

MARRIAGE IS NOT FOR SOCIAL STATUS



EDWARD AGYEMAN

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Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible unless stated otherwise. All scriptures marked AMP are taken from the Amplified version of the Holy Bible. All scriptures marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

Marriage is good. It is something that some people desire, and rightly so. God created marriage as a sacred union, designed for purpose. However, it is important to understand from the very beginning that marriage is not for social status. It is not a prize to show off to family, friends, or society. It is not about keeping up with what others are doing or meeting societal expectations.

In today's world, social media has made it easy to get caught up in the frenzy of appearances. We see posts of engagements, weddings, and seemingly perfect relationships, and it is easy to feel pressured to be married or to find the “right” partner quickly. Family expectations, peer pressure, and cultural norms can

also mislead us into making rushed decisions. When marriage is approached from the wrong place—social approval or personal pride—it can lead to unhealthy relationships and, eventually, a troubled marriage.

Marriage is a godly desire, and there is nothing wrong with wanting it. But it is essential that this desire is guided by Scripture and wisdom. God's Word provides the principles and direction we need to make decisions that honour Him and protect our hearts. Approaching marriage with discernment, patience, and biblical guidance helps us avoid preventable mistakes and lays a strong foundation for a lasting union.

I have written this book to offer counsel and give some knowledge regarding marriage to help the reader in understanding the purpose of marriage, preparing their heart and character, and building relationships that reflect God's design. To truly

enjoy marriage a person must intentionally develop and position oneself well. For marriages to work it is not about quick fixes or temporary solutions, but about equipping oneself with godly knowledge to experience the joy, peace, and fulfilment that come from a marriage rooted in Christ.

Whether you are single and preparing for marriage, or married and seeking to strengthen your union, this book will provide practical guidance, biblical insights, and encouragement to help you navigate the journey with God at the centre.

1

Marriage, Not for Social Status

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Marriage is not design for social status, public approval, or personal validation. It is not meant to serve as a response to societal expectations. Marriage was never designed to be a status symbol; it is a sacred institution established by God for His purpose and for His glory.

When marriage is pursued primarily for social recognition, its divine meaning is diminished. Some Christians enter marriage not because they are led by God, but because they desire acceptance, or a sense of belonging. In such cases, marriage becomes a means to an end rather than its true purpose ordained by God.

God Himself instituted marriage. It did not originate from culture, tradition, or social pressure. As believers, failure to acknowledge marriage as God's institution often leads to a distorted understanding of its purpose. When marriage is viewed through a human or societal lens, it is reduced to a just an

ordinary activity. However, when viewed through God's lens, marriage is a divine institution designed to reflect God's will.

When marriage is reduced to social status we have the wrong approach and its process leading to the marriage will become thwarted. In today's world, marriage is often treated by some as just a symbol of social achievement. Marriages to some has become displays of rings.

Marriage is not for proving a point to anyone-family, friends, society, or even oneself. It is not a response to comparison, competition, or criticism. Entering marriage to affirm personal value or to silence societal pressure, places a burden on the relationship that it was never meant to carry.

Internal pressures such as fear of loneliness, insecurity, and the desire for acceptance often push individuals into relationships outside of God's will.

External pressures—family expectations, cultural timelines, age-related assumptions, and social media narratives—further complicate decision-making. Under such pressure, it becomes easy to form relationships that look right socially but are wrong in the sight of God.

When marriage becomes about social status, people prioritise appearances over alignment, ceremonies over commitment, and public approval over God's instruction. This approach often leads to frustration, disappointment, and emotional strain because the foundation is faulty.

Marriage, according to God's design, is a covenant, not a credential. It is not meant to elevate one's social status but to cultivate godly character, mutual growth, and purpose. A marriage aligned with God's intent reflects humility, sacrifice, love, and obedience—not status.

As believers, it is necessary to return to the truth that marriage exists for God's glory. When marriage is no longer pursued as a fashion statement or a social achievement, it regains its sacredness. Only then can it function as God intended—bringing honour to Him and fulfilment to those who enter it according to His will.

2

Understanding Marriage

Genesis 2:15-25

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." And the Lord God said, "It is not good that

man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Marriage is a beautiful institution. As Christians, we recognise it as instituted by God for a holy purpose. Marriage is a sacred union that is honourable and must be approached with caution in order for the believer to truly enjoy and celebrate this holy institution.

Whilst we celebrate marriage and advocate for people to enter into holy matrimony, I must also sound a note of caution: marriage is not for social status or for fashion. We do not marry simply to make a statement, follow a trend, or prove a point.

It is important that we understand the concept of marriage so that we are well prepared before entering it and, whilst in it, do not take things for granted, but remain committed and guided by Scripture in our approach.

Having the right view of marriage is essential to guide both singles and the married to be successful on this journey.

Whilst some may have married without knowing much about marriage, ideally, no one should enter it without proper understanding. Furthermore, if a person is hurt from previous relationships, it is important to heal and be in a healthy state before venturing into marriage.

The failure of marriages is due to multiple factors and differs from couple to couple, but let no one be mistaken: a general lack of understanding of this holy institution forms part of the cracks in a marriage.

Therefore, I cannot emphasise enough the essence of true understanding as far as marriage is concerned. A lack of proper understanding forms the genesis of malpractice and undermines the ability of couples to unite on important issues.

Marriage is a blessing, and it is important that certain basic truths are established to enable each person to approach it with a better understanding and the right posture.

Marriage Approach

The institution of marriage is known to us as believers as an institution of God, right from the Garden of Eden.

We read the creation story in Genesis and see God creating man and giving him responsibility. We learn from Scripture that, for Adam, there was none comparable among God's creation. So God made a woman, presented her, and, as we recognise from Scripture, Adam acknowledged her after the formation process and gave her the name “woman.” We know the first marriage to be the union between Adam and Eve.

This forms the basis of our understanding and approach as Christians regarding marriage.

The union of Adam and Eve provides a portrait of what necessitated marriage and why it is so significant. With proper understanding, it helps a man and woman individually to develop and demonstrate the right character.

Some lessons we learn from the creation story about Adam and Eve include:

- Marriage is for a purpose.
- You align with someone who is comparable.
- A woman is given to aid (helpmeet) – a blessing to an assignment.
- A man in marriage is a leader and must provide strategic leadership.
- A man must recognise, respect, and accept the help a wife brings.
- A woman should ensure she does not become an accessory to the devil's plan.

- A man must remain committed to obedience to God and lead the wife and their home as a chief servant.

1. **Marriage Is for a Purpose**

Marriage is not for entertainment. While there are pleasures a couple can enjoy, primarily, two people come together to fulfil a purpose and not merely for fun. God, having given Adam a mandate, gave the woman as a helpmeet.

If you are a man, you need a clear sense of purpose and an understanding of what you are working towards in life. This clarity helps a woman align when she comes into your life. A woman must also understand her worth so that whoever she aligns with, she can be supportive.

As a woman, you are called to be a helper, among other things, to the purpose of the man. This does not mean you do not have your own purpose, but the

pursuit of your purpose should ultimately be a blessing to your home. While a woman may have dreams and pursue them, she does so in a way that enables her to serve her home. I will expand on this point in a later chapter.

2. **Alignment**

Differences are inevitable among humans due to various factors. When forming a relationship or building a marriage, it is important as a Christian to choose someone with whom you align in faith—sharing a common belief in God as well as certain basic values.

You must understand each other's ways and come to a place of acceptance. This does not mean accepting bad behaviour—certainly not. Rather, it means knowing what the other person stands for and ensuring that your views are compatible, or that you are willing to share a common vision. Unity strengthens marriage, so as a couple, you need to

align on both the basics and non-negotiable principles.

3. **A Wife Is a Blessing**

A wife is a blessing and a special gift; she is indeed the icing on the cake. A husband must recognise this, and every woman must come to fully understand her importance.

Genesis 2:18 states that the helper there does not denote one of lower value, but one of significant importance to bring aid to Adam. The role of a woman in a man's life is unique and one to cherish.

The Hebrew word translated as “ezer,” meaning “helper” or “help meet,” emphasises the woman's importance. God created her to be an ezer to man. This word, translated as “helper,” means an ally or rescuer, someone who comes to the aid of those in need. An ezer drops everything to save those in need—they are heroes.

A husband must see and recognise his wife as a blessing to his life and be willing to listen to and receive her input. A wife must recognise her self-worth and the vital role she plays, so that she can live up to God's expectations and be a blessing to her home.

4. **Leadership**

In marriage, a man is given the role of leadership. This should not be an issue of debate. In human institutions, leadership is recognised and valued. God making a man a leader places responsibility on him to lead the home according to His Word.

A man's leadership role is not to bully or undermine but to care for the welfare and well-being of the home and to create an environment where all members-including children or the couple themselves-can flourish while exercising their skills and talents under his guidance.

A man must understand the concept of leadership in marriage to avoid conflict with his wife over relevance. Likewise, a woman must understand what leadership means so that she does not rebel.

5. **The Wife Is a Helper**

A woman plays a crucial role in marriage. Every woman must be aware of her role as a helper and its significance; this understanding allows her to flourish and shine in her relationship or marriage.

Being a helper means that you are continually growing and adding value to yourself in order to better support your husband and the home.

For instance: If you are employed, it means advancing in your career so that your excellence is reflected in the support you provide to the home and positions you to be a support to your husband.

A husband must also appreciate that his wife is a helper, ensuring he does not undermine her role. This mutual understanding creates a strong and effective partnership, making the couple a formidable team in life's journey.

6. A Wife Aligns with Her Spouse

A wife occupies a unique position in marriage. She is a gift from God to support and partner with her husband, not to act as an enemy or align with the works of darkness.

Marriage can receive attacks, challenges, and differences, but a wife should maintain a supportive posture. Even during times of hurt, she must act in a way that promotes unity and the building of the home. A wife should have a vision and commitment to excel so that her efforts positively impact her household. A husband must also create an enabling environment that will help a wife to fulfil her duties.

7. A Husband/Wife should be united in Marriage

In the Garden of Eden, the man/ woman was not created to be independent of one another but to form a divine partnership and be one in purpose. A husband/ wife should strive to be united with each other in all things.

Being one means finding common ground in all matters and avoiding divergent opinions, interpretations, and adamant attitudes that place strain on each other and detract from efforts toward unity.

Unity in marriage represents the blessedness of two people becoming one.

8. A Husband Recognises His Wife as a Cherished Gift

Adam recognised Eve upon her creation. A man must recognise the value of the woman he intends to marry and place a premium on her worth. A wife is given to be a blessing to her husband, so whoever you choose as a spouse should be seen and treated as a precious gift from God.

3

Marriage Starts with You

Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for

her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Proverbs 14:1

The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

The beauty of every marriage starts with you as an individual. Whether you are married, single, or in a relationship, it is important to understand that the beauty of marriage begins with you. First and foremost, you are the greatest investment your marriage can have. There must be personal acknowledgement and a sense of responsibility that you accept. This will commit you to developing and building the right virtues for marriage. Your personal growth will go a long way in ensuring not only that you choose rightly, but that you are also right, exhibiting the proper virtues within marriage.

Marriage can be demanding, and there are hurdles that couples face. Through it all, the right virtues provide the necessary resilience and “shock absorption” needed for the marriage to build. Sometimes, mistakes made in marriage or during the relationship stage can be traced back to a lack of self-understanding or personal development.

You need to know yourself and build yourself. For instance, whether man or woman, if you fail to understand your worth, you may easily choose a partner who does not complement you, or whom you cannot complement. In other words, you risk being unequally yoked.

The phrase *“marriage starts with you”* denotes that developing yourself is the first step towards a meaningful relationship or a fruitful marriage. While we look to a partner to complement us, often the right choice stems from knowing yourself and being in a healthy state. Your welfare and well-being are fundamental to making the right decisions.

To prepare yourself, you need to ensure that you:

- Have a growing relationship with God.
- Are of sound mind.
- Have dealt with past traumas and hurts.

- Have received the necessary support to overcome fears or negative perspectives regarding marriage.
- Have addressed unsavoury characteristics.

These are just a few among many. The bottom line is that a person needs to be in a healthy state and cultivate virtues that support union with another person in marriage in order to experience a prosperous and fulfilling marriage. A good, healthy marriage starts with you. Always remember that your personal character health is the foundation of a healthy marital journey.

The virtues needed for marriage are learned and developed over time. Whether married or unmarried, the success of your marriage begins with you. This does not mean it depends entirely on you, but it starts with you. Therefore, there is a real need for genuine commitment to self-development. Continuous learning, and unlearning unproductive behaviours and mannerisms, is vital.

Do not leave the success of your relationship or marriage to chance. Be proactive and work on yourself.

Consider this: when your spouse's behaviour feels irritating in marriage, could it be that—while their actions may indeed be inappropriate—your own lack of tolerance makes those actions feel even more uncomfortable?

I ask this because, although we may rightly acknowledge the faults of our spouses, it is also possible that our own capacity to accept and manage their behaviour is limited. So while they may need to change, we are equally called to grow in our own virtues.

4

Avoid Getting it Wrong

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not
on your own understanding; In all your ways
acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 18:22

*He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And
obtains favor from the Lord.*

Other references for your read

Proverbs 31:10-31

Most often, we are concerned about not getting it wrong in marriage. For a single person or someone dating, the concern is to avoid making a mistake by settling with the wrong person. For the married, the hope is to make it to the end successfully. But avoiding errors starts with you as an individual.

You need to be right in order to make the right decisions. You need to be in a place where your mind is sound so that you can make wise choices about who to marry and who not to marry. Therefore, it is important to prioritise being in a healthy state- emotionally, psychologically, spiritually, and socially- when deciding whom to settle with.

Godly Counsel

Godly counsel is crucial in avoiding mistakes. Sound advice shapes your character and enables you to handle issues in a healthy manner. It is important to surround yourself with the right people who will speak into your life in a godly way. The road of

marriage and the terrain of relationships can be complicated, but godly counsel helps you navigate them with knowledge and wisdom. Godly counsel has been a key strategy in changing the course of many people's approach to relationships and marriage.

Influences

Be careful what you expose yourself to. Exposure to negative news or information about relationships and marriage can affect your character and attitude. Be discerning about the resources you consume, especially on social media. Some information and opinions on marriage can be toxic and damaging. Let Scripture remain your fundamental guide on matters of marriage, and be led by it.

Family, Friends, and Examples

As humans, we are influenced by multiple factors, including family, friends, colleagues' stories, society,

and the environment. Some people have gotten it wrong in marriage simply because of poor advice from family, friends, or those close to them. Conversations, opinions, and views shared by people we expose ourselves to can either mislead us or guide us correctly. Therefore, if you do not want to get it wrong, be cautious about whom you listen to and whose advice you follow.

Deal with Trauma and Heartbreak

Experiences and events affect our posture and approach to relationships. If you have had a traumatic or painful experience relating to relationships or marriage, it is important to deal with it. This ensures that past events do not subconsciously trigger responses that could endanger your present or future relationship or marriage.

Some experiences may prevent you from building relationships in a healthy way, causing unnecessary caution or trust issues. Deal with past traumas and

unresolved issues to ensure you are in a healthy place. It is neither fair nor wise to unconsciously or consciously allow someone else to inherit the issues of another.

How Do I Know the Right Person?

This is a major concern for some, as they do not want to make a mistake in marriage. While the question seems straightforward, my answer is simple: **be the right person, and you will recognise the right person.**

When you focus only on ensuring the other person is right, your own readiness often becomes the least of your concerns. Knowing yourself makes it easier to recognise who is right. Just as knowing your allergies helps you make better food choices, knowing yourself allows you to choose the right partner.

A strong relationship with God and growing faith are fundamental to making sound decisions.

Committing to a growing relationship with God enables discernment, understanding of Scripture, and wisdom about who to date, who not to date, and what love truly is. Growing in faith helps you recognise potential obstacles—such as whether your partner shares your beliefs—and equips you to make godly choices.

It is equally your responsibility to grow in virtues that support marriage and to learn about marriage as much as possible—whether you are single, dating, or married. Developing these qualities positions you to contribute positively to your relationship or marriage and to discern whether others possess the virtues necessary for a healthy union.

Patience

Do not rush decisions or act under pressure. Give yourself time, even during moments of confusion or uncertainty. Patience allows God's will to become clear, and until that clarity comes, exercise restraint

and trust in the process. When you are not sure , just wait and in time God will find a way to make His will known.

Your Reason for Marriage Needs to Be Right

People desire marriage, and some have married for a variety of reasons. However, it is important that if you are planning to get married, you understand what marriage truly is and approach it with genuine understanding so that you have the right expectations. If you are already married, it is essential to ensure that your reason for marriage is biblically based; if not, there is a need to revise your understanding according to Scripture.

Marriage sometimes does not seem to work for some because of expectations. Expectations are often based on one's personal understanding of what marriage should be, so anything different from those expectations can easily lead to disappointment. This should not be the case. To avoid this, one needs to be

guided by Scripture and understand marriage as explained in earlier chapters. Failure to understand marriage can result in entering it with a half-baked view, which can be detrimental.

While people marry for various reasons, it is vital that your reason is sound so that you can approach marriage correctly and demonstrate the right attitude.

Do Not Marry Because of:

Pressure

Getting married due to pressure can cause you to overlook many important factors.

Age

The reality of age, especially for women, can feel overwhelming. While I acknowledge it is challenging, do not rush into marriage. Entering a union without true understanding and readiness can lead to problems you never wished for yourself.

To Silence Gossip

Never marry simply to prove a point or to show others that you are also marriage material.

Society

Societal norms can exert influence and emotionally or mentally pressure you. Seek help during such moments and do not allow undue societal pressure to dictate your decision.

Comments or Ridicule

We live in a world where, both within and outside the church, people often share their opinions freely. Unfortunately, some express their views in ways that can be disrespectful or harmful to your mental health. Even in such cases, do not allow yourself to be pressured into marriage.

By all means, desire marriage and pursue it, but ensure that the circumstances under which you make the decision are sound. This will help you avoid unnecessary struggles and difficulties that

could have been prevented. The reasons outlined above are just a few of many that can lead people to marry for the wrong reasons.

5

The Beauty of Marriage Is Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy;
love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does
not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not
provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in
iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things,
believes all things, hopes all things, endures all*

things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

Marriage is instituted by God and remains one of life's most profound and beautiful unions—a sacred bond between a man and a woman who come together to pursue a common purpose. At its core, the beauty of every marriage is love. It is important to understand love in its true sense—not as a fleeting emotion or physical attraction, but as a conscious, deliberate decision, a commitment, and a reflection of God's design for human relationships.

Love is person because God is love. Since God is love, love is demonstrating God per the context of the relationship. In marriage, this means that love is our way of expressing God's character to one another, embodying the virtues necessary to cultivate a healthy relationship.

Understanding Love in Marriage

Marriage comes with both challenges and triumphs—moments of joy as well as seasons of difficulty. It is in these moments that love is truly

tested. Couples who endure and thrive do so not because life is perfect, but because they have made a commitment to love intentionally. Love in marriage is not simply about feeling good; it is about doing what is right, even when it is hard.

Love is a decision. It is the decision to act in ways that honour God and respect your partner, even when emotions are strained. In practical terms, this decision manifests in everyday actions—choosing patience when your spouse frustrates you, speaking with kindness rather than harsh words, and seeking understanding rather than insisting on being right. This conscious commitment to love strengthens the foundation of marriage and allows it to flourish.

Love as Action, Not Just Emotion

A common misconception about love is that it is purely an emotion—something that comes naturally and fades when circumstances change. In marriage, this kind of thinking can be dangerous. True love is

not only felt; it is expressed through action. Couples demonstrate love by showing respect, practising forgiveness, and prioritising the well-being of their spouse.

For instance, when a disagreement arises, couples with strong, loving relationships respond with humility and a willingness to resolve conflict. They do not cling to grudges or allow resentment to fester. Instead, they confront problems, discuss them openly, and seek resolution in ways that honour each other. They recognise that unresolved conflicts can erode intimacy and trust, whereas forgiveness and understanding rebuild the foundation of their union.

Differences Will Always Exist

It is important to note that a couple can experience differences and disagreements. No two people are exactly alike, and it is natural for conflicts to arise. The measure of a strong marriage is not the absence of conflict, but how couples respond to it. Love

prevails in a marriage when differences are met with patience, respect, and a commitment to unity. Couples who thrive understand that disagreements are opportunities for growth, learning, and deeper understanding of one another.

Living Love by Expressions

The Bible provides a clear blueprint of the expressions of love in 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter describes love as patient, kind, humble, truthful, and enduring. It is not jealous, boastful, or arrogant. Love is not easily angered, nor does it keep a record of wrongs. Instead, love rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

The expressions of love as numbered above when couples consciously apply these principles in their marriage, they experience a transformative relationship. They forgive quickly, communicate honestly, and support one another in times of weakness. They celebrate each other's strengths and

encourage one another to grow spiritually, emotionally, and personally. Love becomes the guiding principle for every decision, interaction, and challenge in their marriage.

Cultivating Love

To build a marriage that reflects this kind of love, couples can take practical steps:

1. **Prioritise Communication** – Honest, open communication fosters understanding and prevents small issues from escalating.
2. **Practise Forgiveness** – Let go of past hurts and focus on the present. Holding grudges only harms intimacy.
3. **Serve Each Other** – Look for ways to meet each other's needs, demonstrating love through actions, not just words.
4. **Grow Together Spiritually** – Pray together, study Scripture, and encourage one another in faith.

5. **Celebrate Differences** – Recognise that your partner's unique perspective can complement yours and strengthen the marriage.
6. **Commit to Daily Acts of Love** – Small, consistent acts of kindness, respect, and encouragement create a culture of love.

Love as the Foundation

Marriage is not simply about compatibility, shared interests, or mutual attraction. These things may bring joy, but they are not enough to sustain a lifelong partnership. The foundation of a thriving marriage is love—expressed through choices, actions, and virtues that promote unity, respect, and growth.

Couples who prioritise love make their relationship resilient. They recognise that difficulties will arise, but they face challenges together, supporting and uplifting one another. They understand that love is active, not passive, and that it requires constant

nurturing. When both partners commit to loving in this way, their marriage becomes a source of joy, strength, and inspiration—not only to themselves, but to everyone around them.

Love Beautifies

The beauty of marriage is love lived intentionally. It is a love that forgives, perseveres, and prioritises the well-being of the other. It is a love that transforms differences into opportunities for growth and challenges into moments of deeper connection. By choosing to love as God intended—patiently, kindly, and selflessly—marriages can thrive even in the face of trials.

Ultimately, love is the thread that weaves together the tapestry of marriage. When couples choose to live by its principles, they create a bond that is enduring, a union that is resilient, and a relationship

that reflects the heart of God. The beauty of marriage, then, is not found in perfection, but in the deliberate, daily choice to love.

6

Statements for Reflection

Proverbs 11:14

*Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the
multitude of counselors there is safety.*

This chapter contains carefully curated statements for reflection, offering insight into various aspects of marriage and inviting you, as the reader, to pause, consider, and reflect on them.

- When it comes to the everyday disagreements in relationships and marriage, your spouse may indeed be in the wrong. However, could it also be that their actions upset you so deeply because of your own limited capacity to handle them? This reminds us that, alongside hoping for our spouses to improve, we too must grow in our ability to manage and understand them.
- First and foremost, you are the greatest investment in your relationship or marriage. Being in a healthy state yourself is one of the fundamental requirements for building a strong, growing, and healthy relationship or marriage.

- While choosing the right person to marry is important, it's equally essential to first become the right person yourself—so that you can naturally align with the right partner.
- Self-development and discipleship are foundational to building a healthy relationship.
- Christian discipleship will help you work on yourself and grow in the image of Christ, which will enable you to be grounded and have a better approach to marriage.
- You desire to be married, but may I humbly ask—how is your character?
- Your character is what truly sets you apart. A partner will find you to be a blessing because of who you are, not just how you look.

- Your character will set you apart. Your partner will see you as a blessing because of your character, not your beauty.
- Good character can put out the flames that threaten marriage, but poor character can start fires that destroy it. Ask yourself—does your character calm the fire or spark it?
- A character that grows in the righteousness of Christ brings comfort to a relationship or marriage, while pride and arrogance will always spoil its beauty.
- Your character will either save the relationship or advance the enemy's work in your marriage. Before you act in marriage, be mindful of your character.
- A marriage can work, but not without partners growing in the right virtues.

- Let the Scriptures guide your perspective and approach to marriage, for no one understands it better than the Creator—God.
- While you might not have been married before, the right knowledge beforehand will make a difference, just as education prepares a person.
- Commit to building a healthy marriage—that alone is a great start.
- When you understand the unique roles a man and a woman play in marriage and approach them without conflict, it sets your marriage apart and strengthens the bond of unity.
- Accepting the role of the man as the head is not a sign of inferiority; it's recognising that both men and women play strategic roles in achieving excellence in marriage.

- A woman is not inferior to a man, so a man must be wise enough to recognise the unique role of his wife and value her input.
- Marriage is a union between a man and a woman who come together to pursue a common goal.
- The beauty of every marriage is love.
- Marriage comes with both hurdles and triumphs, but through it all, couples remain committed to each other because they stand for love. Love is not merely an emotion; it is a decision to act according to God's will in any given situation. In marriage, this means demonstrating virtues that promote a healthy relationship. Couples repent of wrongdoing, let go of grudges instead of holding onto them, and strive to resolve conflicts. When you see a couple, it is not that they are without

differences, but that love prevails. They have chosen to express love as described in 1 Corinthians 13, which outlines the true expressions of love.

7

Character Building

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law

Character is one of the most critical elements when it comes to relationships and marriage. It is often said that who we are on the inside eventually shows up in how we relate to others. Whether you are single or married, developing strong, godly character is essential for building meaningful relationships, making wise decisions, and navigating the challenges of life.

Character for Singles

For those who are single, character is the foundation for every relationship you will ever enter. A person with integrity, humility, patience, and emotional maturity naturally attracts healthy connections. Your character determines not just the type of relationships you form, but also how those relationships unfold over time. For instance, a person who has cultivated honesty and self-control will be less likely to enter destructive relationships and more likely to make decisions that honour God.

Building strong character while single also prepares you for marriage. It gives you the ability to recognise red flags, communicate effectively, and approach relationships with clarity and purpose. In essence, character development as a single person is not just about becoming a better partner in the future—it is about becoming a better version of yourself in the present.

Character in Marriage

For married couples, character plays an equally vital role, but the stakes are even higher. Strong character can change the trajectory of a marriage. It shapes how partners respond to conflict, handle stress, and support one another. Marital success is not only about love or compatibility—it is about how well each partner cultivates patience, forgiveness, humility, and selflessness.

Many marital challenges arise not merely because one partner has done wrong, but because the other responds in a way that escalates the conflict. A lack of character can turn minor disagreements into major disputes. Conversely, a person with godly character can de-escalate conflict, respond with wisdom, and create an environment where love and understanding flourish.

The Role of God in Character Development

Developing godly character is not something we can do on our own. Our walk with God is central to shaping who we are. As we grow in faith, we begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities, when consistently demonstrated, create a ripple effect that positively impacts our relationships.

A person who is rooted in God's Word will naturally respond to challenges in ways that honour God and strengthen relationships. Prayer, meditation on Scripture, and seeking godly counsel are essential practices that guide us in building character that is resilient, humble, and Christlike.

Practical Steps for Building Character

1. **Study the Word of God** – Consistent engagement with Scripture provides principles and wisdom that guide our behaviour and decisions.
2. **Engage in Prayer** – Prayer strengthens our relationship with God and invites His guidance into every area of our lives.
3. **Seek Godly Counsel** – Surround yourself with mentors and fellow believers who exemplify strong character. Their guidance provides accountability and insight.

4. **Self-Reflection** – Regularly examine your thoughts, words, and actions to ensure they align with God's principles.
5. **Practise Patience and Forgiveness** – These virtues allow us to respond thoughtfully rather than react impulsively, fostering peace and understanding.

The Outcome of Godly Character

When we commit to developing godly character, the results are profound. Relationships become more harmonious, communication improves, and love is expressed in tangible ways. In marriage, this often results in fewer conflicts, greater cooperation, and a deeper sense of unity. Beyond marriage, strong character positively impacts every area of life—work, friendships, family, and community.

Conclusion

Marriage is a sacred covenant ordained by God, and it requires intentionality, commitment, and discernment. For those who are single, it is crucial not to rush into marriage without preparation, wisdom, and the right foundation. Impulsive decisions or entering into relationships without spiritual and emotional readiness can lead to avoidable challenges.

For those who are already married, it is equally important to remain vigilant and ensure that your actions and attitudes do not inadvertently align with the enemy to undermine your marriage. Negative behaviours such as pride, selfishness, anger, or dishonesty can slowly erode trust, intimacy, and love.

Every marriage faces challenges—no union is without trials. However, the success and longevity of a marriage depend largely on the character of both

partners. Each individual must take personal responsibility to cultivate godly character, demonstrate respect, communicate effectively, and respond with understanding during times of conflict.

Ultimately, marriage thrives when both partners commit to growing in Christlike character, seek guidance from Scripture, and allow God to lead their journey together. A strong character not only protects the marriage but ensures that it flourishes, bringing joy, fulfilment, and glory to God. Remember, the quality of your marriage is a reflection of the character you bring into it—invest in yourself spiritually, emotionally, and morally, and your marriage will stand firm against every storm.

MARRIAGE IS NOT FOR SOCIAL STATUS

BY EDWARD AGYEMAN

ABOUT THE BOOK

In today's world, social media has made it easy to get caught up in the frenzy of appearances. We see posts of engagements, weddings, and seemingly perfect relationships, and it is easy to feel pressured to be married or to find the "right" partner quickly. Family expectations, peer pressure, and cultural norms can also mislead us into making rushed decisions. When marriage is approached from the wrong place—social approval or personal pride—it can lead to unhealthy relationships and, eventually, a troubled marriage. Marriage is a godly desire, and there is nothing wrong with wanting it. But it is essential that this desire is guided by Scripture and wisdom. God's Word provides the principles and direction we need to make decisions that honour Him and protect our hearts. Approaching marriage with discernment, patience, and biblical guidance helps us avoid preventable mistakes and lays a strong foundation for a lasting union.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Edward Agyeman is a forthright and steadfast preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A passionate vessel who teaches and preaches the good news and God's Word with much depth and simplicity. Edward travels extensively speaking at churches, conferences, seminars and schools. Edward's ministry challenges ministers of God to be in order in the body of Christ while upholding the high standard of integrity within the clergy.

His unwavering and uncompromising stance on the truth of the Gospel is one of the things that distinguishes his ministry. He highlights steadily the importance of knowing God's word and rightly dividing the word of Truth. He believes strongly that lack of monetary funds should not deprive one of access to the free gospel of Jesus Christ. In spite of his ministry being a tremendous blessing to many across the globe, he remains a man of God that exudes godly virtues.



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