

## JOYS OF MARRIAGE



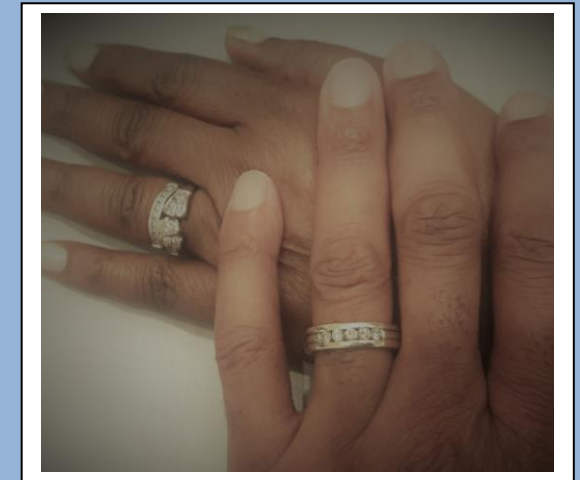
Marriage is a wonderful institution. God created it so that man could have compatible companionship. No matter how the secular world may define it or attempt to add new meaning to it; God was and will forever be the original creator of it. Know that at its core, marriage can be a fulfilling, rewarding, and enjoyable relationship. So why not let the creator of marriage show you your mate. He knows who is best for you, so don't fight against his wisdom.



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## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MARRIAGE BEFORE YOU JUMP THE BROOM

### PRACTICAL STEPS



### PREMARITAL TIPS

## WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

Preparing to walk down the aisle, can be an exciting time of life. Men and women connect with each other and decide they want to live together as husband and wife. This bond should be a pure representation of the first family model that God created in the book of Genesis. Unfortunately, this vision of beauty could turn into a nightmare if individuals connect with other for the wrong reasons or simply connect with the wrong person. God has a plan for everyone. If you are reading this you are probably in the process of preparing for the big day. We want to encourage you to really make sure you understand what you are about to do because if we can help individuals avoid delayed regret by helping upfront, we will gladly do it.



## ARE YOU REALLY READY?

Marriage is a partnership that should not be taken lightly. It is truly not for children, which means it is not for the faint of heart. It is not for men and women who are unstable emotionally or mentally because it will require each person to give of themselves at a capacity that may seem extreme at times. Each man or woman should truly consider the cost as it says in Luke 14:28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Therefore, you must ask yourself, "Am I really ready for the life long challenge of marriage? Do I have what it takes to be a wife/husband?" If you have not pondered those questions, we suggest you consider it right now. If you have, and believe you are ready make sure you seek out premarital counseling.

## LIVING WITH ANOTHER PERSON

Living with someone will put you in one of the most vulnerable circumstances of your life. You will get to hear and see things that others will not. You will get to learn different sides of an individual that may be considered a positive attribute or not so positive.

## ARE YOU FINANCIALLY READY?

Finance, finance, finance is one of the major deal breakers when it comes to marriage. Sometimes dating couples or engaged couples get so enamored with "Being in Love" that they forget about the practical matters. Is your money right? What are you bringing into the relationship? Will your financial numbers be a strain on the relationship in the very beginning? These are some of the questions that must be addressed before you say "I Do." This is why premarital counseling is important because this is one topic that counselors will address with engaged couples. Don't gloss over this, deal with it immediately so that there won't be any surprises later.

## COMMITTING FOR LIFE

Society would have most people think, even before marriage, that if the relationship is not working you can just get a divorce. Marriage should not be viewed as contractual agreement that a man and woman can slip out of if needed. We encourage premarital couples to agree to "Taking divorce off the table." If you go into the marriage not looking for an out clause that means you may have a better chance of working through potential issues that may occur during marriage.



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