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MARRIAGE GUIDE



FOREWORD

As a Pastor, I'm privileged to have witnessed and shared in the joy of many young men and women as they start courting each other and eventually come together as husband and wife. Much as this is so, I have also a few, who get their hands burnt and experience untold heartaches in relationships because of ignorance or disobedience to scriptural principles in relationship.

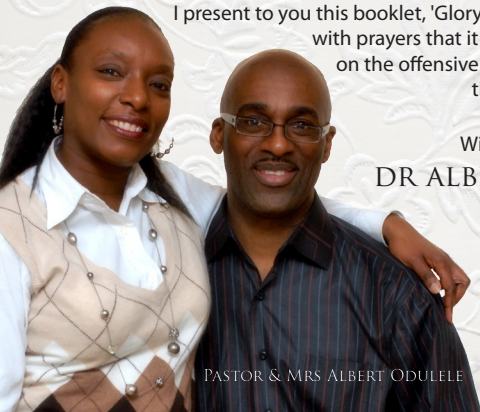
For many single people, starting a relationship is not the issue but maintaining chastity and purity in a permissive generation is the challenge. The principles outlined in this booklet will indeed help you make a smooth transition from single into married life and also maintain a God centered focus.

Marriage requires a lot more than many realise from the outset. In Glory House, we are committed to ensure that every member is given enough assistance and support through counselling to ensure our marriages don't become statistics in the near future.

I present to you this booklet, 'Glory House Marriage Guide', with prayers that it will guide and put you on the offensive against the pitfalls of the enemy.

With love and Prayers

DR ALBERT ODULELE
Senior Pastor



PASTOR & MRS ALBERT ODULELE



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GUIDELINES FOR RELATIONSHIPS

INTRODUCTION:

Strong and healthy families are the foundations of a stable society. Here at Glory House, we are committed to producing happy marriages according to the Bible.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” Gen 2.24.

We have a mandate to ensure that every single man and woman is equipped with the right information and principles that will encourage and sustain healthy relationships.

This booklet is a guide to biblical courtship principles and practical steps to Weddings and Marriage in Glory House.



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COURTSHIP

PRINCIPLES

*W*hen two individuals commit to each other, the season between their intention to marry and the actual wedding covenant ceremony is traditionally called Courtship. In some circles, it is referred to as dating but for the purpose of this booklet, we shall call it courtship.

- It is advised that courtship should not be less than six months.
- This period affords couples the opportunity to know each other, fellowship and enjoy each other's company.
- The position of the church is that couples who intend to commence courtship should discuss their decision with a leader (Home Church Leader, Minister or Pastor).
- Women are urged to ensure that men clearly state their intentions. The classic model is that the man propose, giving the lady the dignity to say yes or no.
- Any relationship short of marriage before salvation should be reviewed once one of the parties become a Christian. (2 Cor. 6:14-16)
- Family endorsement is crucial so that conflict does not arise later with parents, guardians or relatives. If this happens, the couple should seek God's direction and also inform their Marriage Counsellor.



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CONDUCT DURING COURTSHIP

Conduct during courtship is important, bearing in mind that they are not yet married. They must refrain from anything that could damage their fellowship with God.

- It is imperative that Christian couples behave appropriately; avoiding sleepovers, late nights or heavy petting. 1Thel 5: 22
- Ladies and gentlemen are not to become sexually involved with each other prior to marriage.
- Engaging in wholesome activities like worshipping, praying corporately and reading the bible together.
- Common interests help to spice up any relationship. Visits to museums, parks, sports centres, conferences and friends provide the consolidating glue that helps set a long lasting partnership.

You have crossed the line and violated the Courtship guidelines if the following are not done:

- Couples should be honest with each other and disclose any major issues that could cause future conflicts. These include previous marriages, children, convictions, debts or health challenges. Your counsellor should be informed about this to ensure it is thoroughly discussed.
- Proposing to or engaging multiple partners in courtship simultaneously.
- Sexual activity during courtship.
- Attempted rape or physical abuse/violence.
- Inappropriate relationships as prescribed in 2 Corinthians 6:14



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THE TEN COMMITMENTS

1. Commitment to Marriage. **Eph 5:21-31, Mathew 9:15**

2. Commitment to Love. **John 4:10, Roman 5:8**

3. Commitment to Change. **1 Peter 2:23**

4. Commitment to understand your Spouse. **Eph 1:6**

5. Commitment to Goals. **Philippians 3:13-14**

6. Commitment to mutual Respect. **1 Peter 3:7-8**

7. Commitment to Listen. **Proverbs 18:13**

8. Commitment to Peace. **Hebrews 12:1-2**

9. Commitment to Forgive. **2 Corinthians 2:7-8**

10. Commitment to Family. **Eph 4:1-2, Roman 12:18**



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NOTES:



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WEDDINGS IN gloryhouse

Glory House is a family church where we strongly believe in and uphold the sanctity of marriage. We coach, support and encourage single people and couples intending to be married to ensure they are well prepared before they proceed to the marriage altar.

BOOKING YOUR WEDDING DATE:

LETTER:

The Minister-in-charge (or his representative) must be informed in writing of the proposed wedding date at least six months prior to the date.

GLORY HOUSE FAMILY CARD:

It is vital that the respective Home Church Leader is made aware of the intended marriage and signs the Family Card, which must be submitted to the Minister-in-charge together with the letter.

APPOINTMENT:

An appointment will be made for the couple to meet with the Minister-in-charge of weddings. After this meeting, the church will in writing, tentatively confirm the chosen date.



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N.B:

- Weddings will not be scheduled for Saturdays following a night vigil.
- To prevent financial losses, couples are advised to first ensure that the proposed date is confirmed with the church before they proceed to hire reception halls and make other arrangements.

WEDDINGS OUTSIDE GLORY HOUSE:

You still need to inform Glory House if any of the following applies to you:

- If you are getting married abroad.
- If your intended spouse does not attend Glory House.
- If you both intend to get married at a registry office.

RECOMMENDATION/REFERRAL LETTER:

For anyone intending to get married in Glory House, it is essential that a letter of recommendation be obtained from their Home Church Leader. If either of the couple does not attend Glory House, a referral letter from their Pastor must be submitted.



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LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Glory House has been given full British Statutory Marrying Licence Status. Subsequently, all registry functions will be held simultaneously with the wedding service at the church premises,

2 Tabernacle Avenue Plaistow E13 8EG.

NOTIFICATION:

It is essential that the couple put up notices in their respective boroughs at least six (6) weeks before the scheduled wedding date. (The blue authority certificate must be received in the Church before the wedding can be conducted).

Some couples may choose to get married at the registry office and have a church blessing. It is important to note that the church will not conduct a marriage blessing without first having evidence of a registry office wedding.

NEW LAW:

In February 2005, a new law was passed which mandates non-UK/EU citizens to seek Home Office approval before making arrangements to get married in the UK. This is a legal requirement which must be observed if applicable to you.



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COUNSELLING IN gloryhouse

*T*his is a necessary prerequisite to getting married in Glory House. The couple will engage in several counselling sessions with one of the Pastors or marriage counselors before the wedding. These sessions are aimed at preparing the couple for a successful marriage.

*C*OUNSELLING SESSIONS ARE:

- Bible based
- Practical
- Interactive
- Stimulating

*A*RRANGING COUNSELLING:

The intending couple will receive a letter informing them of the counselors prayerfully assigned to them. The sessions are conducted in an informal format to ensure participation. Each counselling session is arranged between the counsellors and the couples.

*F*AILURE TO ATTEND COUNSELLING:

The consequence of not going through counselling is that Glory House may at its discretion choose not to conduct your marriage ceremony.

*C*HARGES & FEES:

Statutory charges and fees apply. Details can be obtained from the Church office. A refundable deposit is also charged to cover administrative costs for lateness of the couple on the wedding day. Where these procedure is contravened, the deposit is forfeited or otherwise refunded if there is no breach of agreement.



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COUNSELLING CONTD

COUNSELLING CURRICULUM

*T*OPICS TAUGHT INCLUDES:

What is Love and Marriage?
Expectations in Marriage
Gender differences
Conflict Resolution
Roles & Responsibilities
Effective Communication
Finance
Parenting
Strong Christian Foundation
Sex & Family Planning.



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RECOMMENDED READING

"For by wise counsel thou shall make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety". KJV **Proverbs 24:6**

*M*arriage is a venture no one should go into without adequate preparation and godly instruction. Therefore, couples are advised to read books on marriage and relationships. Most of the mistakes and maladies of marriage can be prevented by acquiring necessary knowledge and understanding. A few pounds invested in good books can actually help lay a solid foundation for a blissful married life.

Think Before You Say 'I DO' - Dr Albert Odulele

Understanding God's Voice - Dr Albert Odulele

Rules of Engagement - Pastor Ola-Vincent Odulele

Don't Date the Devil - Rev. Matthew Ashimolowo

Boundaries in Dating - Henry Cloud and John Townsend

Teach Me How to Love You (communication and intimacy in relationships) - Thomas Weeks III

How to choose a life partner (165 questions to ask) - Pastor Bimbo Odukoya



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