his own sake, it is important to develop his spirituality also because as the head of the family, he is the protector and patron of the wife, children and all others. And, first of all, the protection is not physical, but spiritual.

For example, when my wife is next to me, she is sure that she is safe. Not just because I'm physically strong - although this is also important, but because she feels the spiritual covering I provide. God created us men so that if we realize that we are the protection of our women, then in our presence they feel safe. We, men, are called to protect our families and, above all, wives spiritually, psychologically, and financially. And, of course, we will not be able to fulfill this mission without having the spiritual strength that we draw from the Highest.

As the head of the family, the husband must solve all the problems that arise in it. The husband must also be the priest of the family. What does it mean? This means that he exercises spiritual guidance of the family, encourages his spouse to love and serve God. The Bible says that Jesus is the head of the Church, and the husband is the head of the family. If you, dear reader, are not yet mature enough to be the spiritual leader of your future family - you still need to work on yourself.

What is the responsibility of the spiritual leader of the family? It is necessary, in biblical language, to build an altar for sacrifice to the Lord. As applied to everyday life, this means that you, as the head of the family, must become the foundation of the spiritual rules and principles of your family, by which you will honor God. An example of such actions, we all see in Hollywood movies, where every American family before sitting down at the table, they pray holding hands. In a minute, they are done with a brief blessing of the food. Similar rules are present in one form or another in all Christian families.

In doing so, the husband calls on God's protection, God's care, God's provision for his family. That is why, a joint family prayer, reading the Bible or singing psalms, should be present in your family daily.

If you want to be successful in your daily life, in your family, in your business, and if want your family to be protected from unpleasant surprises, you must have a family "altar". This means that every day, at a certain time, your family should devote time to God and ask for His protection.

A Man is a Spiritual Leader for His Children

A man as the head of the family has the responsibility of giving spiritual guidance and direction in life to his children. If the father does not invest confidence in his children and gives them coverage and protection, it results to the problem of fatherless children in the society.

The must necessarily and importantly train his children in the ways of God: reading the Bible, fulfilling the tasks of the Sunday school, and praying with them every day. Of course, the wife engages the children more, but, as for the spiritual covering, the father must give it to his children. Each dad should communicate and talk with his children every day, developing in them a certainty and a sense of security. To do this, there must be a purposeful program, when all the children gather near their father and communicate, and you can also use different methods: conversations, games, joint prayers, excursions, etc.

Also, concerning spiritual blessings of the children, a man can perform through

the rite of blessing described in the Bible - every evening or morning children can come to their father to receive a blessing.

However, you should pay attention to this- if you just pray with the children, this does not give a tangible result. You must first invest in them important values, not just prayer. In schools and institutes, children are taught many useful sciences, like mathematics, but no one teaches them values. It is your responsibility, as men, to give your children the right values. Even moms do not, because they have another role in the family. This role is similar to the role of Martha in the Bible: they care that everyone should eat, that everyone is at the table, or that their lessons are done well. Mom does her part in the work of raising children, but this does not bring up the right values. In addition to this fuss, the father must instill values as the basic fundamental principles. These values must be the foundation for the children.

Children, who lack spiritual leadership and guidance in their childhood, can be described as children who: "grew up without a father." This does not necessarily mean that there was no man in the family at all. He might have been present and even been of good attitude, not drinking or smoking. But, if he does not invest values in his children, he is just present as a piece of furniture, but he is not the father or the head of the family. If a man is not engaged in the spiritual development of his children purposefully, then we can say that he is absent. The physical presence of a father does not mean anything by itself!

In conclusion, I appeal to those men whom this chapter made them think about and see their spiritual imperfection. Just as God had foreseen the time for the oak to grow, He had provided sufficient time for that man who decides to take responsibility for the family to grow spiritually. Growing up in Christ takes time; it won't be in a day.

An immature apple is not fit for food. But this does not mean that it should be thrown away, as unfit. It is not fit for food because God has not yet finished working on it, and now it is growing and maturing.

Do you feel that your spiritual maturation is too slow? Remember that God continues to work on you! He will do this all the time, all your life, until the last day, until he summons you home. The main thing is to know Christ and be like Him. And then slowly, but surely - under the blue sky, and in the storm wind, He will lead you to maturity. It's His business - how fast the process should go. There are no short paths in spiritual growth.

So, in this chapter we have considered the ninth quality that a future husband should have, planning to build a strong family - spiritual maturity.

In this chapter, we have considered the ninth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family-he must be spiritually matured.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **The spiritual maturity of a man means that...**
    a. he does not deny the existence of God and the operation of spiritual laws in the life of every person (3)
    b. this man believes that there is a certain Higher power that controls everything (1)
    c. he considers himself spiritual, and on holidays he goes to the church (2)
    d. he has a personal relationship with God. Solving problems and personal crises, he is looking not to people, but in the Bible. He knows about the power of prayer. Spiritual needs predominate over material needs (4)
2. **In the event of problems (personal, financial, family, career), a spiritually mature man will act as follows:**
    a. he is strong, so he does not count on anyone. All problems will be solved independently (2)
    b. will not do anything in the hope that God will help (1)
    c. first solve the problem in the spiritual world (using the power of prayer), and then solve it in the physical - go, and take action. (3)
3. **In the family, the spiritual education of children should be engaged by...**
    a. one of the spouses who have time and desire (2)
    b. wife, she is also a mother (1)
    c. father, as head and spiritual leader of the family (4)
4. **A spiritually immature man in family life will face...**
    a. the discovery that a married man does not need to be spiritual, or

else his wife will "sit on his neck" (1)

b. the desire to "solve" problems with alcohol, to relax and relieve stress (2)
c. problems and challenges that he is not able to solve, because there is no wisdom and understanding of how to proceed (3)
d. the understanding that without a spiritual core, marital life turns into an endless period of trials(4)

The sum of your points...

TEST RESULTS

Less than 5 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

5-7 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

8-11 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

12-15 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 10

I AM ALREADY FULFILLING MY CALLING

In the previous chapter, we examined the ninth quality that a man who is going to build a strong family must be spiritually matured.

The next quality for a man who is ready to be a husband and to create a successful family in the future lies in this statement:

He Must Already be Fulfilling His Purpose.

"An individual is born, he lives, produces offspring, continues existing until he dies, with not a trace of his existence. On the contrary, a person has his own goal and purpose: he doesn't lives to prolong his days on earth, but also to realize himself. "

What our deepest self-craves is not mere enjoyment, but some supreme purpose that will enlist all our powers and will give unity and direction to our life. We can never know the most profound joy without a conviction that our life is significant-not a meaningless episode. The loftiest aim of human life is the ethical perfecting of humankind-the transfiguration of humanity...

HENRY J. GOLDING

Well-known to all human wisdom, formulated in the eastern proverb, prescribes that each person performs a vital calling to perform three important things: plant a tree, build a house and raise a son. The wisdom in this quote indicates to a person that his life should be given to other people, because both the tree, the

house, and, finally, the son are just symbols of different kinds of service. Heroes that we honor, biblical personalities, great people, kings, generals, politicians and even pop stars are all examples of selfless service to humanity. Their service is so different that it is sometimes very difficult to compare, for example, Mother Teresa and Mel Gibson. And some such comparison will seem blasphemous. Nevertheless, both of these individuals served humanity with the gift God gave them. They managed to recognize the gifts in them and use it in fulfilling their purpose.

"Are you going to work?" Last year you promised my father that you would find a place.

"I do not need to work, Sarah." You will bring me to tears. You should be happy that I do not have to pore-like some fool, in boring work, trying to feed myself.

"Father thinks it would be helpful." And I think so too. "These were the bravest words for their short married life, the last night she lay awake, wondering what she would say to him. She wanted to have a real husband and family before she gives birth to a child..."

This dialogue belongs to the author of women's novels, the world-famous writer Daniela Steel. In each of her 100 books, she writes about what her readers are most concerned about - marital problems. The strength of these stories is that the author models them, relying on her own experience because the writer herself was unsuccessfully married 5 times. If you do not want to become a participant of such a dialogue one day, you should decide what you want from life, where your gifts and talents can be used best, in short, what is your purpose? Having determined it, you need to move in this direction in such a way that by the time you create a family you have already moved along the path of self-realization. Otherwise, you risk being caught up in the maelstrom of family problems, vanity and the need to earn money - and your purpose will remain unfulfilled, and you will live an unsatisfied life.

The secret of happiness is not to do what you like, but to follow your purpose!

UNKNOWN AUTHOR

The problem with the absence of meaning to life is the lack of understanding of one's life's purpose, the reason for which I was born and why I am alive. Why is it important to understand the meaning of your life? Why is it not enough for a person to simply live his life: go to work during the day, sleep at night, and at weekend rest?

We all know that a person does not have a conscious influence on the process

of his birth; that is, he is born not because he wanted it himself. Similarly, a person does not have power over his body - he is not able at his own will to start or stop a disease, aging, death and many other processes taking place within him.

This means that the cause of the birth, life and death of a person is not his desire to be born, exist or die. By whose will, then, was he born, lives and dies? For people who believe, the answer to this question is obvious. Any life arises and proceeds according to the will of the Creator.

The conclusion is if there is an external will in relation to the life of man, then, probably, there is also the external meaning by which this life is filled. Man, created in the image and likeness of God has a unique opportunity to realize this meaning and become a conscious accomplice in its realization.

The term “calling” denotes the meaning of human life in the Bible, which is given to a person at the time of his birth, and is realized by him at different ages. At the same time, not only an individual has a calling, but also a whole people can have a calling. This is indicated by the following verse from the Bible:

> **"The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away"**
>
> *Isaiah 49: 1-2*

Fulfilling Purpose Answers the Question of Responsibility

For a believing person, finding and following one's purpose is not just a matter of personal fulfillment. In many respects, it is his responsibility to God for the use of those talents that were given to him, as a resource necessary for the realization of the God's will (see the parable of talents in the Bible, Matthew, chapter 25, verse 13-30).

It is for this reason that every man must know and fulfill his calling.

To Fulfill Your Calling, You Must Take Real Steps Towards It

So, dear man, you cannot get married until after you have embarked on the path of fulfilling your calling. Until this happens, you cannot marry. Before that, you must forget about women in general. To embark on the path of your calling, it does not mean just knowing that one day you will be the President of Ukraine - but this means that you must, at least, join a party; to become a doctor - you must finish your studies at a medical school. To take steps in the path of your calling means to enter the process of fulfilling your purpose, or becoming

someone and achieve some success in this field. I, for example, married only after I took the path in pastoring, and I already had 500 people in the church.

Why is it important for a man to fulfill his calling?

- A man, as Bulgakov correctly put it, is a Master, he is busy with something and completely absorbed in something. If this occupation is the woman herself - and only her, then the man loses his value in his woman's eyes. But if he is "in a business," then he involuntarily draws her attention. The man admits the woman into her "workshop", into her regal solitude, and she will appreciate it, having awarded the man with sincere respect.
- When a woman marries you, she needs stability in marriage. She wants to have the confidence that she and her child will live normally, and that she herself will be able to realize her purpose. The man, as the head of the family, has the responsibility to make her happy and help her in fulfilling her purpose. After all, God deposited in her no less potential than in man, and He also gave her a destiny.

How to Discover Your Purpose?

To determine your purpose, you should study my book on this topic, for example, the book "Who Am I, Why am I here, which I wrote to help people determine their purpose.

In general, I can give some advice on how to discover- think, what do you do best, and what do you like to do most of all? If you are interested in computers, perhaps your vocation is in this area, if you are fluent in languages, then perhaps you are destined to make a successful career as an interpreter. But this does not mean at all that if you become a programmer or an interpreter, you will be able to open your possibilities fully.

A Good Profession does not Equal Purpose

If a profession suits you more than others do, it does not mean that this is your calling.

Before you think about purpose, find your life goal; understand what you want from life in general. Get rid of illusions and learn to rejoice in what you have.

How to Fulfill Your Purpose

After you have established what you want to do in life, and what your destiny

is, you should start implementing it. What steps should you take to start moving towards the realization of your destiny?

I would advise that you adhere to the following plan:

Step one. Know yourself; define "Who am I".

Step two. Define your values and beliefs.

Step three. Study about your calling.

Step Four. Develop a strategic plan to achieve your goal.

Step five. Keep your focus on your goal.

In this chapter, we have considered the tenth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- he must already start fulfilling his purpose.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **The purpose of a man's life is...**
    a. going to work (1)
    b. having a hobby (2)
    c. knowing the reason why he came to this world (3)
2. **It is important for every person to find and fulfill his calling, because...**
    a. it's fashionable (1)
    b. You can earn from this (2)
    c. You will realize your potential; will fill your life with meaning and significance (4)
3. **If a man marries, without starting to fulfill his purpose, then in marriage he...**
    a. will achieve his goals more quickly because his wife will help him (1)
    b. will achieve goals more slowly, because family cares will distract him from his global plans (3)

c. risks never starting to fulfill his calling, because the beginning is the most difficult. The problems and need to provide for his family will leave him no time to start a big business from scratch (4)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 4 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

4-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-9 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

10-11 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

PART 2

YOUR PREPARATION AS REGARDS YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR FUTURE WIFE

INEVITABLE CONDITIONS FOR A SUCCESFUL MARRIAGE

CHAPTER 11

I AND MY FIANCÉE ARE NOT IN CONFLICT

In the previous chapter, we considered the tenth condition that a man must fulfill in order to prepare himself for a successful marriage, which is to for him to start fulfilling his calling. The next condition a man must fulfill in readiness for marriage is, there must be the absence of conflicts in your relationships with your fiancée. You must be able to say with confidence and certainty:

I and My Fiancée are not in Conflict

PARABLE

Do not Always Be Right

In one small city, there were two families in the neighborhood. One couple constantly quarreled, blaming each other for all the troubles and trying to prove out who was right and who's to blame, while the other couple lived together with neither quarrels nor scandals.

The unyielding wife is always amazed by the happiness of her neighbor. She was very jealous. She then said to her husband:

- Go and see how our neighbors live in peace and harmony. Her husband left for the next house and hid behind the window. He began watching what was happening in their home. The wife was just putting the house in order and cleaning an expensive vase covered with dust. Suddenly the telephone rang, the woman was distracted and placed the vase on the edge of the table, so much so that it was about to fall.

Her husband so the vase's position, but then he needed something in the room, so he ignored it. However, when he noticed it was about falling, he tried catching the vase; unfortunately, it fell and crashed into pieces.

"Oh, this is the end!", - the neighbor thinks.

His wife came up, sighed with regret, and said to her husband:

- Sorry honey. I am guilty. I didn't accurately position the vase on the table.

"What do you mean, dear?" It's my fault. I was in a hurry and did not notice the vase quickly. Anyway, we would not have this repeat itself anymore dear.

...His neighbor's heart was touched painfully. He came home upset.

His wife said to him:

- Well, what took you so long? Did you see them?

- Yes!

- Well, how are they?

"They both take all the blame on themselves individually." But we try to blame each other to find who is right and wrong.

Psychologist Carl Rogers gives a useful comparison that all couples who seek the secret of conflict-free relationship should remember: "People are just as wonderful as sunsets if you let them be. When I look at a sunset, I don't find myself saying, "Soften the orange a bit on the right-hand corner." I don't try to control a sunset. I watch with awe as it unfolds." It's good if we also treat those we love."

Dear reader, I think, it is unnecessary I remind you that conflicts in relationships are one of the most common causes of divorce in families. Most time, conflicts do not arise immediately after when couples meet, but after a certain time. Often times, disagreements and conflicts begin after they get married. Until you get married, you and your fiancée do not have any reason to conflict. You don't have joint financial difficulties; there's no reason to get mad at the mess after you arranged and tidied the house because you do not live together, and finally, you aren't bored with each other because you are not together for the most part of your day. At the stage of dating or courtship, each partner tries to show off his or her best side, and often times, the character flaws and weaknesses are not yet visible.

However, it also happens that a man and a woman are too far apart from each other due to their personal, social, cultural, spiritual and other characteristics - in this case, misunderstanding and conflicts arise between them even before they start their family. It is for this reason that I advise young men not to hurry with the wedding immediately after meeting a woman, even if you are sure that you have met the love of your life. It is likely that after one or two years of dating, you will be able to consider not only her virtues but also her character flaws and negative qualities. Even if you have a normal, conflict-free relationship with a girl, you need to make sure that this is due to the genuine absence of disagreements, and not because the girl simply restrains herself and is silent when she would like to voice her opinion.

In this case, eventually she will get used to it, and you will hear later everything that she has not said now. It is important that your fiancée is genuine with you in solidarity. Then the probability is great that after the wedding she will not turn

into a wife who is destroying her husband. If the girl does not suit you according to her views on life, character, temperament, upbringing, cultural level, then such differences will eventually lead to disagreements in life together. It is important to fully reveal the nature of your fiancée in the period of courtship, and not when you marry her because it will be too late to change anything.

Also, you should note reasons for conflicts, such as elementary disagreements and bad manners of your fiancée. Some girls, due to improper education, a bad example from their environment or a bad model of behavior learned from women's magazines, tries to get attention through arguments, demanding that her desire is met quickly, thus affirming and amusing her "female vanity." Some women feel important when other people are pushing them around. Most young men in love definitely love this role, when they are dating a girl with this mindset.

While the man has his eyes blinded with love, he is ready to do anything for his wife. He is not aware that the young woman has a problem. He still perceives her whims as pretty pranks. But, after marrying this stubborn woman, he definitely would not want to endure with her antics all through his life. Here is the ground for conflicts.

> Do not marry people who fit together only in certain conditions of life and will not concede if these conditions change; but unite people who will agree with to each other, no matter the position they may find themselves, or country they live, or position they turn out to be "
>
> ***JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU***

A favorable sign is when you and your fiancée don't have frequent conflicts because even with contrasting opinions, you both can always agree. However, there are some others who have love has blinded their perception; they need to know certain alarm signals in their relationship.

Let's consider these alarm signals:

They are:

1. **Frequent disputes between you both. Deceptive and deceitful attitude.**

   If during your friendship or courtship, you find that you always have conflicts or you can't easily agree on things. This is an alarm signal. It is better to break off the relationship.

   Alarm signals can also be subtle character traits or varieties of behavior:

it can be greed, or anger, disrespect, disappointing, rude, and hides information. They can be expressed differently, so you need to be careful. God always sends such signals to let you know you have to wake up! Open your eyes!

If someone is cunning or deceitful, these characters are not easily suppressed, if a woman expresses these characters even before she married - you need to ask yourself the question, what will she do when she becomes my wife?

Usually, negative qualities do not disappear but only multiply. Even couples who never used curse words during their engagement, after their wedding begin to curse themselves out in marriage. This is because, as we have already said, during courtship both parties try their best to show their best sides. There is no hope that in your marriage she will change. If you are concerned about anything, ask yourself, can I live with this for the rest of my life? Find in her those qualities and character traits that people usually hide, which are not on the surface. Analyze and find out if you can live with it? You really need to look at things as they really are and not having illusions. If you think that, you see a flaw in a girl, which means you are not only thinking, but also that the flaw is actually present.

2. **Your fiancée is heady and does not recognize your position as the man and the future head of your family.**

Dear men, let me give you another important piece of advice. Before you go ahead with your marriage plans with your fiancée, I advise you also to make sure that she is has a submissive nature or is working on this quality already. It is important to be sure that your fiancée is wise enough to recognize your position in the family. If, however, while in courtship with her, you didn't notice this attitude, then be sure that your future family life will be overshadowed by the constant struggle for leadership in your family. Speaking about the ability to submit to one's husband, my precious wife, Abosede Adelaja, expressed a wonderful recipe for happiness in the family on the pages of the book "Heavenly Atmosphere in the Family."

A woman needs to be a humble and submissive wife. This is her strength. It's easier to walk with your head up than to bend over, so the state of submission to your husband is a state of strength, not a state of weakness.

A JOKE

A husband said to his wife:

"I can agree with you, but then both of us will end up being wrong."

Concluding this chapter, I would like to give an example of one family. A young couple got married and, like most newlyweds, entered the period of "living together", which was accompanied by quarrels. Finally, both of them were sick of it; they found the wisdom to sit down and agree on rules that would guide their behavior in a conflict situation. As a result, they created nine "laws", which will help anyone, even if they are not married, to keep peace and harmony in relationship with others.

Laws for Peaceful Relationships

1. Take a pause when angry.
2. Do not rush to say a bad word, but repeatedly say good words.
3. If you are confident that the other is at fault, then you need to look for guilt in yourself.
4. A good word is good, but a good deed is even better.
5. Each step forward equals many days of joy.
6. Being able not only to take the place of another but also to be worthy to stand in his place.
7. Do not believe the one who is able to deceive himself.
8. The family word begins with "we".
9. Be a friend to her friends, and then your friends will become common friends.

In this chapter, we have analyzed the eleventh quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- the absence of conflicts in your relationship with his future bride.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **In your understanding, conflict in relationships is...**
    a. when communication occurs with quarrels, cries, insults, and assaults (1)
    b. when a girl often takes offense at me or makes a claim (2)
    c. the inability to find a common language in individual issues when the position of one of us is categorically incomprehensible to the second and not accepted by him (4)
2. **My relationship with my future bride is conflict-free, because...**
    a. we do not discuss complex issues and avoid controversial topics (1)

b. she always listens to me because I'm the man (3)
c. I always concede to her so as not to get into a confrontation (2)
d. we have already studied each other, and have learned to smooth out "difficult angles" in our relationship and come to a common solution even on difficult issues (4)

1. **If your future bride constantly argues with you or makes fun of you, it means that she...**
    a. has a strong personality with a good sense of humor (1)
    b. is capricious (2)
    c. likes to create scenes to assert her self-esteem (3)
    d. perhaps she does not recognize my position and the responsibility to lead in our relationship. I should end the relationship (4)
2. **If your bride comes from a family where scandals and conflicts were the norm, then you...**
    a. I will not pay attention to this. She is completely different, not like her mother (2)
    b. I do not care. I will be the winner in any conflict (1)
    c. I will closely watch her because she assimilates her parents' example of a relationship as a model. I have to make sure that my bride has a culture of communication and is not a potential source of conflict in the family (4)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 4 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

4-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-9 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

10-11 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 12

I AM IN A TRUSTWORTHY FRIENDSHIP WITH MY FIANCÉE

In the previous chapter, we considered the eleventh condition that a couple who decided to marry should have - a lack of conflict in their relationship. In this chapter, we will consider the extremely important condition that is necessary for the creation of a strong family. Can you say:

I Am in a Trustworthy Friendship with My Fiancée

"Marriage cannot be joyful if the spouses did not know the customs, habits and characters of each other before their union."

Honore de Balzac

A Fertile Soil is Required for a Successful Marriage

Psychologists have long established that marriages that grew out of friendship are often the strongest since they are built on good grounds - of trust and mutual respect.

In order for couples to become truly happy in their marriage, it is necessary that they really know each other and more objectively assess how harmonious their union will be. Of course, here we are talking about the soul, not the physical harmony. As time progresses in their courtship, the couples are more and more open to each other. If at the same time, their sympathy for each other grows, and desire to be together all their lives develops, then their relationship will gradually lead to marriage. The time for courtship is a time when you have the opportunity to check and examine each other, to understand how close is your worldviews, value system, to see the need for mutual compromises and assess your strength in overcoming inevitable contradictions and conflicts. This time is very important, because the quality of your relationship before marriage, directly affects your entire subsequent life together.

As we already know, in our modern society there are practically no educational programs or courses that would prepare young people for marriage. The

difficulties that arise in marriage might take the newlyweds by surprise. A man who just married a woman, at some point might begin to think, "What if I made a mistake in choosing my wife? Now that I've gotten to know her better, she does not look the same as I imagined her to be... “In this situation, a man can feel disappointed and even infuriated with his wife. How can you avoid such "surprises" that married people often encounter? For this, it is necessary to study the character and personality of your fiancée even before marriage. The easiest way to do this is to be her friend.

"A woman who is not and cannot be a friend to her husband cannot be a good wife."

THOMAS PAYNE

What is Friendship?

Friendship is a close relationship between people, based mainly on mutual respect and trust. It is brotherly love, lying deep in the heart, and not just something external.

In the Bible, the concept of friendship is conveyed by the Greek noun "philia" and the verb "phileo", which translates as "cherish" (by someone). This word means "warmth, closeness and affection". "Philia is a warm, brotherly love based on mutual respect. A spontaneous feeling in our heart. “According to the work of James Strong, the verb “phileo” means "to be someone else (love), that is, to express affection (meaning personal commitment, in which feelings prevail.)"

The friendly feelings, in no way, depend on either the gender of the person or his age. They can be very strong. However, these feelings have no carnal or fleshly attraction.

Here is another great definition of the concept of friendship:

Friendship is a selfless personal relationship between people, based on love, trust, sincerity, mutual sympathy, common interests and hobbies. Mutual trust and patience are the indispensable signs of friendship. People connected with each other by friendship are called friends.

“A single soul dwelling in two bodies.”

ARISTOTLE

A TRUE-LIFE STORY.

Nicholas was already a mature man when he met Elena. He understood people and considered himself a specialist in female psychology. It was not difficult for

him to see in Elena all those qualities that he considered important for a woman - she had an amazing softness of character and an easy temper, as opposed to him. Perhaps that is why Nicholas fell in love with this girl so quickly. Opposites often attract.

He was also impressed by the real and genuine personality his chosen woman possessed. Next, to her, he felt like a real man. Elena had a romantic nature while Nikolai was a pragmatist. Perhaps this is for their good, he assured himself. He's the head of the family and should be tough, and she should be soft. Less than half a year, Nicholas asked for Elena's hand and heart and in marriage. Of course, she agreed. However, just one month after the wedding, Nicholas began to notice disturbing changes in his attitude towards his wife. Those qualities, which at the beginning of the relationship seemed to him as little things, began to irritate him more and more. One day he realized that he did not see anything in common with his wife. They reacted differently to the simplest things, had opposite opinions on almost all issues - from politics to the upbringing of children. Then Nicholas thought, "What does he actually know about this woman he married who fries his eggs in the morning?" He knew that friends converge on the principle of identity or at least respect for each other's differences. But with Elena, in addition to her romantic personality and softness, he later realized she had another quality, she cared the least about things that were important to her. Many questions started springing up in the mind of Nicholas, and soon it was difficult for Nicholas to agree with his wife on any subject. As a man, he did not intend to endure this, but in her opinion, she was okay. Nicholas realized that if he had taken time to have a little chat with Elena before the wedding, just as friends, and not as romantic mates, he would have recognized many aspects of his wife's nature that were hidden from him.

Sadly, every day millions of men repeat Nicholas's mistake. Being in love, they are absorbed in romantic experiences, and because of this, they forget to be friends with their fiancées. As a result, they lose an invaluable opportunity to learn from another, and this will lay the foundation for any future relationship.

Often times, the reason why a man does not even try to make friends with a girl is the false belief that there can be no friendship between a man and a woman. Let's consider the reasons for such an assertion and verify its truth.

The Possibility or Impossibility of Friendship Between the Men and the Woman

According to various statistical studies, about 65-70 percent of people consider friendship between a man and a woman possible. It is a curious fact that about 90% of people answer the question about the possibility of such friendship based on personal experience. From this it can be concluded that the question "is friendship between a man and a woman possible" is almost identical to the question "can you personally be friends with a person of the opposite sex?" When people say whether friendship with a person of the opposite sex is possible, in 9 cases out of 10, they mean what their personal experience of inter-sex friendship has led to.

Typically, with age, men, on average, tend to believe less in inter-sex friendship, while women, on the contrary, and believe more.

Now that we have established that the friendship between a man and a woman actually exists and is even scientifically proven let us look at ways on how this friendship can be developed.

How to Develop Friendship With a Girl Properly?

In order to better know your fiancée and, especially, in building a friendship with her, you need communication. Use every opportunity available to be together, ask questions, and speak more to know her better as a person. You should not spend all your time alone. Often, it's easier to know a person by observing how he interacts with his or her surroundings. Try to spend time in a variety of activities so that you can observe your fiancée in different situations. A tour together is a very opportunity to gain such knowledge. Vladimir Vysotsky said:

If you want to know a friend-

whether he is a friend or foe...

If you have never understood

Whether he's bad or good...

Take this guy to high mountains ,

Don't you leave him at once - Give him a chance,

Let him be in one link with you -

There you'll see who is who.

(V.VYSOTSKY)

Premarital Sex - a Sin or a Matter of Personal Choice?

Couples should abstain from premarital sex not only because it will prevent you from soberly assessing the nature of your partner, but also, primarily because God intended sex to be a reward for spouses, but not for those who are not legally married. Sex itself is not a sin, but it turns into one when it takes place outside of marriage. This is claimed by the world's leading religions and this, even recently, was reflected in the legislation of many countries around the world. Humankind has always followed the biblical wisdom from time immemorial and our grandparents adhered to the commandment "Do not commit adultery". But after a few generations have passed, the consequences of the "sexual revolutions" have turned the world upside down. It is no longer considered bad, but it is even encouraged that a man makes himself a Casanova. Cohabitation before marriage began got a fashionable term "civil marriage" and is promoted as a means of testing the certainty of a future relationship. Only inexorable statistics show that the vast majority of couples living in these so-called "civil marriages" never get to the registry office. That's why, a premarital relationship should not be turned into cohabitation, because sex is a reward that God intended exclusively for married couples.

Dear men, please be careful and wise in dealing with your fiancée- after all, when you choose a wife, she's your life partner, and you don't want you to make a lifetime mistakes.

In this chapter, we have considered the twelfth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family - he must have a trustworthy friendship with his fiancée.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I’d advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Friendship between a man and a woman is...**
    a. non-existent phenomenon (1)
    b. an excellent opportunity to know each other as an individual, not

just an object of the opposite sex (3)

c. a hidden way of caring for a girl (1)

2. **Do you think that you and your bride are friends, because...**
    a. she does not flirt with me, as on a date, but communicates seriously, as a person with a good personality (2)
    b. she shares her joys and sorrows with me and opens my soul to me as a true friend (4)
    c. she trusts me and tells secrets about her girlfriends (1)
    d. we spend leisure time together - excursions, walking on bicycles. Without flowers and romantic fantasies like good old friends (2)
3. **If a couple does not have time to build a friendship before their wedding, then they are expected in marriage...**
    a. new pleasant discoveries about each other (1)
    b. new unpleasant discoveries about each other (2)
    c. shock, because the romance will soon disappear, and the nature of the spouses will manifest without embellishment. If the couple did not make friends before the wedding - they do not know each other's shortcomings (3)
4. **Friendship differs from romantic relationships in that...**
    a. lasts longer than love (2)
    b. friends spend more boring time everyday than lovers (1)
    c. friends know about the shortcomings of each other, do not try to seem better than they are, and lovers show themselves only on the good side (3)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 5 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

5-7 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

8-10 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

11-13 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 13

I AM FREE ENOUGH TO DISCUSS ANY TOPIC WITH MY FIANCÉE

In the previous chapter, we talked about the necessity of a friendly relationship between the man and his fiancée. In this chapter, we will consider the thirteenth important condition that must be fulfilled before you go to marry. You must be able to say:

I am Free Enough to Discuss any Topic with My Fiancée

Every man needs to remember that he shouldn't get married to a lady until he has discussed all the questions and all aspects of his future life together with his fiancée without guile. What is your plan as a family as regards finances, the distribution of responsibilities in the family, your relationship to relatives, to sex, to children; what do you like and what you do not like, what you can accept and things that are unacceptable. These and many more questions should be spoken about in a frank and sincere conversation.

If it seems inconvenient for you to discuss personal and family issues before you both get married, believe me, it's better to discuss these topics in theory than to answer them in practice in your marriage when you and your wife are in constant disagreement about relatives, finances or upbringing of your children. Gaining knowledge of your differences in relation to the nuances of living together when you're already married is more expensive than in having a quiet conversation when you are not yet bound by your marriage vows.

Bernard Shaw said something interesting about this subject.

"When a woman chooses her husband, or when a man chooses his wife, they must think carefully about what kind of person they have chosen as their

husbands or wives. Is he an egoist or an altruist, one who loves to give orders or a team player, rude and domineering or an angel in the flesh, stingy or generous, circumspect or carefree, meek or vindictive, secretive or sociable, an interesting companion or a nerd - and yet a great many differences and colors that make marriages so different from each other."

In order for you to understand the kind of issues that should be discussed with your fiancée and what topics you should raise in conversation, I will give a list of questions. This list can be expanded at your discretion. If some items on this list seem insignificant or worthless to you, do not rush to cross them out, but rather ask them to your fiancée. Sometimes an ordinary question can be answered with an unusual response.

For example, let's take item 2 - the question of the desired number of children. Do not assume that your future wife, just like you, tends to have a "normal", generally accepted number of children - that is, one or two children. One of Angelina Jolie's husbands, Billy Bob Thornton, was so eager to marry her that he forgot to ask her about the number of offspring. But later it turned out that she had always dreamed of being a mother of many children, adopted children in different parts of the world. Once, participating in the filming that took place on the territory of Cambodia, she brought her first baby from there, and this was just the beginning. Now she has 6 children, and that husband has long escaped, giving way to Brad Pitt, who does not mind having a big family. Interestingly, Brad Pitt divorced his previous wife precisely because as an actress, she was not in a hurry to have children - and he turned out having always dreamed of a house full of children. Thus, it turns out that these famous pairs of Hollywood could have prevented a divorce in their relationships if they knew the information in this chapter.

For this reason, dear man, carefully read the questions below.

Questions that a Man Should Ask his Bride

1. What is love in your understanding?
2. How many children do you want to have (yours and adopted children)?
3. When would you like to have them? What methods of upbringing will we adhere to?
4. What do you expect from marriage?
5. What do you expect from me, as your husband?
6. How do you see our family?

7. How do you see your relationship with my parents?
8. How would you like me to treat your parents? Do you mind that we give them an envelope with money every month?
9. How often would you like us to visit your parents?
10. After the birth of our children, what gifts would you like to receive (car, coat, apartment...)?
11. How will we call our parents?
12. What kind of surname would you like to have after marriage?
13. Which church will we go to? Are you ready to follow me to my church or would you like me to go to your church?
14. Do you mind that I attend and assist you during childbirth?
15. What kinds of rest do you prefer, how do you see us resting together (do you prefer active or passive rest)?
16. If you have (the man) children from a previous marriage, ask what kind of relationship would you like us to have together and with my children from a previous marriage.
17. If she has children from her previous marriage, ask, how would you like me to treat your children? What status would you like me to have in relation to your child - as an older brother, as an uncle, should we provide them with education until university? How will his father treat him? During the holidays, will his father mind if we take the child with us, or should we take the child to him?
18. Would you like us to have pets in our house?

This list is given as an example and but is not exhaustive, so you can supplement it with any important questions for you.

Speaking about the need to discuss all the nuances of the future family life with your fiancée before marriage, I would also like to stress that the man needs to discuss the issue of finance. Many conflicts in families occur precisely for this reason. The main thing is to draft the support of your spouse. You must look in one direction, understand important actions that need to be made, make decisions together when drawing up a family budget, and understand the importance of keeping to a budget.

In the chapter on financial responsibility for the family, we have already discussed the question of who should be responsible for sourcing the family budget. But, having an understanding of the financial structure of your future

budget, you still need to discuss all financial matters with your fiancée before marriage.

What topics can be raised in a conversation about finance? For example, how to take care of her parents, will your children attend a private or public kindergarten, high-school, and university, how many places of work should you as the family breadwinner have according to your bride? Maybe she thinks it's natural for a man to have 3 jobs like her father? What does she think about drawing up a marriage contract? On what terms? If so, why? If not, why not? Does she expect to have a personal car, a helper, and a nanny for the children? As you can see, there are many questions to ask.

Looking ahead, I advise you in managing your family's finances, be sure to manage your family budget, distribute them according to pre-determined expenditure items, which you, of course, have determined together with your wife. You should also discuss in advance, who would be in charge of the budget. By doing this, the financial well-being of your family will have a solid foundation.

The next important part that you need to discuss is household responsibilities, especially when you start living together. Each spouse must know his or her responsibility in keeping the house. For example, you should agree on who will wash the dishes, who will iron, and who will clean up the house. Most of the divorce cases are due to little issues like a partner doesn't place the toothpaste right, doesn’t wash the dishes after us, did not buy bread, she does not prepare dinner in time, so all these questions are not as minor as they seem at first glance.

In this chapter, we have considered the thirteenth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- he must be open enough to have any form of discussion with his fiancée.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I’d advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Before the wedding, the man should always discuss issues such as...**
    a. who will pay for the wedding (1)

b. how do we name our first child (2)
c. Does she plan to have children at all, to build a career, to bring her parents to live with her, to wash, clean, cook, go shopping, leave her maiden name, lead the family budget, have a pet, have a personal car, etc. (4)

2. **Discussing all questions possible before the wedding is...**
   a. unnecessary hassle. It is impossible to discuss all the details in advance. Get married and then decide (1)
   b. a subtle psychological move. Both sides are now inclined to compromise, so it is much easier to negotiate (3)
   c. a wise behavior. All controversial issues must be resolved on the shore until the ship departs. Partners should be aware of all the fundamental differences in their views on the future family (4)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 3 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise, you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

3-4 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

5-6 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

7-8 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 14

I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR EACH

OTHER

From the previous chapter, you understood the importance of having an open discussion with your fiancée about all the nuances of your future life together.

In this chapter, we will consider the fourteenth sign of your readiness for marriage. Can you firmly say,

I Have Confidence in the Love We have for Each Other

What does it mean for a man to be confident the love he and his partner shares? This means that you can say: "The love we share is strong enough to last not just for a year or two, but for 10, 20, 50 years. I am ready to enter into a lifelong relationship with my partner."

To begin with, let's look at word love:

Basis of Understanding Love

Terminology

The complexity and multidimensionality of love gave rise to a significant number of interpretations of this concept in various languages, cultures throughout the history of human society.

Classification of the forms of love

The most commonly used classification for the six types of love. A Canadian sociologist, publicist and public figure, John Alan Lee, denoting them with Greek terms, proposed it:

1. Agape-love. This selfless and unconditional love focuses on giving and caring for the "beloved". It is patient and full of deep affection.
2. Storge-love is similar to parental tenderness. It is a natural form of affection that often flows between parents and their children, and children for their parents.
3. Pragma-love is balanced and in a certain sense, "practical" love. The pragmatic type of love is different in that the lover chooses a partner based on well-thought-out requirements.
4. Mania-love is the kind of love that leads a partner into a type of madness and obsessiveness. The lover is constantly gripped by the desire to demand signs of love and attention from the beloved.

5. Ludus-love is a kind of feeling that resembles flirting. People with a ludic style view love as a game that they are playing to win. Often this can be a multiplayer game! Ludic individuals are comfortable with deception and manipulation in their relationships and as a rule, do not require from each other any serious commitments.
6. Eros implies a feeling based on physical attraction and correspondingly manifested in a strong sensual and sexual attraction.

Some researchers add another form of love "philia" (dr.-Greek φιλία) - love-friendship or love-affection, conditioned by social ties and personal choice.

"Love is one, but fakes for it are thousands."

Francois de La Rochefoucauld

"To fall in love does not mean to love... You can fall in love and hate."

Fedor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky

These sayings by these French and Russian philosophers emphasize the truth that love and falling in love are not the same thing. Although falling in love often precedes real love. Here it is appropriate to recall the important remark of Erich Fromm. He writes that falling in love is usually considered the pinnacle of love, but in reality, it is only the beginning and the only possibility of finding love. Pay attention to the phrase "only possibility", which, in the end, does not always translate into reality.

The problem with the relationships between men and women in modern society is that almost everyone confuses love with falling in love. Magazines, TV shows, literature, films exalts the moment of falling in love as if this is love itself. However, the logical juxtaposition of the signs of falling in love and love makes it possible to understand that the experience of falling in love(infatuation) is very different from genuine love.

How to Differentiate Love and Falling in Love?

1. Love comes gradually while falling in love happens overnight. To really love a person you need time.
2. Love does not originate from an irresistible appearance, good deeds, beautiful words and gifts. True love arises for the person.
3. In the center of love, there is always only one person. Love holds only one. Falling in love can accommodate many, but really, it doesn't hold

any.

4. Love creates a person while falling in love destroys. True love sees the future, builds plans and goals. Falling in love lasts for a day, and the next day it's gone: disorder begins to occur in the individual's life, everything starts "falling apart." Falling in love is dangerous because a man who falls in love ceases to see reality and ceases to develop himself.
5. Love is compatible while falling in love neglects compatibility. A truly loving person is interested in the values of the person he loves, and they have common goals.
6. Love covers faults while falling in love cannot bear them. If you discover something very annoying in someone you loved, something that you cannot accept and endure, just know that this is just falling in love.
7. Love is unselfish while falling in love is selfish. A person who loves will do everything to serve another, even if in return he receives nothing. Falling in love only expects to get something from the other person. If your loved one is not interested in your destiny, your experiences but he always speaks only about himself - this person does not really love you.
8. Love can endure for a long time, and love is always in a hurry. If you have a strong physical attraction, and this is the motive behind you marring faster - this is not love, but only passion.

"A wife is not a mistress, but a friend and companion of our life, and we must learn in advance to think of loving her even when she is an elderly woman, and when she is an old woman."

VISSARION BELINSKY

Summarizing the above differences between love and falling love, we can say that:

- Falling in love belongs to the animalistic nature (instinct) of man, while love is spiritual.
- Falling in love, in its essence, is in line with the psychology of a child, who desires to receive everything at once; love is the psychology of mature people who are willing to wait as long as they need.
- Falling in love is superficial and content with appearance; love draws

strength from the depths of a partner's personality. Love is never superficial. Poetic, falling in love is a spark taken for a fire; love is the flame that burns continuously. In falling in love, prudence is absent; in love, prudence plays an important role.

- It often happens this way: having sexual attraction towards a partner, a person believes that he has found great love - and thus, confuses love with falling in love.

A violent love must be feared just as much as hatred. When love is strong, it is always clear and calm.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

In his immortal novel "Martin Eden", the famous Jack London describes the scene when the main character realized that he suddenly stopped loving the woman of his heart. This scene is interesting because the protagonist, Martin, is the prototype of Jack London himself; that is, the writer portrayed a situation that he once experienced:

"Do not swear," Ruth interrupted. From reproach, Martin was taken aback. He laughed bitterly.

- That's it, the decisive moment, everything is your luck, as it seems to you. And you're still afraid of life...

Stung by his words, she understood the absurdity of her reproach and yet decided that he was exaggerating too much, and was offended. They sat in silence for a long time, Ruth was completely dejected, and Martin reflected on his past love. Now he knew that there was no real love. He loved the Ruth of his dreams, a heavenly creature, which he himself created, a bright, shining muse of his poems about love. Real Ruth, a little bourgeois, with all the inherent deficiencies in her environment and with a hopelessly limited truly bourgeois psychology, he never loved...”

Friends, once such thoughts do appear in your head, do not rush to get married until you are convinced that you are really in love. You have to love for real because later you'd pay the price. Otherwise, if you do not like your bride, then you will regret your whole life. Often a man falls in love due to passion, lust. But we must make sure that this is not passion, but this is true love. What is true love, how do you recognize and find it out? We have already examined the differences of love from falling in love, so let us move on to the signs of true love. First, ask yourself these questions:

Sobering questions: if you met a girl - elegant, beautiful, accurate, ask

yourself a sobering and control question: will I love her in 10 years? In 20, in 50, will it change when she wouldn't be as beautiful as she is now? Perhaps, after this question, you might have a desire to disappear without a trace from her life.

If I want to marry because of her beautiful legs, eyes, or hair, in some years, it will change, and what will I do then, where do I go? That is why wealthy men, and not only by the age of 40, change two or three wives. This is because they are getting married to the body and the image that they saw 10, 30 years ago. If a person is serious, he should not marry because of physical attraction; one must see the real person that stands behind the "facade" and to consider and have time to love the real person who is in this body. If you can see the person who is in the body, and love her, then this is true love. If you are looking at a girl now and you like the way she looks, then the chances are high that you risk marrying her body. To know whom you really marrying, you need to communicate and understand who is inside. To discover this, you need to look beyond her appearance. A man must discover and see the soul of a woman, but usually, he is too lazy to do it. Discovering the inner world of a girl is a difficult task for a man. Especially if the girl is attractive, constantly changing externally, every day with new dresses or make-up - he only sees her "Barbie" side.

Love each another as needed, so there was no doubt, as to whether it is fate.

Dear reader, it is extremely important that you manage to understand your feelings before you associate yourself with another person under marriage vows. If you are not sure of your love, you should not get another person in a relationship with you. Do you know what a girl or a woman fears the most, except for the fear of being alone? Spending the rest of her life with the wrong person.

Dr. Carl Menninger, an outstanding Christian psychiatrist, expressed this thought with these words: *"Love does not break out in us; it grows in us."* Love in marriage matures, as the couple comprehends the principles of love in everyday life.

In addition, the presence of love in marriage is of great importance. As it is said in God's Word, love covers all sins. Why would newlyweds begin to see mistakes and errors in their spouses, which yesterday seemed to them to be the height of perfection? In the family, it often happens that when the wife does something wrong and the husband points out her shortcoming. This is the cause of quarrels and strife. God tells us that this is not a manifestation of love. Love covers everything. Even if the husband sees the weaknesses of his wife, or sees that she does something wrong, he should talk about it carefully and kindly, to

help get rid of the shortcomings. There must be genuine love in marriage.

You may argue that genuine love is not necessary in marriage. After all, in a marriage, the passion will wane. Yes, the passion might wane, but the presence of strong love will last in marriage. Then you will have to learn to fall in love with your wife repeatedly. Hollywood actor Patrick Swayze spoke well about this,

> I believe that prolonged marriage helps to preserve love: it teaches how to love one's partner repeatedly, without perceiving it simply as a matter of course, learning to forgive and trust. For what it would not have been created, for us, it works.
>
> ***PATRICK SWAYZE***

As we conclude this chapter on love, let us recall that the decision to marry based on falling in love, passion, calculation, because of "time has come" or "all my friends are already married" would lead such a marriage to problems and doom.

> "Marriage is a long voyage in a close cabin."
>
> ***IRIS MURDOCH***

In this chapter, we have considered the fourteenth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- he must be confident in love he and his partner shares.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I’d advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Love is ...**
    a. admiration, adoration and deep affection (2)
    b. when a partner completely corresponds to our ideals (3)
    c. guidance and protection (4)
    d. the desire to be physically close (1)
    e. the need to take care of this person, make him happy and cover his shortcomings (5)

2. **Are you sure that you love your bride because...**
    a. cannot and do not want to think about anyone other than her (2)
    b. you are obsessed with her body. She is so beautiful that even the blind can bear witness (1)
    c. it corresponds to the ideal that you have always dreamed about (3)
    d. you always want to be in her presence - to see or listen to her(2)
    e. you are bored if you do not see her at least a few days (2)
    f. want to make her happy, ready to wait and to serve her, even if you do not get anything in return (4)
3. **In 30 years your bride will look ...**
    a. best of all (1)
    b. young so that I will not be ashamed of her - she will definitely not turn into her aunt (1)
    c. like her age, but I love all of her wrinkles in advance because we have made our vow together - in joy and sorrow. We would be together for life (3)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 4 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities. Otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

4-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-10 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

11-12 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 15

I AM READY TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING FOR MY FIANCEE

In the previous chapter, we discussed the fourteenth condition for a happy marriage, which is the man's confidence in the power of his love for his fiancée. The fifteenth condition says:

I am Ready to Sacrifice Everything for My Fiancee

PARABLE

50 years of politeness or a slice of bread with butter.
One elderly couple celebrated their golden anniversary. For a common breakfast the wife thought:
- For 50 years now, I tried to please my husband and always gave him the crispy and crusty part of the bread. For today, I want this delicacy to be offered to me.
As usual, she was going to give her husband the crunchy upper part. But her hand stopped halfway...
She thought, "On the anniversary of our wedding, I want to eat the top of the loaf myself. I dreamed of this for fifty years and deserved the upper half: she was an exemplary wife, raised beautiful sons, and kept the house in perfect order. "
She handed her husband the bottom of the loaf. She never allowed herself such a thing for all the years of her life together. Her husband took the bread and said with a smile:
What an invaluable gift you made to me today! Since my childhood, I love the lower, tasty piece of bread. But I always believed that it rightfully belongs to you.
This parable is an excellent example of the kind of relationship a married

couple should have. Dear man, you should learn a similar pattern of behavior towards your spouse. Likewise, she will also treat you sacrificially.

Make the decision to make your marriage happy and work for it.

V.S. Nemtsev

Remember: you are ready to marry only if looking at your fiancée, you can say: I am ready to sacrifice anything for her: either to die, or to stand under bullets, to lie under a train, or to go into a well. If you do not have this mindset, it's better you leave her alone and do not fool her head. If you are not ready to do anything for your woman-, she's not your future wife.

The problem with our generation is that young people when entering into marriage only think about how to get more for themselves. Many marry just to use another person for their profit and be aware that it destroys the family even before it was created. Before getting married, a man should think twice if he could selflessly serve his fiancée. Is he ready to give her everything that he has? If he cannot do this, then he does not love her. In this case, he should not marry her. A family that is not based on the principle of self-giving will not be happy. When going to get married, a man must weigh his strength: can he give his wife love, warmth, care, and attention. Dear men, do not approach marriage with a consumers mentality. If you are only a consumer and have only a selfish desire, you will ruin yourself; destroy your life and that of your fiancée. All these will happen because you do not have God's character. God's character is first, love. The main sign of love is well said in the Bible:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...

John 3:16

From this quote, we see that true love gives but does not take. If you want to have a solid family foundation, you must be sure that your love is completely selfless and sacrificial. You must be ready to do everything for your beloved. Love is not just a passion. After all, passion takes a year or two after the wedding, and then you are no longer sure of your love. A marriage can only be based on love. Therefore, you should not get married if you are not sure if you want to serve your fiancée for life.

Speaking of sacrificial love, I can give an example from my own family life. I am a man; therefore, I take on any responsibility for my wife. I'm ready to do everything for her- even to die. Before getting married, I prepared myself for family life, as I knew that without my readiness the family would not exist. I

cannot love other people, and sacrifice something for them, if I do not treat my own wife like that! I have been married for 20 years, but to this day, I keep looking for opportunities to prove to my wife that she is dear to me and is the only one for me. In addition, I am ready to sacrifice my friends to spend time with my wife. During the period when I work outside the house, I'm ready to skip lunch in the office, despite the fact that I'm hungry, just to have lunch later with my wife. By doing this, I show her that I appreciate her company and what she has prepared for me personally.

In some families, it also happens that the wife does not have the opportunity to prepare food constantly - for example, when the wife is studying or working a lot. In this case, the husband must connect his patience and be ready for self-sacrifice. After all, the quality we are talking about in this chapter, the willingness to do everything for his wife is manifested in such situations every day. Be ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of your family.

I would also like to warn those men who say to their women before the marriage "I am ready to do everything for you!" hoping that situations to prove his words will never come. It is known that it is easier to promise than to fulfill. But even if you are ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of your fiancée-there is a possibility that by the word "every" you mean, an incomplete list of the things that marriage will require of you. Surprisingly, sometimes a man is ready for big sacrifices for his woman, but he is not able to pay attention to those small, daily, but important little things to her. These include most of the list from the third chapter. Do you still remember the 30 qualities that women look for in a man? Often, the implementation of the smallest items on this list and is the man's biggest flaw. The fact is that much of this list seems insignificant to men and not worthy of attention. For example, for many men, the desire and need of a woman for love, care, and tenderness is incomprehensible.

Men manifest these qualities with ease only in the period of courtship, and perhaps during the honeymoon. In the rest of the time, tenderness and care in a man wakes up only when looking at his fishing gear on the eve of Sunday fishing. A man has truly unlimited patience when it comes to unraveling a fishing line on his favorite spinning. But this same man is ready to burst with impatience if he has to listen to his wife's story about her experience in the market.

A Fearless Knight - or an Insensible Chump

An incomprehensible thing for men is the need to show sensitivity and

understanding of the experiences, fears and feelings of a woman. After all, from the point of view of a man, a normal person should not have any fears or doubts. Men usually confuse insensitivity with courage as what they perceive sensitivity to be is the necessity to solve a woman's problem.

Undoubtedly, a man differs from a woman in all possible parameters - physically, mentally, emotionally, etc. And, as it has been said, a man does not understand many of the expectations and needs of women precisely because of this difference in the arrangement of the opposite sexes. But the deal with a man who seeks to marry is that he needs to make an effort to understand and accept the characteristics of a woman. Many men find it easier to rush into a fire or to fight for the sake of a loved one I than to perform such a feat as daily listening to her complaints, doubts, or questions "Do you love me?”

If listening and paying attention to what a woman has to say is difficult for you, proves that it is too early for you to marry.

Position of Fatherhood

If you are still ready to engage and sacrifice for daily responsibilities for the sake of your fiancée but do not know how to develop the right attitude to little but important issues for women in yourself- take as a basis the first quality from our list in chapter three. This quality is called Fatherhood. If you treat your wife from the position of the father, will it be difficult for you to pay attention daily to her inner world or to answer her question "Do you love me?". On the contrary, you will be interested in her feelings, thoughts and say "I love you, dear" even before she asks you about it. Is that not what fathers do to their beloved children? Can you imagine a father who is annoyed by the child's question "Do you love me?". Loving fathers are ready to answer this question endlessly and listen with tender emotion to even the most senseless babble of their children. A woman will never get bored or seem stupid, shallow, and empty with men who have a father's heart in relation to their wives.

Talking about the daily sacrifices - you have to be ready to invent different ways to tell your wife how you love her.

In short, a man who is going to marry must be ready to show love not only passionately and romantically, but fatherly and sacrificial.

In this chapter, we have considered the fifteenth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- he must be able to sacrifice everything for his fiancée.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I’d advise you to pass the next test. Choose

only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Willingness to sacrifice everything for the sake a wife means...**
    a. the consent that her mother will stay with you every month (2)
    b. come to terms with the fact that sometimes you have to skip fishing with your friends (1)
    c. the desire to throw the world at her feet (3)
    d. willingness to delve into her inner world and listen to her complaints (4)
    e. understanding what your beloved needs, as a woman - and willingness to sacrifice one's interests for her well-being (5)
2. **For a man to be able to make daily sacrifices for the sake of his wife, he must treat her from the position of...**
    a. the head (1)
    b. a wise leader (3)
    c. caring mother (4)
    d. the errand boy (3)
    e. a father (5)

The sum of points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 3 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

3-4 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

5-6 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient

measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

7-8 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 16

I HAVE DONE MY RESEARCH AND HAVE GOTTEN POSITIVE FEEDBACKS ABOUT MY FIANCEE

In the previous chapter, we considered the fifteenth rule of creating a successful family, which is the willingness of the man to sacrifice anything for his wife. In this chapter, we will focus on the following sign of readiness for marriage:

I Have Done My Research and Have Gotten Positive Feedbacks about My Fiancee

“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.”

Proverbs 31:10-11

Paraphrasing this verse in our modern language, it can be read as follows:

It is very difficult to find a perfect woman, but her price is costlier than the jewels.

Without any doubt, there should not be secrets in the relationship of two people in love who are planning to get married. In the previous chapter, we have already discussed the need to have open discussions with your fiancée about every topic possible before marriage. It might seem to you that you know everything about her, so you might conclude that the idea of making inquiries and asking questions is unnecessary.

I advise you not to rush to make conclusions, but to arm yourself with a certain amount of curiosity and get confirmation from other sources for information about your fiancée. Seeking to get more information or researching on your woman is not a manifestation of distrust, but shows that you're very careful and thorough about choosing a life partner. If a girl is sincere with you - she has nothing to hide. The appearance of additional curiosity on your part should neither offend nor fret her. He that has no secrets has nothing to protect. On the contrary, if the girl is real and genuine- she will be pleased with your increased attention to all the nuances of her life. So, be brave - and look for the right contacts to get your information.

"She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."

Proverbs 31:12

This saying from the Book of Proverbs of Solomon means that a virtuous woman is one that fully justifies the trust that is felt for her.

Doing research is very important because it convinces you about the virtue of your fiancée and if she has a good reputation. These examples show that when a man who marries a woman depending solely on his feelings, they eventually become frustrated.

A REAL-LIFE STORY

V*alentine met Natalia at training on leadership development. The training was conducted by a Christian social center, so most people who attended were young Christians, and many were ministers of various ministries, volunteers and social programs in their churches. Natalia was no exception. Bright and charismatic lady with great energy. Despite her confident nature, she was not alien to some female weaknesses. Valentine often noticed tears in her eyes, when music was playing in the hall during rehearsals. He got attracted to her because of her sincerity and openness.*

They soon began to build friendship and later realized that they enjoyed each other's company, also had much in common. Natalia wasn't so quiet; she spoke a lot about almost everything in the world. Valentine noticed that during their conversations, she was more interested in speaking about others than about herself. He appreciated her modesty because many women he knew before only talked about themselves.

All that Natalia said about herself was a sad story of her failed marriage when her husband left her with a baby in her arms. She also said that she used to have a successful business. Valeria successful created a finished picture of a

courageous girl who battles the hardships of life bravely and singlehandedly. She mentioned not that she didn't give up in life but turned to her faith in God and now she lives by Christian principles.

Valentine love and was attracted to such a strong personality. Soon they announced about their engagement and were getting ready for their wedding when Valentine accidentally found out that his Natalia was a swindler. The girl got into the Christian center quite recently and had not yet gotten rid of her previous attitudes. Taking advantage of the fact members of her Christian center trusted her as a Christian sister. She shamelessly would borrow money from anyone who paid attention to her sad stories; she wouldn't mind getting the last penny from even retired people. She was usually pitied because she claimed to be living alone, with a child in a strange city, so people gave her as much they could.

After receiving all their money, she did not pay back her debts, and if any of her creditors insisted, she accused them of non-Christian qualities and lack of love.

Why did no one realize she was a fraudster? Well, because no one knew that she lent money from everyone in a row. Every lender thought that this happened only with him. So, everyone remained silent believing and hoping that she'd pay back. Deceitful and cunny Natalia left her location and moved to another community, where no one else knew her. Valentine got to know all this completely by accident when he got to talking with the person who knew Natalia by her "activity" in the church where she had just left to join another pastor.

Needless to say, at first Valentine refused to believe that he was talking about his bride - a strong, brave and honest girl with an open gaze of clear blue eyes? But, comparing the facts, and communicating with people who knew Natalia well, he was convinced that he knew nothing at all about this woman. Now he knows for sure that he does not want such an individual to be his wife. To his happiness, he received a warning on time. What about you?

Most men start a family with a woman, the man later discovers hidden aspects of her life and character; many of the men end up disappointed. A similar situation occurs in many marriages, and this happens because the man offers the girl a hand and heart, without having full information about her. Even if a couple is actively communicating for several years - it's still impossible for you to thoroughly study your fiancée. In addition, one should take into account the fact that during communication we receive from the partner only the information he or she deems necessary to inform us. For this reason, the overwhelming majority of modern bridegrooms make the decision to create a family, relying on a very

small amount of information that they have about the identity of their women.

Remember that before you and your wife get married, she was a stranger. Having received information about the girl, personally from her or from strangers, follow the principle "Trust, but check".

And now imagine how much your knowledge of what your fiancée can be, if you get to hear the opinion of people who know her much longer than you, and watched her actions in different life situations?

Where do You Find People who will Give You Information about Your Fiancée?

Such people are her parents, friends, colleagues, members of the church she visits, her pastor etc. The source of information about her previous and present life can be traced on the Internet, her personal page in social networks, her blog, etc. It is known that information about our activities is stored there for years.

Summarizing what we have discussed above, the recommendation of this chapter is as follows: you can decide to marry only after you gather all the information possible, and have received a confirmation from close people and positive feedback about your fiancée. There are situations when a man likes a girl, but everyone tells him that he is making a mistake. However, in this case, he thinks that "the whole world has gone mad and the people around do not understand what they are talking about. But the truth is that others can see and know the qualities of your fiancée better than you - so think carefully before you ignore the negative predictions about your joint future.

You must have a confirmation from strangers. This question is scrupulous and very few people will tell you the truth. But you need to open your ears and eyes to look for these people who will tell you the truth about your fiancée and will warn you about what you can expect of her.

Many men who have not conducted such a study before marriage, most times seriously regret it. This is because it is unpopular to make inquiries about whom you like. Usually, people say, I already know her well myself. Such pride precedes a fall: "I know what I want” is a position will not lead to a good end. It is much better to ask competent people confidentially about the information that interests you. This is not spying or betrayal. It is trusting yet confirming. This is your life, and you should appreciate it by responsibly choosing a life partner.

There is a good practice of receiving a blessing for your marriage from your pastor, mentor and father. This step is also a kind of verification. Will the authority figures in your life recommend you to marry this girl? There are times

when the pastor does not give such a blessing. This means that he can see what you are blind to. You should pay attention to this sign; it should be an "alarm signal" for a man so that he wakes up and examines his fiancée more critically.

A LITTLE JOKE

Finally, I would like to caution you that in pursuit of careful research about a partner, you are balanced about it. Otherwise, you risk becoming like the example of an English couple who were studying each other for so long that the gap between their engagement and marriage was 28 years! This news got viral with many world publishers:

The British Aivan Brown and his fiancée Barbara Furlonger were married 28 years after the engagement, writes The Daily Mail. According to the newlyweds, they could not fix the date of the wedding for so long because of their employment at work, and because they did not want to arrange a wedding "in a hurry."

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **A positive response about your fiancée is ...**
    a. compliments from her girlfriends (1)
    b. comments of her parents (1)
    c. the positive response of people who have known her for many years and have seen her in different situations but are not related to her friendly or family ties and are also not interested in the arrangement of her personal life (3)
2. **The opinion of others that you and the bride are not a couple; it's...**
    a. envy (1)
    b. interference in our personal life (2)
    c. it all depends on who says this opinion (3)
    d. an important signal to which attention must be paid (4)
    e. disaster because now we will have to part (2)
3. **Collection and confirmation of information about your future wife is...**
    a. betrayal (1)
    b. the destiny of suspicious people (2)
    c. a senseless waste of time (2)

d. wise tactics, because I am choosing my life partner (4)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 4 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

4-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-9 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

10-11 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 17

I HAVE RECEIVED THE BLESSINGS OF HER PARENTS FOR OUR MARRIAGE

In the previous chapter, we discussed such a sign of a man's readiness for marriage, as doing his research and positive feedback about his fiancée.

Now let's consider the following necessary condition. Can you say...

I Have Received the Blessings of Her Parents for our Marriage

This condition of preparation for marriage means that the task of the man is not only in obtaining the consent of his fiancée to marry him, but also in ensuring that her parents also recognize him as a worthy husband candidate for their

daughter.

In addition to her physical parents, you should also ask for permission to marry her from her spiritual father, if one exists. This means you have to go for a blessing from her pastor.

If your fiancée already has children, you should also develop relationships with them and secure their favor, because you have to become one family with them.

The Power of Parental Blessing

Many men will be surprised at the need to ask the consent of parents for their marriage - after all, we live in a new millennium, not in the Middle Ages. All the traditions of our ancestors have somehow slipped into the shadows. This relates especially to the sphere of marriage. If our modern culture still recognizes the right for the existence of "typical" family values as matrimonial fidelity and caring for the children, then the honor and submission to parents, the need for their advice in choosing a life partner and their blessing for your future marriage are very important. Unfortunately, these values have been ignored in recent times. But the fact is that parental blessing is not an outdated tradition; it is a powerful tool for protecting and strengthening the human race. The Holy Scriptures confirms this. In the 27th chapter of Genesis, in 24-36 verses we see a story about a bowl of lentil soup. The younger brother Jacob bribed his elder brother Esau with a bowl of soup, having the right first to ask his father for a blessing. Their father, Isaac, was old and blind, he did not notice that the youngest son came to him instead of the elder. Despite the fact that Jacob received this blessing undeservedly, his father's blessing does not have a retroactive effect. It was proclaimed and began to act in his life.

Because of this, in the old days, the presence of a parental blessing was of great importance when creating a family. Dear reader, I urge you not to ignore the right of your bride's parents to participate in this unique event in her life. For time immemorial, humankind has known the spiritual law, which states that a parent has the power to bless their offspring and a whole family. Therefore, by observing it, we can avoid evil and reverse the denial of the value of parental authority in the lives of our children, grandchildren and the whole society. Respecting your parents and the parents of your future wife, you lay the foundation for respect from your future children's towards you

Let us give an example to prove that the Holy Scriptures emphasize the need to agree with your parents as regarding the choice of your marriage partner. The Bible, in the Book of Judges, describes the situation when Samson was to choose

a bride but did not go with her immediately to discuss this issue first with his parents:

> **And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now, therefore, get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.**
>
> *(Judges 14: 2-3)*

Why is it Necessary for a Man Asks for the Hands of Your Wife from Her Parents

Now that you have learned that parental blessing is not an old tradition, but also a spiritual law that is described in the Bible, so that you understand that even in our time this law is still operative.

However, there is another reason why it is very important to secure the consent of the bride's parents for your marriage. This must be done because the parents of the bride are the people who gave birth and raised your future wife. Until now, they were responsible for her, even if she is not 18 years old. They have parental rights to her. When you decide to "take" their treasure and marry her- you must replace her father's protection and support, who until then her father and mother had supported and cared for her. That's why her parents should confirm their trust in you and whether they agree to transfer the destiny of their child into your hands as your bride.

In this chapter, we have considered the seventeenth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- receiving parental consent for your bride.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I’d advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **It is necessary to ask for the consent of the bride's parents for marriage, because...**
    a. they pay for the wedding (1)
    b. it is a tradition (2)
    c. I desire to marry the woman they gave birth and brought up. (3)
2. **If the parents of the bride do not rush to give their consent to your marriage with their daughter, it means...**
    a. that they despise me and they do not need me as a son-in-law (1)
    b. I will have to abandon this venture and look for more accommodating relatives (2)
    c. I can ignore their opinion on this matter. If my wife loves me - we get married (2)
    d. this means that their daughter is valuable to them. They are not in a hurry to marry her to an individual they meet newly, so my task is to convince them that I am worthy of receiving and taking care of their daughter. (4)

The sum of your points .....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 3 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

3-4 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

5-6 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

7 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 18

I WOULD NEVER STOP LOVING HER EVEN IF SHE BECOMES SICK OR DISABLED

In the previous chapter, we considered the fourth rule of building a successful family - which is the mental health of a man. In this chapter we will focus on next condition that would dictate a man's readiness to marry:

He Would Never Stop Loving His Wife Even if She Becomes Sick or Disabled

“External beauty is transient, but inner beauty is eternal.”
Seyyed Hussein Nasr.

SAD HUMOR

A wife got upset with her husband.
"But you loved me so much?"
- Yes, I did, but it was 80 kg ago!

As we have already explained in the previous chapter, a man should marry only if he truly and genuinely loves a woman. True love means sacrifice. Marriage is a place where your ability to sacrifice would be tested and needed, not just in words as many newlyweds hope when they say before the altar that they will be together not only in joy but in sorrow. Repeating this phrase, each newlywed man crosses his fingers in his mind, hoping that he doesn't go through this test. Few men while walking to famous F. Mendelssohn - Wedding March sound, would seriously reflect on how they would behave if their partner suddenly loses her youthfulness, beauty or health.

But let's see what the Bible says about this:

So should husbands love their wives as their own bodies...

Ephesians 5:28

What does this place mean in the Holy Scriptures? Husbands should love their wives like their own bodies. The Bible says that a man should love and care for his wife the way he loves and cares for his body, since the wife is his body. All

that the husband wants for his body, he must desire the same for his wife. This is the manifestation of a responsible man. This means that even in grief, husbands should treat their wives as they would treat their bodies in case of illness. When anyone is ill, the person tries to guide and protect himself from stress, while paying attention to his own well-being. Of course, no one denies himself after noticing that he is not looking as young as he used to look, and wrinkles have appeared on his face! That's what husbands and wives should do to each other, to accept and not deny themselves.

No Alternative or Escape Route

Christianity proclaims marriage as a lifelong union of man and woman. Thus, Jesus Christ, answering questions about the admissibility of divorce, quotes the Bible, Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24, after which he affirms the principle of the indissolubility of marriage:

“Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ In addition, he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

Talking about the topic of a possible disability or other physical problem in your partner, I am intentionally addressing the subject for you to know the importance of keeping to your marriage vows. Often, when young people get into marriage, they do not think about how they would behave in the case of a tragedy of their beloved wife. Would they continue to love her, if she were in a wheelchair? On the other hand, deep down they hope, in case of trouble, they would leave her to find another woman.

A man who is going to marry must throw away the idea of an "alternative" out of his head in case of problems, or seeking an escape route as divorce. This kind of idea or behavior to a spouse when sick or disabled contradicts the values of Christianity. You should marry only the woman with whom you are ready to live not only in health but also in illness.

> The strong is not the one who can put on the blades at a glance, and the one who is able to raise a smile from his knees!
>
> ***Juliette Binoche, Hollywood actress***

In connection with the topic of this chapter, I recall a situation told by a successful young woman who survived her husband's attitude. He was not ready for his wife to lose her health even for a short period, not to mention disability.

A TRUE-LIFE STORY

A young woman said that she always lived with the certainty that she had quite a happy marriage. Her husband does not seem to care much about the soul. Both of them were young, beautiful, and successful. Both were also Christians and regularly attend church services. The girl was well groomed; you could even say she was glamorous. Somehow, she got into an accident and dislocated her ankle. Her husband had to take her to the on-duty trauma center to a city hospital urgently in the middle of the night. As a caring husband, he drove her to the porch of the hospital, and she hopped on one leg, leaning on his shoulder as she entered the hospital.

As you know, hopping on one leg as an adult is not the most comfortable thing to do. The woman was inexpressibly delighted to see wheelchairs specially prepared for patients like her right in front of the entrance.

While in the territory of the hospital, there were many patients with various fractures and dislocations. As she moved along the corridors, she realized sitting on a wheelchair is a perfectly normal thing. She said, she never thought that anyone could be so happy at the sight of a wheelchair. Despite the fact that she had only a dislocated ankle and she just could not temporarily walk on the second leg. Like any person with a physical disability, she immediately forgot about anything "glamorous", but her attention was on her present "reality."

The woman was about to sit on the wheelchair with relief, her supposed caring husband strongly protested. He could not explain clearly either to her or to himself, why he categorically opposed that his wife could move along the corridors of the emergency room with comfort while hopping on one leg. He muttered something inarticulate like "I can imagine my wife sitting on a wheelchair..." - and dragged her further along the corridor.

This husband did not allow his "wounded" wife to sit in a comfortable chair and made her hop all the way to the doctor's office on her only healthy leg. Obviously, the point was that he could not rationalize the fact that his wife would sit on the chair for disabled. He could not even control his behavior temporarily in the situation. It’s already quite obvious that the hope to see this husband, care for his disabled wife is unpromising?

But there are still some men whose life is an example of genuine love and fortitude. Famous Ukrainian politician Alexander Moroz has been married to his wife Valentine since 1965. Many follow his political activities, but few know that this man had been caring for his disabled wife for a long time, who is bound

to a wheelchair.

This Can Happen to Everyone

Men are often inclined to play down risks and danger and not consider it until the tragedy actually happens. However, you should realize that there is a probability that misfortune can occur to your partner, and this misfortune is quite real. This is not a theoretical assumption. Do you realize that anything can happen to you at any moment? The explosion of gas in the kitchen or batteries in your mobile phone, an accident on the road, a drop of ice from the roof, a fire in the elevator - any absurd incident can turn a healthy person into an invalid or physically disables person. Your future wife is also not immune from any danger to her health.

You should ask yourself this question: can I still love her anyway and in any case giving myself wholly to her? Can you devote your life only to her: take care of her, carry her, bear her in your arms to the toilet, I'm sorry but also change her undies or diapers when necessary? This is how to serve her for the rest of her life? I believe that many of the men reading this line are whining with horror. The thought of diapers is the last thing that comes to a man in his head when he looks at his beloved woman. If a man ever thought about them, it is only in connection with the hope for a baby giving birth by his healthy, young and beautiful wife. Imagine yourself ready to take care of your wife this way.

In connection with the seriousness of the issue we are considering, a man should honestly answer himself: "Do I love my fiancée strong enough to want to stay with her if she gets sick, injured, or in any other physical or psychological infirmity?"

Only if you have a genuine positive answer to this question, you can consider yourself ready to marry her. Otherwise, you had better not be in a hurry with the marriage and wait until you feel confident that you will be able not to break your marriage vow to be together both in joy and in sorrow.

Excess Weight Comes Without an Invitation

The next question that you should ask yourself, which might seem trivial in comparison with the previous one is; if after childbirth your future wife cannot lose weight, after all, she gained the weight during pregnancy, - can I still love her as much as before?

"Excess weight is trivial; no one dies from this!" - you might answer, and you will be wrong. You cannot even imagine how many marriages ended because of this! A man loves what his eyes see; he is naturally configured that the

appearance of the woman he loves is of great importance. A married woman does not always have the time to look as stunning as she was before marriage. When she marries you, she does not always have time to visit the fitness center, sit in beauty salons and give several hours a day to manicure, make-up, and hairstyle. And the birth of a child will further complicate the situation. Some women never return to their former forms. There are those who get up to 30 extra pounds of weight during pregnancy, and then each subsequent child adds another 10 kilograms to his mother.

As a man, you should even answer the question - are you ready to continue to love this girl even in case of such a turn of events? For an objective assessment of the situation, you should not just answer abstractly "yes" or "no" - but imagine your lover, how she will look when she's fat? Sick? With wrinkles? This is inevitable.

If you belong to those men who are seeking to marry women with professional model bodies, then you will have regrets later in your marriage.

Infertility is not a Conspiracy

The next question that you should ask yourself is: what will you do in case of infertility of your spouse? What if she never gets pregnant? - Such cases also happen, and it can happen to anybody, even you.

Can you live with this woman if your family never has children? If the answer is no - you do not really love her.

Price of a Mistake

So, we have settled on the main questions regarding the physical problems that can occur with your future spouse. All these questions make it possible to understand whether you are ready to marry at all. If you cannot answer these questions, maybe it's not her? It is better to take a timeout in your relationship and wait until you have all the answers to the questions. Making the right decision largely affects the lives of many people- your fiancée, your future children, descendants, and the whole family. The price of making a mistake will be very high - you will break your life and hers also.

Practice shows that the questions discussed in this chapter have helped many couples realize that their relationship has no prospects and it is better to stop it in order to find another person whom you would want to be with both in fire and water.

In this chapter, we have considered the eighteenth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- his unending for his bride even

when she is sick or disabled.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **A disabled wife is...**
    a. the consequences of not taking care of her personal health (1)
    b. a life reality that can happen to everyone (3)
    c. something in the realm of fantasy, in my family this cannot happen (1)
2. **The oath of marriage "to be together in joy and in sorrow" implies...**
    a. the need to share with your companion both joyful and sad emotions (1)
    b. the need to provide your wife with all possible assistance in matters (1)
    c. patronize her, be a guard and protector for her (2)
    d. willingness to remain with her for the rest of her life, even if she loses her beauty, youthfulness, figure or health (4)
3. **Men who did not divorce their wife, who suddenly fell ill, grew fat, infertile or lost her ability to work are...**
    a. heroes. I would not be able to do this (2)
    b. people of honor and real men - this should be everyone (4)
    c. people who do not look at life soberly.(1)

The sum of your points .....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 4 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

4-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-9 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

10-11 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 19

I AM READY TO GIVE HER A FATHERLY LOVE AND COVERING

In the previous chapter, we figured out the eighteenth sign of readiness for marriage - the willingness of a man to keep loving his wife, even if she gets sick or injured. In this chapter, we will focus on the following condition of readiness for marriage:

I am Ready to Give Her a Fatherly Love and Covering

The fatherly quality of a man towards a woman is a topic you rarely or almost never see in popular books about marital relationships. This is because a deep understanding of the essence of fatherhood is available to a few. In a broad sense, in society, it is considered that fatherhood is manifested only in relation to children. The mass media form in the minds of people a completely different image of a man than it should be in reality.

A man has great potential, but society imposes on him the primitive role of the macho "hunter", getter, etc. In reality, man is a descendant of Adam. That is, he represents the image of God on earth, and, accordingly in his family, as well. God, as a helper to the man, created the woman, the daughter of Eve. The same alignment of forces remains in the marriage. A man, as the representative of God (who is the Father for all) - should show, first, fatherly love to his wife. Many people will marvel at this information, but ignorance of the true role of a man in

the family is the reason for so many unsuccessful marriages in the world.

Much is said about how important it is to love a wife, but nowhere is it told where to draw love when it feels like it's ending. It is fatherly love in relation to your woman that will give you the opportunity to find in yourself the source of true love always - the unchanging, never-ending, all-forgiving love. This is the kind of love from real fathers.

German philosopher and mathematician Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz said about love:

To love is to find happiness in another's own happiness.

Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz

He is echoed by another classic, English philosopher, David Hume (1711-1776):

Love is nothing but the desire for happiness to another person.

David Hume

These definitions of love show the man the ideal to which he should strive. The acquisition of a father's attitude towards a woman, a father's heart, is a way to learn how to love another person so much, without expecting anything in return and taking care only of the welfare of that person.

Grow up to the Role of a Father

Imagine this situation - a daughter has grown up in her family. Her parents gave her everything in life that they could: provided her with shelter and food, brought her up, taught, guarded and protected her. Then a man appears and wants to take her from her parents, from the source of her protection. She has known her parents all her life; she knows that they can be trusted, and she bears their name. But here you come, and say: leave your family and marry me!

Think about the responsibility!

That's why every man should be serious and be 120% sure that if he makes an offer to marry her, he will definitely take care of her so that she will never even have to compare her life with you and life with her family, her father and mother. Her life after marrying you should be so much better that all her doubts should be cleared.

Your bride was not homeless before you found her. You did not save her from adversity, as her parents did. She lived in their house and had her surname. You should realize what great responsibility it is to approach a woman and say: leave your mother and father, leave your life, friends, everything that you had until

now - and follow me, I have something better to offer you!

Think about how you would like to see the husband of your daughter, your son-in-law? Would you like him to be irresponsible?

I think every man, every father, would like not to have to worry about his daughter, and to be confident that she would not have any problems.

That's why a "boy" has no right to marry. That's why the only person who has the right to marry is someone who has already grown to the state of a father. To grow up to the state of the father means that a man himself can be a father not only to his little child, but also a father to his wife.

A REAL-LIFE STORY

A great example of the manifestation of fatherly love and protection in relation to a woman is the story of the great Christian reformer Martin Luther. The author of the famous "Ninety-Five Theses" became famous among his contemporaries not only because he nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenburg Cathedral, which shook the foundations of the whole church system of that time. He was also famous due to another, seemingly less significant act, which nevertheless, testified of his remarkable human qualities and a truly fatherly heart.

Martin Luther's treatises spread throughout the country and many monks and nuns left their cloisters to become his followers, who taught that salvation is a gift from God and not the result of performing religious rites. One day, in the early 1520s, 12 nuns secretly sent a letter to Luther in Wittenberg in which they wrote that they wanted to leave the monastic life. They asked him for help, so he could orchestrate their escape from the monastery. Martin Luther considered it his duty to help them, because, according to the customs of the time, many of them became nuns, not of their own free will. Luther made a plan and connected one of the nuns to his father partner, who brought smoked fish every week to the monastery. At the appointed time, he unloaded twelve barrels of fish in the monastery and hid in them the twelve nuns.

Two days later, nine nuns (three others went to their parents) were standing at the doorstep of Martin Luther, and now he had to arrange a job for them somehow or to help them with a husband. Finding them a work was difficult because nuns had no household skill. One historian wrote, "All they could do was pray and sing." Finding them a husband was not easier either. In Germany, girls were married at the age of fifteen to sixteen, and most of the nine nuns were significantly older. Nevertheless, Martin Luther felt that he was simply obliged to

help them.

In the end, Martin Luther managed to find husbands for eight of the women. There was one more left. Her name was Catherine von Bora, and she was 26 years old. Luther never gave up trying to help her and determined to find a husband for Catherine. Soon he got her a suitable candidate. But, unfortunately, this man did not like Catherine at all, although Luther had told her that in her situation, it wouldn't be worth it if she was too choosy. She refused but offered two men-candidates, one which she would still agree to marry. One of the candidates on the list was Luther himself!

This story ended with Martin Luther marrying his ward and was very happy in marriage. This story shows us how a fatherly heart is able to find the key to a woman's heart. As a result, bringing joy to the man himself.

If you read the Bible, then in Genesis 2:24 we find the following indication:

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife, and they will be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

This means that it is the man who must leave everything. Of course, he's taking the bride from her family, her mother, and father, but you should not bring her to your parents' home- this is a crime. A man must also put everything aside: he must leave his mother, father, friends, to prove to her that she isn't the only one leaving everything. He must also sacrifice himself to prove his loyalty and dedication to her: "It is because of you that I am this dedicated. Even my mother and my relatives are not to compare with you. I'd leave everything for you! ".

We must prove our dedication to our bride at this level: leave friends, leave a hobby, leave games and devote ourselves to our bride - so that she can see how serious we are! That is, a man must leave his father's house so that he can become a father to the love of his life. That's why we leave everything behind! A man leaves everything so as not to stand behind his fathers' back, but learn how to become a full-fledged father to his woman.

The Search for a Father

Because women were created from the rib of Adam, every woman is looking for a father: every woman must find a father! Not just a husband, but also a father, who is her husband, but above all her father.

Jesus came to earth and showed us what a relationship with the father means and what is fatherhood. When a woman marries, she simply changes her father; as such, she must marry a man who is worthy to be her father. She changes her father; she changes her house to create her own separate family. Did you notice that the Scripture says that a man will leave his father and mother? But is it said there that the woman will leave her father and mother? A woman can never live without a father, a woman does not leave her father, and she only changes her father. A man leaves his father, for what? To become a father himself. But the woman also leaves her father's house. Why is it not written that a woman leaves her father? Because she only changes fathers.

God did not intend for a woman to live without a father, without his covering and protection. Dear man, you have to look at your wife as a person you need to take care of, who you need to protect, how a father cares for his daughter. This is the responsibility, which God requires of you, as a man.

How to Know what Fatherly Quality is Necessary for a Man to

Possess?

For this, it is sufficient to see what qualities God possesses, who is the Father of all living things on earth. These are qualities such as:

- Love
- Kindness
- Embracing with a pure heart, without unclean thoughts
- Giving a helping hand
- Help
- Encouraging word,
- Strengthening the soul
- Pay attention to the needy and not passing by someone who is ill
- Comforting those who are burdened
- Not suspecting anyone
- Not condemning the guilty
- Being a model of the highest dignity.

If a man behaves this way with others, then when communicating with him, any woman as though she is close to her father. She will feel your:

- Tenderness
- Softness
- Empathy
- Warmth
- Compassion
- Gentle and healing touch
- Warmth of a father's love
- Dignity to restore her self-confidence!

That's how our attitude should be. We must see all women as sisters, as our own sisters who need help.

Remember, dear man, your future wife is your face. If you see flaws in it, that's who you are. As we already mentioned, you should love your wife, first, with a father’s love. In addition, just as a father in relation to his child, consider your wife as the best, the most intelligent and the most beautiful girl in the world. May God help you!

In this chapter, we have considered the nineteenth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family - having a fatherly love and protection for your wife.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I'd advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **A wife needs fatherly protection from her husband, because...**
    a. women are spoiled creatures (1)
    b. she is weak (1)
    c. God created her so that she follows her man(3)
2. **The father's care and protection from the husband is manifested in relation to his wife ...**
    a. in his words (1)
    b. in his actions (2)
    c. in the position of his heart, and as a consequence, in actions (3)
3. **To treat your wife in a fatherly way, it means to...**
    a. to make strict comments for her (1)
    b. educate her (1)
    c. demand love and respect (1)
    d. to pamper her(4)
    e. love her as you'd love your child - absolute, unconditional, and forgiving love (5)

The sum of your points .....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 4 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

4-6 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a

satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

7-9 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

10-11 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

CHAPTER 20

I HAVE RECEIVED THE HEAVENLY CONFIRMATION THAT SHE IS MY WIFE

In the previous chapter, we examined the nineteenth quality that a man needs to have if he is going to build a successful family - his willingness to give his wife fatherly love and protection.

The next condition for building a full-fledged family should be an understanding that:

I Have Received the Heavenly Confirmation that She is My Wife

Dear reader, in this concluding chapter we will consider such a difficult issue as the need to receive confirmation from above that your lady is sent to you by God, and not chosen by you alone.

What do we mean when we say that we need to receive confirmation from heaven about our bride?

This means that you must have reasons to say: "I have proof that this woman is my bride sent to me by God."

It's Important to Know Who is the Sender

The spiritual world is arranged in such a way that if God sends you something,

he will let you know that He is the sender. It is easy to illustrate this scheme using the example of a post-mail. If a parcel has come for you, you will receive a notice in which it will be written who the sender is.

You don't go to the post office every time you want to get some nice package, and you do not choose anyone you like, although there are many mails and packages that might look attractive. Instead, you are waiting for the notice - "There is a package for you". After reading the sender's name, you already know that this is yours. If it is indicated that your grandmother sent the parcel - you can guess there's a jam in the package. If your father is the sender, then you know the parcel contains sharp hooks for fishing and a hank of strong fishing line, which your father has promised to send you for a long time. The name of one of your friends in the column of the "Sender" can mean that there is a fun game in the parcel. If you get an anonymous package, someone you don't know then it can be anything. At best, some useless advertising booklets. At worst, the powder is an anthrax spore from some terrorist. Many people, having received an anonymous notice, prefer to ignore it, and will not take such a "gift".

The same attitude should be as to what life sends to you. If you are offered a new job, a business transaction or an opportunity to get married - first of all you should make sure that this opportunity has come to you from a reliable source - that it is God who sent you his blessing. If you do not have such confirmation - you cannot be sure that the "gift" will do you good.

A TRUE-LIFE STORY

Once a world-famous businessman married one stunning girl: a clever, beautiful, a real blonde, and also a champion in skiing. The millionaire was sure that he was fabulously lucky, and she was a gift from heaven for him. But when after a few years the clever girl divorced him, having taken half of his estate, he described his marriage with her as the greatest mistake of his life.

If God sends you a gift - a bride who is meant for you, then He will find a way to inform you about it. If you doubt whether you can explain the sign from above, which will be given to you - do not worry. Notification of the presence of the parcel will be sent to you as long as you do not go for it.

In what form can Confirmation Come from Above?

Since the subject of this chapter has a direct relationship to faith in God, let us turn to Christian definitions. Christians who have constant communion with God (through prayer and reading the Bible) often receive promptings from God on

various important issues. These hints can come during the reading of the Word, during prayer (not necessarily about this problem), from surrounding people, or in any other way that a Christian could communicate with God.

In matters that relate to confirmation of the choice of a marriage partner, one can "agree" with God, that is, ask for a specific sign.

A TRUE-LIFE STORY

One girl told how she received from God confirmation that the young man who was taking care of her was really her betrothed. They were both Christians, they attended the same church, and the guy was even an assistant pastor. Returning home after the student holidays, on the train, the girl reflected on this guy. She liked him, but her parents, upon learning of their serious relationship, expressed an opinion that made her doubt whether he was suitable for her. Her parents believed that their daughter is still too young to marry, that it is better to finish her education, start developing a career, etc. The train was already approaching the platform where this young man was to meet her. Tired of doubts, the girl finally made a decision and asked God to give her a clear sign - is he, or not? To do this, she decided - if he is sent to be her husband - let him meet her with a bouquet of yellow roses! You would agree that men don't give yellow flowers at a first meeting since the yellow color is associated with parting. So the girl left the guy with very few chances to accidentally give her the right sign. You can even say, she brought his chances to zero. So, the train got to the station, and she saw him.

He was without flowers at all. "So he's not destined husband," she thought and went home to the apartment to the hostess, where she rented a room. The guy, of course, saw her off to help with the heavy things. When they got to her floor and rang the door, the hostess opened it, and our girl noticed that the two of them had some kind of conspiratorial appearance. They went to her room to bring things. And just entering her room, the girl saw a bouquet of yellow roses in a vase on her desk. The young man brought it in advance and asked the hostess to decorate the girl's room with them.

Now, this young couple happily celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary and two kids.

One of the confirmations of the rightness of the choice of a future partner is the witness of the Spirit.

What does the "Spirit Witness" Mean?

An English Protestant preacher and founder of Methodism, John Wesley once

said: "Many of the voices of one's own imagination were mistaken for the voice of the Spirit of God." That is, one should distinguish one's own desires and fantasies, from what the Holy Spirit told you.

How Does the Holy Spirit Speak to a Man?

David Wilkerson, the famous American preacher, speaks of how the Holy Spirit speaks to a person:

"The Holy Spirit dwells in us to show us where the truth is and where lies are. He speaks in a calm, quiet voice deep inside the heart. Many of our holy forefathers believed in this kind of action of the Holy Spirit in believers. They preached a lot about "having a testimony." But I do not hear, that again someone preached about this truth..."

For some men, this is the last requirement in our list of 20 necessary requirements - obtaining confirmation from God about a bride may seem difficult because not everyone has an established contact with God. We have already talked about the need for a man to establish relations with his Creator. In this chapter, you see the confirmation of the need to have a personal relationship with your Creator. Only them, you will be able to receive answers to the most difficult questions and wisely exit in hopeless situations.

So, it is important for a man to remember that you can get married after you get a confirmation in your spirit: that is, you will receive the testimony of the spirit that this person is meant for you by God. You shouldn’t marry a girl just because you like her, but it is necessary that you receive a revelation and know in the spirit that she is the one.

It is important to make a choice based on the certainty that it is the will of God, that it is God who leads you to this person. But if you decide based on the fact that she is beautiful, - firstly, beauty is a deceptive thing; secondly, beauty goes away! Better, decide because it's the will of God and the fact that you love this person.

The most important thing is that the heart "speaks"; it responds to a certain person. If it happened that you feel in your heart that this girl is "yours", but some moments her character, behavior, or social status may confuse you; you need to know that every man can "make" his wife. But not in a sense to remodel her for himself, you cannot change another person. But the husband can help her to realize herself; he can inspire her so that she can become what God has destined her to be. Thus, the husband can and should help his partner to fulfill her calling.

In conclusion, of the chapter, we focus on the key requirement for a person who wants to hear the voice of God and his directions - including, about his bride.

The testimony of the Holy Spirit can only work in a humble, clean vessel in which God's peace reigns!

This means that you will not receive any confirmations or directions from above until you adjust your spiritual life and come close to God. For someone to start talking to you, and you hear it - you should go closer, right? Therefore, a man who does not want to make mistakes when choosing a bride should look not in the sides, but deep inside himself. And, first, to find the peace of God, in order to be able to hear when God speaks to him about the bride. As the Bible says, in the Book of Colossians, chapter 3, verse 15:

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts."

Colossians 3:15

What Hinders a Man from Getting Confirmation from God?

Such obstacles in the life of every person is a sin. It brings anxiety to our heart and distances us from God. Hidden, unconfessed sin takes away from you the precious world.

When a person sins, the Holy Spirit will speak to you to correct you; He will convict you of sin, righteousness and judgment. But when it comes to reasoning and giving a clue about a situation in life or about marriage, it will be a calm and quiet voice that will tell you what to do and where to go. He will not act in an unclean vessel!

And, of course, your prayer is an important condition for receiving confirmation from God about your bride. You should pray and ask God to open your eyes and give a sign so that you will know when you meet your one and only spouse.

In this chapter, we have considered the twentieth quality that a future husband should have in order to build a strong family- having a heavenly confirmation that she is your wife.

Dear reader, for self-examination, I’d advise you to pass the next test. Choose only one answer in each question or statement. Your score is shown in brackets opposite the selected answer. The sum of points earned will help to determine how much you have already developed the quality necessary for marriage, which was discussed in this chapter and how much you have learned with the information you've received.

TEST FOR SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. **Before marrying, a man should make sure that the bride is his "fiancée" - that he did not choose her himself, but she is destined for him by God, because...**
    a. so he can dispel his doubts whether he is worth marrying her (2)
    b. in this case their family will be in all good luck (1)
    c. then their union will be insured against conflicts, difficulties and lapping in communication (1)
    d. understanding that this woman is destined for you, will save you from many mistakes and temptations in marriage. Awareness that she was chosen by God will help you go through difficulties in relationships and not be disappointed, do not give up - but fight for your own, blessed heavenly family (4)
2. **Confirmation that your fiancée is "chosen", that God has determined it, that your family will be under the blessing from above, can be obtained with the help of...**
    a. fortune telling (1)
    b. psychics (1)
    c. numerology (1)
    d. prayers, while reading the Bible (4)

1. **Additional evidence that you have made the right choice of the bride, can serve...**
    a. people's signs (1)
    b. sleep, confirmation from the surrounding people (4)
    c. happy date of acquaintance or marriage (1)
    d. a combination of the signs of the zodiac (1)
2. **A hint from above about his bride can be heard only by the man who...**
    a. has a developed intuition (1)
    b. practices any spiritual practices and ways of "enlightenment" (1)
    c. put a candle in the church about his request (2)
    d. has a personal relationship with God, uses the power of prayer and studies the Bible for guidance and directions in life situations (4)

The sum of your points.....

TEST RESULTS

Less than 4 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

4 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

5 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

6-16 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

TOTAL TEST RESULTS OF ALL THE CHAPTERS

Less than 70 points - We are sorry, but at the moment you do not have the necessary quality, so you are not ready to create a family. You should develop

the necessary qualities; otherwise you risk failing and face intractable problems in your marriage.

71-159 points - Not bad. By this parameter of readiness for marriage, you are at a satisfactory level, and at this stage, you are highly advised not to marry. You have the potential, the necessary quality is already present, but you should develop it.

160-239 points - Well done! You meet the necessary requirement in sufficient measure, but do not stop at this level, but continue to work on this quality until you master it fully.

240-255 points - Excellent! Congratulations, you are well qualified to be considered an enviable fiancé. By this parameter, you are ready for marriage, but do not rest on your laurels and constantly improve.

PART 3

THE DECEPTION IN REGARDS TO COHABITATION

Concluding the book about marriage, I would like to sum up and warn you once again against the millennial deception- do not confuse a full-fledged official marriage and "cohabitation". You can postpone living together for an indefinite period while you prepare yourself towards creating a family, because the difference between them is the same as the difference between a real passport and a fake one - they look similar in appearance, but in fact - one is legal and the second is illegal.

Cohabitation is not a Complete Family Union

To understand why a "cohabitation" is not a full-fledged family union, let us quote the opinion of a consultant on marriage issues, Alexander Galayko said:

"Cohabitation" is what the Church calls an infernal marriage. Despite this, today almost every young person considers it a normal phenomenon. Even some older people believe that it is better to live together than to marry and divorce, or spend money for a wedding. In today's world, it is considered that before the wedding it is better to "test each other", to check your compatibility in sex and in everyday life. It would seem that this is the purpose of a "cohabiting". But this is a lie! If this worked and it was true - Ukraine would not occupy the first place in the world for divorce. In Ukraine, two of three marriages break up. While among

Christian couples who did not cohabit before their wedding, the divorce rate is approaching zero. "Cohabitation" is a deception. This is the lie that drives a person into a curse.

Cohabitation is Irresponsibility

Living together before marriage under no circumstances can be considered as a full-fledged marriage, because it is absolutely the opposite thing. Cohabiting is a situation, where neither partner takes responsibility. The main motive of legal marriage is responsibility. Cohabiting and irresponsibility are synonyms words. "Living together before marriage takes away the responsibility of a man or woman to have a long relationship. Cohabiting is like "let's try, and then we'll see. In such unregistered unions, then children are born, then the parents quarrel, break up and breed fatherlessness.

Who Benefits from Cohabitation?

Cohabitation is a suitable option for people who do not want to take responsibility. This is why people who do this cannot be happy and satisfied. This practice is more beneficial to a man: "He remains free. He lives with a woman free and does not owe her anything. She cannot demand from him true love or any kind of relationship that he's not ready to give. If anything, he's ready to turn around and leave.

If a man truly loves, if he finds a woman he loves - he is ready to do everything. He is ready to give his name and his estate. He is ready to share everything that he has with this woman and give her all his life.

If a man says that he is not yet ready for marriage, and he offers to wait and "test" - he does not love the woman. She should not expect that after "testing" her, he will finally fall in love. A man by nature is a conqueror. If a woman gives herself to him - for a while or "constantly" she becomes to him "a conquered territory". If this happened in a legitimate marriage - this perception strengthens the relationship and the sense of spiritual intimacy between the spouses, and the feeling of total dedication to one another.

But if a woman opens herself to a man who has nothing to do with her, being with him in a "free" relationship - this cools his interest in her, she loses her value in his eyes. It doesn't matter what the man may say to persuade the lady to "free" love - in the depths of his soul he respects the principled ladies. A woman who agreed to a cohabitation is not perceived as valuable, because she gives herself accessible for free. This, as you can see, does not promote a respectful relationship between partners.

What Statistics Say about Cohabitation

An interesting connection exists between divorce and unregistered marriages, i.e. cohabitation. People conclude "cohabitation", is to test themselves to make their marriage more durable. But in fact, the marriages concluded after such trial cohabitation are less strong and disintegrate faster and more often than normal marriages in which this premarital sex was absent.

Dear men, do not confuse a complete marriage and a full-fledged family with a "cohabitation".

CONCLUSION

In this book, we examined 20 main signs of a man's readiness for marriage and the role of a successful spouse.

They are:

1. I must be morally ready for marriage
2. I must be ready to lose the freedom of singleness
3. I must be ready intellectually for marriage
4. I must be ready mentally for marriage
5. I must be happy and self-sufficient
6. I am ready to shut my eyes to other women once I chose one.
7. I'm ready to keep my friends at bay once I get married
8. I am financially secured for marriage
9. I am spiritually matured for marriage
10. I am already fulfilling my calling
11. My fiancée and I are not in conflict
12. I am in a trustworthy friendship with my fiancée
13. I am free enough to discuss any topic with my fiancée
14. I have confidence in the love we have for each other
15. I am ready to sacrifice everything for my fiancée
16. I have done my research and have gotten positive feedbacks about my fiancée
17. I have received the blessings of her parents for our marriage
18. I would never stop loving her even if she becomes sick or disabled

19. I am ready to give her a fatherly love and covering
20. I have received the heavenly confirmation that she is my wife

After studying this book "Am I ready to be a husband", you already understand how to get prepared for marriage. So far, I have shared in this book, principles which require self-discipline and willpower for implementation, but the results of the efforts expended will pay off with great interest. However, it is important that after reading this book you remember that marriage is not only hard work, effort and self-discipline. An essential part of a happy marriage is the ability to have fun with each other, find time for leisure, laugh together and enjoy each other's presence. Good jokes, laughter, elements of romance have a beneficial effect on the creation of a happy family home.

Now, dear reader, you know what you need to do to work on yourself in order to get closer to the quality standard, as a man, a husband and a father. When you reach this state, it will be important not to make a mistake in choosing a life partner, so that your self-improvement efforts will be appreciated. You know what qualities indicate a man's readiness to marry. And in order to know what qualities your bride should have, we advise you to read the book "Am I ready to be a wife".

So, dear friends, we have come to the end of our book. Summing up the summary of all of the above, you can draw the following conclusion: a man ready to marry or not is determined by how he developed the qualities of a real man and how much he could get rid of the qualities of a "boy". I advise you never to forget what the difference between these two positions is. For clarity sake, we give a comparative table of these different states of men and the criteria of readiness for marriage.

APPENDIX

Table 1. Criteria for Marriage Preparation

Criteria for Marriage Preparation	**Description of Criteria**
• Moral and Psychological Readiness	Moral and psychological preparation for marriage includes the development of complex personality traits, attitudes, motives, beliefs, and direction of actions. These qualities are expressed in different life situations and describe the complete personality of a man. A man's attitude to this quality might be the answer to the question of whether he considers marriage to be an important and necessary step or he disregards it.

Not paying keen attention to the choice of a life partner can lead to what we call "failed marriages".

The lackadaisical attitude towards the choice of a life partner can also be because of a short period of relationship before marriage.

An important criterion for having a sense of responsibility for a family being created can be the following facts: a stable material security before marriage, well-established conditions for a normal family life, the ability to sacrifice something personal for the sake of the family.

Important factors that show a man's responsibility and preparedness for his future family are a stable material security before marriage, well-established conditions for a normal family life, and the ability to sacrifice something personal for the sake of the family.

The indicator of readiness to establish a healthy psychological atmosphere in the family is the ability to regulate complex conflict situations, justice in assessing the actions of family members, deep respect for everyone, as well as one's behavior during quarrels and conflicts with a loved one, sensitivity and skills in dealing with it.

Criteria for Marriage Preparation	**Description of Criteria**
• Social and Legal Readiness	Social and legal knowledge relating to the family is by understanding the social importance of the institution of the family, and having knowledge about the main aspects and functions of the family. It is also important to be familiar with the basics of family rules (the rights and duties of spouses, parents, children, legal norms governing relationships in marriage, family, etc.).
• Economic and Financial Readiness	Economic and financial readiness for family life includes the presence of certain knowledge and skills in understanding the need for planning the family budget, provision of care and comfort, beauties of life, etc.
	By psychological readiness for marriage, we mean a special personal education, which is a complex multi-level system, the main components which are marital values, marital motivation, concepts of family hierarchy, marital attitudes and expectations, and concepts of marital relations. There are significant differences in the psychological readiness for marriage between people at different stages of the period of adulthood. At the same time, the psychological readiness for marriage does not increase linearly with age, but the following trend is observed: • in the early youth (17-21 years), the concept of marriage is just beginning to be understood and begins to imagine their partner and themselves as a future husband (wife). This age is characterized by mixed attitudes related to marriage, building relationships with a partner (distribution of roles, responsibilities, etc.) and the upbringing of children. There is no clear dominant motivation for marriage. The partner is considered, first, as a partner for communication and companionship.

• Economic and Financial Readiness	• Youth (21-40 years old) is characterized by a high level of psychological readiness for marriage. During this period, ideas are formed about marital relations, about a partner not only for communication, but also for building a family. Much attention is paid to relations between spouses and their emotional-psychotherapeutic connections. The dominant motivation is motivation for a certain person. • Maturity (41-60 years) is characterized by a slight decrease in readiness for marriage in comparison with the youth stage. During this period, the preferred family model is established, and the necessary structure of relations between spouses is built. The dominant motivation is motivation for a certain type of marriage. I.e. under the model of marriage, a partner is selected.
• Sexual Education	Sexual education includes the necessary knowledge about the intimate aspects of a person's life. It includes such qualities of personality as modesty, honor (for women) and dignity (for men), mutual respect, the desire to protect the health, honor and dignity of a loved one, fidelity and devotion to one's beloved, that is understanding the importance of keeping fidelity in marriage.
• Readiness in parenting	Preparation in parenting includes, first, the awareness of the need to ensure the physical, mental and moral health of the children in the family. It is necessary to take a responsible attitude towards the birth of a child and to have the necessary knowledge regarding the birth and upbringing of children. It is also important; with a sense of responsibility decide whether to have or not to have a child and when to have them. At the same time, financial security, the degree of employment at work, the possibility of helping older family members, housing conditions, etc. should be taken into account. It is necessary to understand clearly, what will have to be waived for some time from entertainment, recreation, trips, hikes and other things for the sake of the child. Knowledge, skills and abilities of caring for babies are important. The necessary pedagogical knowledge, skills and abilities acquired in the parent family are of great importance in order to build a good personality in your children.

Table 2. The difference between a real and infantile man ("boy")

No.	A Real Man	An Infantile Man
1	A real man is one who takes responsibility for everything, for situations, for acquaintances and strangers, for communication, for peace and quiet in the house, for bringing stability, in order to lay the right foundation for his house and family. For him, the main thing is to have order around him.	An infantile man reacts and watches what happens. He is controlled by what goes on around him and does not take responsibility for anything. He's told to run, he runs. Without any instruction, he sits back and does nothing. He is indifferent to his surroundings, and his excuse is always. "No one told me," so he does not think ahead. Chaos in the society is due to the lack of fathers, because many are boys and not real men.

2	A real man gives attention and care, without demanding anything in return and does not seek for his selfish gain: "What will I gain from this?" For him, the main thing is to give. A real man does not think, "it's your turn now, later it would be my turn." Because he understands that if he will give attention and care, he will automatically receive care.	An infantile man demands care and attention to himself alone. He always seeks for “What he will gain from this?" An infantile (immature) man "is as a child that needs to be taken care of. He is a grown man who waits for someone to cook his food, his clothes washed for him, and complains and grumbles at everything:
	We do not even know what attention is. When was the last time you noticed the hairstyles and the clothes of your wife, the suit and the tie of a neighbor - when was the last time you gave a person attention and let him know that you noticed him? But a real man is genuinely interested in people around him: He says: "Hello! How are you? "Because we do not know how to give attention, I am sure we can't remember the last time we were interested in the health of the wife and children of your neighbor? To give attention and care is to meet the needs of people, to be interested in them. But the egoist waits for only his needs to be met. As a real man, you need to think about something or somebody other than yourself.	Not only this, even more, he lives believing he is entitled to things and that others must meet his needs. "Mom must, my wife must! This is the trick immature man use: "She does not cook! So she does not love me". But the truth is that no one owes you anything, you must love! When I was a kid, I always asked: what would I get in return? How would I benefit from this? If I help a girl, then I have to sleep with her. In the church settings, if the pastor or the leader asks him to do something, the immature man asks, "What will I gain from this?" - Are you a parasite? Do you live for yourself? You get annoyed because "They did not congratulate me on your birthday..." how old are you? What separates a real man and an immature man is not age, but responsibility. This question: "What will I get from this?" is not asked by a real and mature man. An immature man (kid) creates a scandal if he gets home and his food is not ready. He is capricious. Whereas a mature man would think immediately, maybe she feels bad or sick. She is not my slave: if she hasn't prepared my food, I'll do it myself.
3	A real man does not impose his rights and does not insist that he is right when he's not.	An infantile man always argues and insists that he is right. He constantly proves his rights. For him, the main thing is to be right. But while he argues, he doesn't realize he loses much more.

4	A real and matured man cares about the people around him, solves the problems of others, and does not focus on his problems.	A kid (infantile man) is driven by his needs and live to satisfy his needs. He creates problems for others rather than solve them.
5	A real man can make independent decisions.	An immature always depend on others - someone must help or tell him what to do.
6	A real man is busy with his work and looks for ways to be more productive. He solves problems, does not complain or cry.	An immature man always whines, cries, growls, mutters, grumbles. Nothing goes well with him, and everyone is wrong.
7	A real man puts the interests and happiness of the wife and his family higher than his own, and the interests of others higher than his. A real man's main concern is for his spouse to be happy.	An immature is self-centered and irresponsible, as a kid only focused on himself. He has an exaggerated opinion of himself.
8	A responsible man always remembers that he has someone at home expecting him. He is conscious of the fact that he needs to come home, help lay the children to sleep, do their lessons, etc. He doesn’t leave his home without notifying his family, and while he is outside, he controls himself so that he does not eat outside before coming home (to give pleasure to his wife - to eat with his family).	An irresponsible sleeps wherever he finds himself at midnight. He eats anywhere, as long as he is hungry - he has no principles he lives by. He does not tell anyone about his departure and arrival. He is not conscious that his wife is waiting at home for him. He does not tell anyone where he went. He does not think about the consequences of his actions, nor think about his children and family at home.
9	A real man looks after his wife. He shows signs of attention and honors his wife as God's daughter, God's princess! A man does not leave his house if his wife is unhappy. Attention and care is a sign of a strong man. Only a strong man can humble himself to help the weak.	An infantile man cannot pay his undivided attention to a woman, to meet her, hold, and give a hand. Because he believes that this is a sign of weakness, he thinks the woman would use it against him.
10	A real man takes responsibility, he goes to work, earns money not only for himself, but also to support his family. He does not require anything from his wife, but frees his wife from any financial burden. If she wants, she can go to work, but if she does not want to, she can sit at home and enjoy her life, because her responsible husband will cover all her needs.	An infantile man (kid) does not like to work. He expects the wife to earn money to care for the family and her parents. He demands that his wife shows how much she earns, offers to share financial responsibility for the family 50/50 with her. He forgot that she wasn't the one who asked for marriage, but he sought her and asked for her hand in marriage. There are husbands who start to put pressure on their wives: "Go, get a job; you do not earn enough." This is terrible.

		A wife can decide not to work if she doesn't want. The mindset of a responsible man should be this: even if she does not work and does not earn any salary, I as her husband must be able to maintain her fully. A man must take responsibility for his wife.
11	Real men admit their mistakes, repent, and ask for forgiveness.	Recognizing one's mistake means capitulation and a manifestation of weakness for a kid (immature man). Even if he is wrong, he will deny the obvious, and dodge. To acknowledge our mistakes and to apologize sincerely, we need the strength of the spirit, which an infantile man does not have.
12	A real man builds lifelong relationships; he takes a responsible attitude toward his relationships: he cherishes and protects especially in his family. He builds them and takes full responsibility.	For an immature man, his relationship with people and with women are superficial.
13	A real man is prudent. He has a culture of saving, frugal, plans, and thinks about his family budget.	A kid (irresponsible man) spends all his money on himself and does not think about the future. He only cares about wearing designer clothes and eating in top class restaurants, riding in a modern car. One day a pastor was traveling on a train in one compartment with a guy - a former drug addict: he was spending money on himself, and at the same time there was nothing to eat at home. On the way, he bought food and expensive perfumes. He was trying to impress, while he was dying inside. While they reached Moscow, he complained: "I do not know how to live, pastor."
14	A real man thinks about the future and about his children, what will happen to them in 5, 10 years. How will his family live and in what conditions will they live?	An infantile man does not think about tomorrow at all. His focus is today, and he lives only for today.
15	A real man works on his weaknesses because he understands that he has weaknesses and needs to work on them. He disciplines and denies himself of	An immature man does not work on himself nor over his weaknesses. He's already perfect! His focus is to dress well and go to the gym to create

	things when necessary.	an external appearance.
16	A real man is humble and exercises his leadership by serving as the head of the family through humility and reverence. He understands that to be the head is to be the last, to be the first, means to be the last, to be supreme means to be smaller, to be the boss is to serve and to be a servant.	A kid (immature man) is proud and loves only himself. He cannot say anything but only proves that he is always right and he knows everything.

QUESTIONS FOR SELF-ASSESSMENTS FOR MEN

1. What questions should you ask yourself before you get married?
2. What kind of sobering questions do you need to ask yourself before marrying?
3. What does it mean to be spiritually prepared for marriage?
4. What does it mean to mentally prepared for marriage?
5. What does it mean to be ready for marriage both physically and financially?
6. What are alarm signals? Give three examples of the alarm that occur before the wedding.
7. What kind of man can build a happy family?
8. How to know if you are ready for marriage?
9. Why should you discuss, discuss issues of sex, money, children and relations with relatives before the wedding?
10. Why do I need a heavenly confirmation, before I marry?



SUNDAY ADELAJA'S BIOGRAPHY

Pastor Sunday Adelaja is the Founder and Senior Pastor of The Embassy of the Blessed Kingdom of God for All Nations Church in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Sunday Adelaja is a Nigerian-born Leader, Thinker, Philosopher, Transformation Strategist, Pastor, Author and Innovator who lives in Kiev, Ukraine.

At 19, he won a scholarship to study in the former Soviet Union. He completed his master's program in Belorussia State University with distinction in journalism.

At 33, he had built the largest evangelical church in Europe — The Embassy of the Blessed Kingdom of God for All Nations.

Sunday Adelaja is one of the few individuals in our world who has been privileged to speak in the United Nations, Israeli Parliament, Japanese Parliament and the United States Senate.



The movement he pioneered has been instrumental in reshaping lives of people in the Ukraine, Russia and about 50 other nations where he has his branches.

His congregation, which consists of ninety-nine percent white Europeans, is a cross-cultural model of the church for the 21st century.

His life mission is to advance the Kingdom of God on earth by



raising a generation of history makers who will live for a cause larger, bigger and greater than themselves. Those who will live like Jesus and transform every sphere of the society in every nation as a model of the Kingdom of God on earth.

His economic empowerment program has succeeded in raising over 200 millionaires in the short period of three years.

Sunday Adelaja is the author of over 300 books, many of which are translated into several languages including Russian, English, French, Chinese, German, etc.

His work has been widely reported by world media outlets such as The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Forbes, Associated Press, Reuters, CNN, BBC, German, Dutch and French national television stations.

Pastor Sunday is happily married to his "Princess" Bose Dere-Adelaja. They are blessed with three children: Perez, Zoe and Pearl.









Bill Clinton —
42Nd President Of The United States (1993–2001), Former Arcansas State Governor

Ariel "Arik" Sharon —
Israeli Politician, Israeli Prime Minister (2001–2006)





Benjamin Netanyahu —
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Canadian Politician, 20Th Prime Minister Of Canada, Minister Of Justice Of Canada, Head Of Liberan Party Of Canada

Rudolph Giuliani —
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English Business Magnate, Investor And Philanthropist. He Founded The *Virgin Group*, Which Controls More Than 400 Companies

Mel Gibson —
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Chuck Norris —
American Martial Artist, Actor, Film Producer And Screenwriter



Christopher Tucker — American Actor And Comedian

Bernice Albertine King — American Minister Best Known As The Youngest Child Of Civil Rights Leaders Martin Luther King Jr. And Coretta Scott King Andrew





Andrew Young — American Politician, Diplomat, And Activist, 14th United States Ambassador To The United Nations, 55th Mayor Of Atlanta



General Wesley Kanne Clark —
4-Star General And Nato Supreme Allied Commander

Dr. Sunday Adelaja's family:
Perez, Pearl, Zoe and Pastor Bose Adelaja



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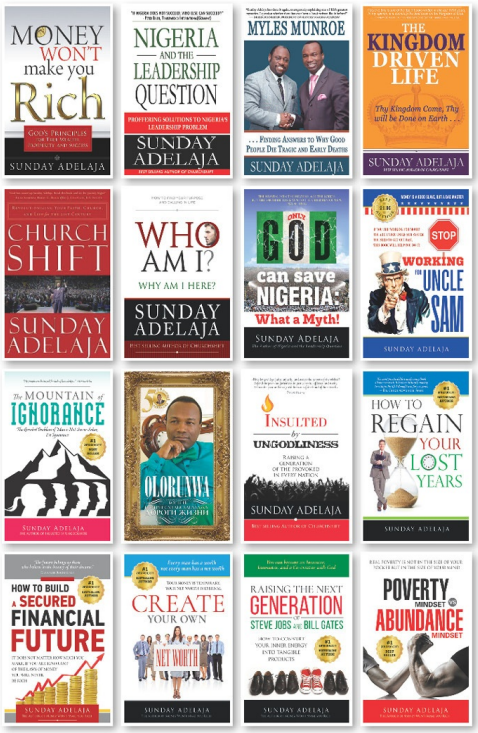
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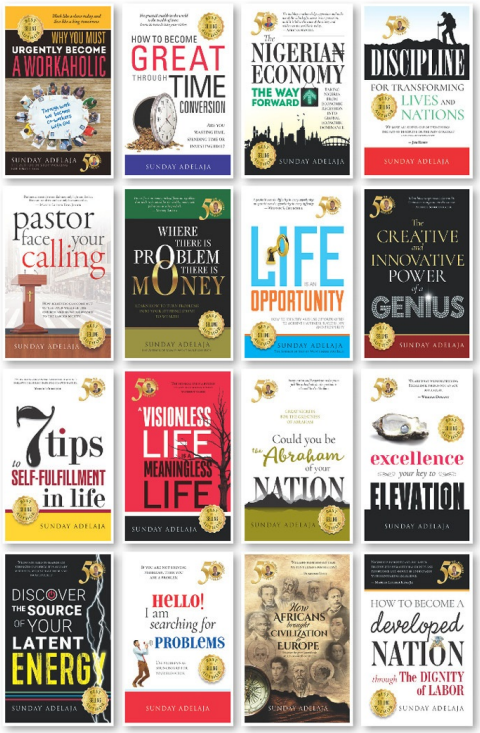
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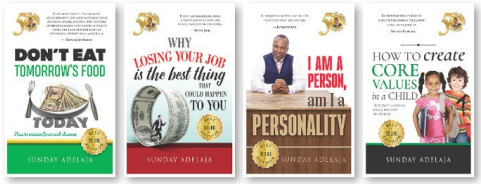


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